

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 8 AUGUST 1972

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Regulations under—

Apprenticeship Act 1964–1971.

Fire Brigades Act 1964–1971.

Inspection of Machinery Act 1951–1971.

The Harbours Acts, 1955 to 1968.

Local Government Act 1936–1971.

Picture Theatres and Films Act 1946–1971.

Censorship of Films Act 1947–1971.

By-laws under the National Trust Acts, 1963 to 1964.

Rules under the City of Brisbane Act 1924–1969.

Ordinances under—

City of Brisbane Act 1924–1969.

City of Brisbane Act 1924–1969 and the City of Brisbane Town Planning Act 1964–1969.

SITTING DAYS

SESSIONAL ORDER

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

“That unless otherwise ordered, the House will meet for the dispatch of business at 11 o'clock a.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in each week, and that on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and after 1 o'clock p.m. on Wednesdays, Government business shall take precedence of all other business.”

Motion agreed to.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

SESSIONAL ORDER

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

“That during this session, unless otherwise ordered, and notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order No. 17, on each sitting Wednesday a period shall be allotted until 1 o'clock p.m. for discussion of matters of public interest on which any member may address the House for ten minutes. If the discussion is still proceeding at 1 o'clock p.m., it shall be terminated by Mr. Speaker.”

Motion agreed to.

TIME LIMIT OF SPEECHES

SESSIONAL ORDER

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

“That during this session, unless otherwise ordered, the following amendments to the times allowed for certain speeches shall apply:—

(1) Under Standing Order No. 37A (Disallowance of Proclamations, Orders in Council, Regulations or Rules):

Mover of the motion, fifteen minutes; seconder of the motion and any other member, ten minutes;

TUESDAY, 8 AUGUST 1972

Mr. SPEAKER (Hon. W. H. Lonergan, Flinders) read prayers and took the chair at 11 a.m.

PAPERS

The following paper was laid on the table, and ordered to be printed:—

Report of the Commissioner of Land Tax for the year 1971–1972.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Proclamation under the Inspection of Machinery Acts Amendment Act 1971.

Orders in Council under—

Inspection of Machinery Act 1951–1971.

The Harbours Acts, 1955 to 1968.

City of Brisbane Act 1924–1969.

The City of Brisbane Acts, 1924 to 1960.

The City of Brisbane Acts, 1924 to 1954.

Minister in reply, twenty minutes.
Total time allowed, two hours.

(2) Under Standing Order No. 109
(Time Limit of Speeches):

(a) Paragraph 4—In Committee on a Bill, Motion or Estimate—substitute 'ten minutes' for 'fifteen minutes'.

(b) Paragraph 8—In Committee on the introduction of a Bill—substitute 'twenty minutes' for 'twenty-five minutes'.

All other provisions of Standing Orders Nos. 37A and 109 shall continue to apply."

Motion agreed to.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

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

"That the Standing Orders Committee for the present Parliament consist of the following members—

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Bjelke-Petersen, Sir Gordon Chalk, Mr. Houston, Mr. Lickiss, Mr. Sherrington and Mr. Tucker."

Motion agreed to.

LIBRARY, REFRESHMENT ROOMS, AND PARLIAMENTARY BUILDINGS COMMITTEES

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

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

"That the Library, Refreshment Rooms, and Parliamentary Buildings Committees for the present Parliament be constituted as follows—

Library: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Ahern, Mr. Bromley, Mr. Chinchin, Mr. Kaus, Mr. P. Wood and Mr. Wright.

Refreshment Rooms: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Cory, Mr. Harris, Mrs. Jordan, Mr. Lee, Mr. Low and Mr. Newton.

Parliamentary Buildings: Mr. Speaker, Mr. N. F. Jones, Mr. R. E. Moore, Mr. Porter, Mr. B. Wood, Mr. Wharton and Mr. Yewdale."

Motion agreed to.

PRINTING COMMITTEE

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

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

"That a Select Committee be appointed for the present Parliament to assist Mr. Speaker in all matters which relate to the printing to be executed by order of the House, and for the purpose of selecting and arranging for printing returns and papers presented in pursuance of motions made by members.

That such Committee consist of the following members:—Mr. Speaker, Mr. Alison, Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Blake, Mr. Melloy, Mr. Miller and Mr. Wallis-Smith."

Motion agreed to.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1)

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

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

Motion agreed to.

OVERTIME PAID IN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

ORDER FOR RETURN

Mr. R. JONES (Cairns): I move—

"That there be laid upon the table of the House a return showing the amount of overtime paid in each Government department (all funds) in 1971-72."

Motion agreed to.

VOTING AT STATE ELECTIONS

ORDER FOR RETURN

Mr. SHERRINGTON (Salisbury): I move—

"That there be laid upon the table of the House a return, in the usual form, giving details of the voting at the State general election on 27 May 1972, together with details of voting at by-elections held since the general election on 17 May 1969."

Motion agreed to.

RETURN TO ORDER

The following paper was laid on the table, and ordered to be printed:—

Return to an Order made by the House this day, on the motion of Mr. Sherrington, giving details of the voting at the State general election on 27 May 1972, together with details of voting at by-elections held since the general election on 17 May 1969.

MINISTERIAL EXPENSES

ORDER FOR RETURN

Mr. MELLOY (Nudgee): I move—

"That there be laid upon the table of the House a return, in the usual form, of expenses of Ministers for the period 1

July 1971 to 30 June 1972 inclusive, showing each separately and in detail."

Motion agreed to.

FEEES PAID BY CROWN TO BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

ORDER FOR RETURN

Mr. WRIGHT (Rockhampton): I move—

"That there be laid upon the table of the House a return showing all payments made by the Government to barristers and solicitors during the 1971-72 financial year, stating the names of the recipients and the amounts received, respectively."

Motion agreed to.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

PRODUCTION AND SALE OF MINERALS

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

(1) Between July 1, 1971, and June 30, 1972, what was the value and tonnage of (a) coal, (b) bauxite, (c) copper, (d) lead and (e) zinc produced in Queensland?

(2) What tonnage of each mineral was (a) exported overseas, (b) sold interstate, (c) used in Queensland consumption and (d) stockpiled?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "As all the production returns for the quarter ended June 30, 1972, have not been received, tonnages and values for the financial year 1971-72 are not available. My Department does not receive details from producers of all ores exported or sold interstate but obtains this information from the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics. The information for the financial year 1971-72 will not be available for some time. For the Honourable Member's information, production, value, overseas and interstate exports for the 1971 calendar year are:—

PRODUCTION

Minerals	Tons	Value
		\$
Coal	11,445,201	77,886,217
Bauxite .. .	7,353,000	34,164,000
Copper .. .	126,846	123,693,505
Lead	126,031	28,532,586
Zinc	89,042	27,105,054

OVERSEAS AND INTERSTATE EXPORTS

Minerals	Overseas	Interstate
	(Tons)	(Tons)
Coal	7,398,995	..
Bauxite .. .	7,243,825	191,328
Copper .. .	49,952	69,449
Lead	130,314	2,411
Zinc (Concentrates)	119,702	..

Details of Queensland's consumption and the amounts stockpiled are not available in my Department. Endeavours will be made to obtain this information and I will communicate later with the Honourable Member by letter."

LIONS ART UNION PROMOTED BY DOMACORN PTY. LTD.

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

(1) What is the present position in relation to the Lions Art Union launched under the promotion of Domacorn Pty. Ltd. and under police investigation since December, 1970?

(2) Is there any indication of a refund to ticket holders?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "Lloyd George Rees and John Robert Rees have been appointed Liquidators of Domacorn Pty. Ltd. I am informed that the investigating officers of the Police Force are awaiting a report from the Liquidators so that they may finalize their investigations. Advice from the Liquidators some time ago indicated that it appeared unlikely that ordinary unsecured creditors would receive a distribution in the Liquidation."

PROPOSED CHANGES, BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS; PROPOSED INVESTIGATION, BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL FINANCES

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

(1) In view of the haste and apparently insufficient consideration given to proposed amendments necessary to provide the machinery, system and manner of the elections of Aldermen and the Lord Mayor of the City of Brisbane, will he consider setting up an all-party committee to investigate and report to Parliament on all aspects of this matter?

(2) Will he also consider an investigation into Brisbane City Council finances, undertakings, rating and financial assistance requirements and the setting up of a town-planning commission composed of representatives of the Government, the City Council and community leaders, with the Government and the Council financing the commission?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "The matters raised by the Honourable Member are ones of Government policy upon which the House will be informed at the appropriate time."

HEALTH HAZARD WARNING ON CIGARETTE
AND TOBACCO CONTAINERS

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

(1) In view of the widespread concern expressed by responsible and knowledgeable people relative to the danger to health associated with the smoking of tobacco, will he take immediate action to legislate to have a warning displayed on every container of cigarettes and tobacco sold in Queensland?

(2) Is he aware that the Victorian Parliament has passed legislation in this regard, to become effective from January 1, 1973?

(3) Will he take the necessary steps to ensure that this warning is displayed on containers of tobacco and cigarettes which are sold or offered for sale in Queensland as from January 1, 1973?

Answers:—

(1) "The labelling of cigarette packets with a warning notice has been under consideration by the Commonwealth and State Ministers for Health. Some States have already implemented the recommendation that cigarette packages be so labelled. Queensland's decision was that it would implement such legislation when all other States agreed to do so. Latest advice from New South Wales is that that State will implement the legislation there from May 1, 1973, and if all other States have agreed by that time then Queensland will fall in line. The warning notice will be 'WARNING—SMOKING IS A HEALTH HAZARD'."

(2) "Yes."

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

INCREASE IN STRENGTH OF POLICE FORCE

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

(1) What steps has he taken to increase the number of policemen available for active duty for community benefit and the prevention of crime?

(2) When is it envisaged that police will commence duty on the beat in the inner-city area and at large suburban shopping centres?

Answers:—

(1) "Re-deployment of police personnel on active duties is being achieved by the reduction in extraneous duties performed by police; the employment of additional civilian clerical staff; surveys regarding manpower and transport and the adoption of modern recording and office procedures, etc."

(2) "Night beat duties were instituted in the inner city area on March 20, 1972, and some beat duty is carried out in

daylight hours. In addition to uniform, traffic and C.I. Branch patrols, special mobile patrols were instituted on July 3, 1972. Initially 262 patrols weekly were carried out. These have been increased to 332 per week. It is not proposed to introduce beat duties in suburban shopping centres as it is considered that motorized patrols, together with attention by suburban police, are a more effective method of crime prevention."

DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSES, QUEENSLAND
ROAD SAFETY COUNCIL

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

(1) How many (a) males and (b) females, in what age groups, have undergone defensive driving courses offered by the Queensland Road Safety Council?

(2) Has any research been undertaken to establish the effects on the safe-driving records of these persons subsequent to such instruction and, if so, with what results?

Answers:—

(1) "Since the Defensive Driving Courses commenced in March, 1969, 7,542 males and 5,330 females, a total of 12,872 persons have attended. Age groups as a percentage of the total are—17 to 20 years 20 per cent.; 21 to 29 years 13 per cent.; 30 to 39 years 2 per cent.; 40 to 49 years 20 per cent.; 50 to 59 years 35 per cent.; and over 60 years 10 per cent."

(2) "While no detailed research into the effect of the Defensive Driving Course on the driving records of those who have participated has been undertaken, the Queensland Road Safety Council has recently introduced a scheme of awards restricted to persons who have completed the Defensive Driving Course. To qualify for the award the driver must have an unblemished driving record during the preceding calendar year. Of 926 drivers who have nominated under the scheme, only 16 have failed to qualify. In addition, many of the 3,500 commercial drivers nominated by their employers each year under the terms of the long standing Safe Driving Award Scheme have also attended the Defensive Driving Course. These drivers must also have a record of safe driving."

PROPOSED CHANGES, BRISBANE CITY
COUNCIL ELECTIONS; STOPWORK
MEETING, WATERSIDE WORKERS

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

(1) Has he seen a report that 1,400 Brisbane waterside workers stopped work for half an hour to support the A.L.P.-organised protest against proposals to alter the City of Brisbane Act?

(2) Is he aware that the meeting was convened with the co-operation of Mr. L. Lenane, a member of the State committee of the Communist Party of Australia?

(3) Has any estimate been made of the cost of this stoppage to the men involved and to industry in general?

Answers:—

(1) "It is understood that on July 25, 1972, 150 waterside workers in the Port of Brisbane extended their lunch break by $\frac{1}{2}$ hour on this matter."

(2) "Mr. L. Lenane is the Brisbane Branch Secretary of the Waterside Workers Federation and is an acknowledged Communist. Any address by the Lord Mayor of Brisbane to Brisbane waterside workers would be convened with his co-operation."

(3) "No estimate of the cost to the men involved or to industry as a result of the Lord Mayor's address is available."

RECONSTITUTION OF SENATE, UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

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

(1) Is it proposed, as reported in *The Courier-Mail* of August 3, to reconstitute the Senate of the University of Queensland and, if so, in what manner?

(2) Will the Queensland Government be permitted to appoint any representatives on such Senate and, if so, will some attempt be made to ensure that such appointees really represent the people and are not sycophantic stooges of the University establishment, as was the case with previous and recent appointments of this nature?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "The Senate of the University of Queensland has set up a committee to prepare and submit amendments to the University Act to the Government. Any such amendments will require a change in the Act, and will require consideration by the Government and Parliament."

OFFICIAL INQUIRY INTO JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY

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

Have inquiries been made, or are they still in progress, by the Auditor-General, the Education Department and the Criminal Investigation Branch into allegations of maladministration, graft, theft and corruption at the James Cook University at Townsville? If so, in view of the grave concern among the people in that area, will he fully inform the House as

to any action that is proposed to be taken and of any criminal charges that are to be laid?

Answer:—

"I am informed that the James Cook University of North Queensland has dismissed an officer of the University and sought the assistance of the Auditor-General concerning certain matters at the University. A police investigation is currently under way, and in view of this, I am unable to provide any further details to the House."

NATIONAL PARK PROPOSAL, COOLOOLA AREA; LEGAL ACTIONS BY SAND-MINING COMPANIES

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

Concerning the writs issued by sand-mining companies against the Queensland Government with regard to Cooloola—

(1) Has the time for the delivery of statement of claim expired?

(2) If so, will he table the statement of claim and, if not, what action does he intend to take to demand its early delivery?

(3) Will he make application for certificates so that the actions may be heard speedily?

(4) Has any action entered into or taken by the Government and/or its officers prejudiced the right of the Government to proceed with the declaration of the Cooloola sand mass as a National Park and, if so, what legislative action is contemplated to rectify the defect and when will it be taken?

(5) As authority to prospect 363M has expired, when will action be taken to proceed with the declaration of the National Park?

Answer:—

"My legal advisers inform me that the writs in question having been issued, all matters relative thereto are sub judice."

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I rise to a point of order. The issue of writs in connection with this matter would, to some extent, make the matter sub judice, but there are certain aspects of it that must be discussed publicly. The Treasurer has no right to rule that the question is sub judice.

Sir Gordon Chalk: I have taken legal advice.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I have taken advice from more prominent legal advisers than yours.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! There is no valid point of order.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I will go on with this tomorrow.

Sir Gordon Chalk: Any day you like. You want to get "stuck into" the lawyers who gave you that advice.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

DEMOUNTABLE AND TEMPORARY CLASS-ROOMS, STATE SCHOOLS

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

What are the numbers of (a) demountable and (b) temporary classrooms in use in (i) State high schools and (ii) State primary schools?

Answer:—

"There are 158 and 191 demountable buildings at high schools and primary schools respectively. No statistical information is available regarding temporary enclosures under consideration for classroom purposes. These are being replaced progressively as funds become available. Some of these enclosures are being retained by parents and citizens' associations at their request for extra curricular activities."

ALLEGATIONS BY DIVORCE LAW REFORM SOCIETY

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

(1) Is he aware of the activities of the Divorce Law Reform Society of Queensland?

(2) Are the allegations made by this Society factual?

(3) Can a man deserted by his wife in Queensland be told in law that "Your wife and her solicitors have you over a barrel and she will end up by law bleeding you of everything"?

(4) What steps are currently being taken to obtain uniform Commonwealth legislation in divorce matters and to ensure justice in the courts for all citizens?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "The statements made by the society would be regarded as comments rather than allegations."

(3) "No."

(4) "Divorce proceedings throughout Australia are provided for under the Matrimonial Causes Act of the Commonwealth."

COMPENSATION FOR VICTIM OF HOMOSEXUAL ASSAULT, BRISBANE PRISON

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

(1) Does he recall the occasion when a prisoner in the Brisbane Prison was subjected to a pack homosexual assault and the subsequent court case and judicial inquiry?

(2) Although the prevention of such attacks would no doubt mean the provision of single-cell accommodation in gaols, what measures have been taken to ensure the safety of prisoners under the present arrangements?

(3) Considering the judge's remarks and the whole circumstances of the assault, does the injured prisoner have any further redress against his attackers or the system which allowed the attack?

(4) Has there been or will there be any offer of compensation in any form to the prisoner concerned?

Answers:—

(1) "It is presumed that the Honourable Member is referring to a prison inquiry undertaken by Mr. N. Langford, stipendiary magistrate in March this year."

(2) "Provision of single cell accommodation has, of recent years, had a high priority in prison buildings and the Government is proceeding with all haste and within the finances available to provide single cell accommodation for all prisoners. Unfortunately, some community living is unavoidable, but careful scrutiny is made by prison officials as to the compatibility of persons who have to occupy community accommodation and strict attention is paid by prison officials to eliminate homosexual practice."

(3) "This is a matter for consideration by the person concerned and in which he should seek legal advice."

(4) "This matter has not been considered. Under section 663D of the *Criminal Code*, any person who suffers injury by reason of the commission of an indictable offence relating to the person of that person and the offender, has not been convicted on an indictment presented in relation to that offence may make application in writing to the Minister for Justice for the approval of the Governor in Council for the payment to him from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of a sum not exceeding two thousand dollars by way of compensation for injury so suffered by him. Under section 663E of the *Criminal Code*, the Minister for Justice is subrogated to the extent of the payment, to all the rights and remedies of the person aggrieved against the person responsible for the injury in respect of the injury for which the payment was made and the amount of the payment is a first charge on

any payment to which the injured person may become entitled to from the Treasurer."

GOLD COAST MEAT SUPPLIES; INSPECTION PROCEDURES, KILLARNEY ABATTOIR

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

(1) Have there been any changes in the methods of chilling and transporting meat to abattoirs outside the Brisbane abattoir area?

(2) From which abattoirs are supplies of meat provided for the Gold Coast and is Killarney still a major supplying area?

(3) Is meat inspected at Killarney now and has a chilling process been installed in that centre?

Answers:—

(1) "The Question is not clear. It is not usual to transport meat to abattoirs, whether inside or outside the metropolitan public abattoir area. There have been no changes in the methods of chilling or transporting meat in recent times."

(2) "The following abattoirs are known to be sources of meat supply to the Gold Coast:—Metropolitan Public Abattoir Board, Cannon Hill; Borthwick, Murarrie; Queensland Bacon, Murarrie; Darling Downs, Doboy; Teys Bros., Beenleigh; Tancred Bros., Beaudesert; Oakey Abattoir, Oakey; Dinmore Meatworks, Dinmore; and F. J. Walker, Byron Bay. Other abattoirs also supply meat to this area from time to time. One slaughterhouse operates in the Gold Coast area, at Tugun. Another slaughterhouse, at Warwick, also supplies meat to the Gold Coast. Killarney is still a major supplier."

(3) "Meat is not inspected at Killarney. Chilling facilities exist at the Killarney slaughterhouse."

CONTROL OVER USE OF BEACH BUGGIES

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

(1) Does any Government department have control over the use of vehicles commonly referred to as beach buggies on areas between high and low water or on adjacent foreshores in Queensland?

(2) Does any local authority in Queensland have control of such matters?

(3) Do such vehicles require a Queensland Main Roads Department registration to operate (a) between high and low water mark and (b) on Crown land adjacent to the sea that is (i) an esplanade or a reserve for esplanade purposes, (ii) a reserve for recreational and or public purposes or (iii) a reserve under the control of a local authority?

(4) Does the Queensland Police Force have any jurisdiction over such vehicles under the circumstances set out in (1) and (2) above?

(5) Is any action being taken to (a) stop the increasing number of these vehicles from being used on beaches where they create a hazard to the public and a danger to young children playing on our beaches and (b) set aside special areas where properly registered beach buggies can be used by those who enjoy that type of entertainment?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) "The question of the control of vehicles on the foreshores (i.e. the land situated between high and low water marks) and on adjacent areas involves complex legal matters which are being examined by an inter-departmental committee. Broadly the position is: The Police Department has some control through enforcement of the provisions of the *Criminal Code* under which it is an offence to drive a motor vehicle dangerously in the areas in question. There is provision under the Local Government Act for foreshores to be placed under the management and control of the local authority which has wide by-law making powers, including power to make by-laws relating to public safety and convenience. Most of the foreshores within the area of the Gold Coast City Council have been proclaimed under the management and control of that local authority. Various foreshores throughout the State have been or are being similarly proclaimed. A number of local authorities have made by-laws dealing with the driving of vehicles on foreshores under their control. A typical by-law prohibits driving of a vehicle on any part of a foreshore, unless such part has been specifically constructed or set apart for such purpose and then only at such a place or in such a manner as shall not inconvenience nor endanger any other person, nor cause any damage to the foreshore or any works therein or any vegetation growing thereon. Local authorities may also make by-laws controlling any reserves under their control in areas adjacent to the foreshores. The Beach Protection Authority has power to exercise control in beach erosion control districts, where a person may not on any unoccupied Crown land in such a district traverse any vehicle without a permit from the authority. The authority's function in this regard of course relates primarily to erosion prevention measures. The authority has decided not to issue any such permits until the report to be made to Cabinet by the inter-departmental committee referred to above has been considered. All vehicles while driven on any road or esplanade in areas adjacent to the foreshores are, of course, subject to the provisions of the Traffic Act."

(3) "Any vehicle which is used on a public road in order to reach the areas in question would require to be registered. If any vehicle reached the areas without using a public road the position would be: (a) No. (b) (i) Only if the esplanade or reserve is a public road. (ii) No. (iii) No."

(4) "Yes. See Answers to (1) and (2)."

(5) "(a) As indicated in (1) and (2) a number of local authorities have made by-laws controlling the driving of vehicles on foreshores under their control. (b) No action is being taken by the Government pending receipt of the report of the inter-departmental committee, referred to above."

RECONSTRUCTION OF SLADE POINT ROAD SECTION

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

(1) Has planning for the reconstruction of the Slade Point Road from the Harbour Road to the Andergrove turn-off been completed?

(2) When is it anticipated that construction will begin and how long is the work expected to take?

(3) As most of the existing road will continue to be used whilst construction is under way, will any action be taken in the interest of safety to reduce the legal speed limit of 60 m.p.h. on this section during the period of construction?

Answers:—

(1) "No. Awaiting completion of planning of adjacent subdivisions being handled by other authorities."

(2) "It is anticipated construction will start in March, 1973, after next wet season, and take approximately eight months to complete."

(3) "Yes, where necessary, as the usual Main Roads Department practice."

ORTHOPAEDIC SERVICES, MACKAY BASE HOSPITAL

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

(1) When did the orthopaedic specialist from Townsville stop visiting the Mackay Base Hospital on a regular basis?

(2) What arrangements have been made since that date for both in-patients and out-patients of the Mackay Base Hospital requiring the medical attention of an orthopaedic specialist?

(3) When will his department have an orthopaedic specialist again visit the Mackay Base Hospital on a regular basis?

Answers:—

(1) "The orthopaedic specialist from Townsville ceased visiting the Mackay Base Hospital on a regular basis when a senior partner of the practice of which he is a member was accidentally killed. The last visit was made on March 1, 1972."

(2) "When the medical superintendent is of the opinion that an in-patient or out-patient requires orthopaedic specialist attention, she consults the Townsville orthopaedic specialist. When the case is an urgent one, consultation is by telephone. Where necessary the patient is transferred to the Townsville General Hospital."

(3) "The appointment of an orthopaedic specialist is the responsibility of the Mackay Hospitals Board. The position is being advertised at the present time."

TREATMENT OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AT BRISBANE DENTAL HOSPITALS

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

(1) How many Members of this Parliament have received treatment at the Brisbane and/or South Brisbane Dental Hospital in the twelve months ended June 30?

(2) What was the nature of the treatment?

(3) Was the means test applied and what fees, if any, were paid?

(4) Who were the Members concerned?

(5) If there is no record of any Member being treated, will he have inquiries made to ascertain if any were treated without official administrative procedures?

Answers:—

(1 to 4) "I am informed by the manager of the Metropolitan Hospitals Boards that he has no knowledge of any person who has declared his occupation as a Member of Parliament having received treatment at the Brisbane and/or South Brisbane Dental Hospital."

(5) "If the Honourable Member is aware of any Member of Parliament who has received treatment and will furnish the name of such Member, I shall have further enquiries made."

CLOSURE OF BRISBANE POLICE STATIONS

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

(1) Is it proposed to close any police stations in the metropolitan and/or suburban areas of Brisbane or to reduce the hours of operation of any stations within the next twelve months and, in particular, are any stations in the Nudgee Electorate to be affected?

(2) Are suburban stations required to provide staff at any time for duty at South Brisbane, City or Valley stations, or for patrol duties and, if so, what stations are affected and what are the details?

Answers:—

(1) "No."

(2) "The following suburban stations each provide an officer for special mobile patrols in the city and suburban areas:—Ashgrove; Red Hill; Indooroopilly; Cherm-side; Windsor; Nundah; Stafford; Hamilton; Banyo; Zillmere; Camp Hill; Clayfield; Newstead; New Farm; and Coorparoo. On occasions as required, the following stations supply personnel:—Annerley; Holland Park; Moorooka; Morningside; and West End."

NAZI PARTY MEMBER, GARY JOHN MANGAN

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

In view of grave public concern regarding the increasing violent activities of the N.S.P.A., as evidenced by the bombing of the State offices of the C.P.A. and threats to blow up a commercial airliner somewhere in Australia, will he assure the House and the people of Queensland that every possible action is being taken by the Queensland police to locate and bring to justice Gary John Mangan, a leader of the Nazi Party in Australia, who recently absconded from bail?

Answer:—

"Gary John Mangan has been arrested on provisional warrant in Wellington, New Zealand, and it is proposed to seek his extradition to Queensland on August 11, 1972, in respect of a charge of having unlawfully put an explosive substance within a building with intent to damage such building."

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS OF CYCLONE "DAISY"

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

Regarding assistance to flood victims of cyclone "Daisy"—

(1) Did his department, when making the claim to the Commonwealth Government, make separate applications for (a) personal hardship and (b) local authority losses of roads, bridges, etc.?

(2) Was the application made on any basis as to financial costing?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "The application which was made to the Right Honourable the Prime Minister requested that the damage caused by cyclone 'Daisy' be regarded as a 'natural disaster' under the terms of the Commonwealth/State arrangements. At the same

time, the Commonwealth Government was requested to provide financial assistance towards the cost of repairing the damage to Government and semi-Governmental assets which it was estimated would exceed \$1.5 million. I was subsequently advised by the Prime Minister that the Commonwealth Government took the view that the damage caused by this cyclone resulted mainly from heavy rain which is regarded as part of the normal summer weather pattern in this State. The Commonwealth Government, having declined to accept that the damage caused by this cyclone came within the ambit of the established Commonwealth/States arrangements for natural disaster assistance to the States, it followed that on this occasion there would not be any Commonwealth/State participation on a dollar for dollar basis in respect of personal distress claims. It also followed that neither would there be any financial assistance from the Commonwealth Government towards the restoration of Government and semi-Governmental assets. I can also inform the Honourable Member that when the Commonwealth Government's decision was received, my Government gave very careful and sympathetic consideration to the question of the State providing financial assistance from its own resources but decided that to do so would create a precedent that could have financial implications over a very wide area on other occasions."

PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION SCHEME

(a) Mr. Miller, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Education,—

Will he resolve the concern expressed by the Creche and Kindergarten Association, the Queensland Teachers' Union and by many parents, that implementation of the Government's widely-applauded policy of providing free pre-school teaching may dilute the present quality of pre-school teaching, by indicating (a) the number of years the training course for the extra teachers will cover, (b) where this training will be given and (c) if general introduction of the policy is to be preceded by a pilot project in specified areas?

Answer:—

"I propose to provide the House later in the present session with a detailed statement on the proposed program of implementation of the scheme of pre-school education. At this stage, I table for the information of the House a statement recently issued jointly by myself and the President of the Creche and Kindergarten Association concerning the training of teachers for the pre-school education facilities to be established by the Government. It is intended that in 1973 a number of pilot pre-schools will be established. Experience with these pilot pre-schools should provide valuable guidelines for the subsequent program of implementation."

Paper.—Whereupon Sir Alan Fletcher laid upon the Table of the House the statement referred to.

(b) **Mr. P. Wood**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Education,—

With regard to proposals for pre-school education—

(1) Will his Department be acquiring additional land for pre-school facilities and, if so, where is such land already acquired or available?

(2) Will existing State school land be utilised for construction of new buildings for pre-schools?

(3) Will existing classrooms be used and, if so, how many children will be accommodated in each?

(4) What modifications will be made to existing classrooms?

(5) If existing State school facilities are to be used, what additional hygiene facilities will be provided?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) "It is expected that a flexible approach to the siting of State pre-school facilities will operate. Where practicable and desirable such facilities may be placed on primary school sites. In other situations they may be on separate sites. A survey is presently being undertaken to determine the areas in which additional sites will be required."

(3 and 4) "The limited number of existing classrooms not required for primary school purposes will require extensive modification prior to use for pre-school classes. It is intended that units that are generally in keeping with the standards observed by the creche and kindergarten association will be provided to accommodate some 25 children each session."

(5) "Hygiene facilities to be provided for the use of State pre-school classes will as far as practicable be in keeping with those provided in kindergartens affiliated with the creche and kindergarten association."

(c) **Mr. P. Wood**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Education,—

(1) How many pre-school teachers will be needed for the Government's proposals for pre-school education for (a) 1973, (b) 1974 and (c) 1975?

(2) How many teachers will be graduating from the Kindergarten Teachers' Colleges in the same years?

(3) What will be the requirements of the Creche and Kindergarten Association for teachers in the same years?

(4) How many teachers from the State schools will be seconded to the pre-school area for each of the years mentioned?

(5) What length of pre-service training will be provided for teachers seconded from State schools?

(6) Where will pre-service training be provided?

(7) What staff will be employed for the pre-school training and what qualifications will they be required to hold?

Answers:—

(1) "As announced in the Government's policy speech, provision of State pre-school facilities will have to be spread over several years. It is not the intention to create an artificial need for teachers by too rapidly introducing the pre-school scheme. One of the constraints which will determine how quickly we can develop will be the number of teachers available. In a sense the need will only be as great as the available supply."

(2) "The Principal of the Brisbane Kindergarten Teachers College has advised that the estimated numbers of graduates are 1973, 50; 1974, 80; and 1975, 90."

(3) "In view of the developing situation it is not possible to state precisely the future needs of kindergartens affiliated with the creche and kindergarten association."

(4) "Provided such teachers can be spared from the division of the service in which they are at present employed, opportunity will be provided for a limited number to undertake a specially designed course prior to appointment to pre-school classes."

(5) "Teachers serving in State schools have already completed pre-service education courses. Such teachers who wish to teach pre-school classes will undertake specially designed courses, the first of which will be provided by the Brisbane Kindergarten Teachers College commencing in the third term of this year."

(6) "Three year pre-service courses for teachers of pre-school classes will be undertaken at a variety of institutions including the kindergarten teachers college and existing teachers colleges."

(7) "Councils of autonomous institutions providing this training will no doubt select staff having the qualifications and experience necessary for employment in tertiary education."

(d) **Mr. Yewdale**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Education,—

(1) At what centres will pre-school or preparatory classes be available next year and how many children will be accommodated?

(2) What is the meaning of the term "preparatory classes", which was used by a Government spokesman?

(3) What are the general aims of the proposed system of pre-school classes?

Answers:—

(1) "At present a survey is being undertaken to determine the most suitable locations for a number of pilot pre-schools in 1973. Enrolments in pre-school classes in 1973 will depend not only on the availability of suitable accommodation but also on the availability of trained staff."

(2) "The scheme which it is proposed to implement will provide free pre-school education for children in the year prior to their commencement of primary schooling."

(3) "The general aims of State pre-school education will be to promote the physical, social, emotional and intellectual development of children with particular emphasis on language development."

RESUMPTIONS BY BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL, GUMDALE AREA

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

In view of considerable public concern and an apparent disregard by the Brisbane City Council of citizens' normal rights to obtain information directly concerning them, what are the reasons for the Council's proposed general resumptions, for no known purpose, in the Gumdale area?

Answer:—

"Whilst I am aware of statements in the Press relating to this matter, I have had no official approach by the Brisbane City Council thereon. Any resumption of land in the area by the council would be subject to the prior approval of the Governor in Council under the *Acquisition of Land Act 1967-1971*."

Mr. Baldwin interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I have already warned the honourable member for Redlands. If he offends again I will deal with him under Standing Order 123A.

AIR POLLUTION REGISTRATION EQUIPMENT

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

As some of the most important pollutants of human health are nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide and other oxides, including sulphur oxides, how many devices are operating in Queensland which measure these pollutants and where are they situated?

Answer:—

"I am advised that equipment for monitoring atmospheric pollutants and its location is as follows:—Carbon Monoxide—One presently situated at the Air Pollution Control Centre, Petrie Bight, Brisbane. Sulphur Dioxide—Eight in the Brisbane

metropolitan area and one at Mount Isa. Nitrogen Oxides—Hourly readings are regularly taken from (a) Two stationary sites located near Petrie Bight, Brisbane representing light and heavy traffic situations. (b) Equipment carried in a motor vehicle cruising through the City of Brisbane and its suburbs under varying conditions of traffic density."

PROMOTION OF PRODUCTS BY MEMBER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS COUNCIL

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to an advertisement in the *Sunday Sun* of March 12, 1972, in which Mrs. Gabby Horan, a member of the Consumer Affairs Council, is quoted promoting a freezer food plan on behalf of a company known as Farmer Greenfields?

(2) Is he aware that *Choice*, a recognised Australian consumers' magazine, has warned the Australian people against what it calls "the tricks and pitfalls" of this type of commercial operator?

(3) Are members of the Consumer Affairs Council encouraged to lend their name for gain to commercial concerns of dubious nature?

(4) In view of the circumstances of this case, will he give a firm assurance now that no member of the Consumer Affairs Council will lend his or her name in future to any avenue of commercial advertising or promotion?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes. However, the advertisement makes no mention whatever of the Consumer Affairs Council and does not identify Mrs. Horan as a member of that body."

(2) "Yes."

(3) "No."

(4) "Members of the Consumer Affairs Council are private citizens, and I have no intention of interfering with the rights and privileges which they enjoy as such."

NEW JETTY, THURSDAY ISLAND

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

(1) Have the final plans for the new Thursday Island jetty and wharf been completed?

(2) When will tenders be called?

(3) What is the estimated date of completion?

(4) Has provision been made for future expansion in both goods and passenger traffic?

(5) In view of the defence importance of Thursday Island, has any approach been made to the Commonwealth Government for financial assistance for the wharf construction?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "August 19, 1972."

(3) "Forty-two weeks after acceptance of tender. It is difficult to be more precise until tenders are received and considered, but tenders will close on September 27, 1972."

(4) "Yes."

(5) "No."

ISLAND INDUSTRIES BOARD

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

(1) Has the audit report on the Island Industries Board for 1971-72 been received? If not, when will it be received and will it be tabled?

(2) Has an investigation into the operations of the Board been carried out by Public Service investigators? If so, has the report on this investigation been received and, if not, when is it expected and will it be tabled?

(3) When was the manager of the Board dismissed and what was the reason for his dismissal?

(4) Have applications been called for this position and, if so, where and when do they close?

(5) Is he satisfied with the existing state of the Board and the present system of control?

(6) Has he considered changes which would improve the operations of the Board and so raise the standard of service to all Island people?

Answers:—

(1) "I am informed that the audit report is currently being prepared. It is policy for the Auditor-General to make his own report annually direct to Parliament."

(2) "An investigation pursuant to section 10 (3) of *'The Aborigines' and Torres Strait Islanders' Affairs Acts, 1965 to 1967'* has been carried out and report received which I am currently considering. As an administrative document, it will not be tabled."

(3) "The services of the secretary/manager were terminated by the Board pursuant to its powers under the Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders Affairs Acts, and he ceased duty at 5.00 p.m. on June 21, 1972. Section 55 (4) provides that the secretary held office at the pleasure of the Board. The matter was one entirely for

the Board which is not required to give myself or the director any reason for its action in this regard."

(4) "The vacancy has been advertised in the Press and the *Government Gazette* closing with the Chief Administration Officer, Department of the Public Service Board, on August 14."

(5 and 6) "As I indicated earlier, I am presently considering the report on Island Industries Board and will make any desirable changes at the appropriate time. All possible action is being taken to maintain and improve standards of service to the Board's customers."

QUINTELL BEACH BARGE RAMP

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

(1) When was the ramp at Quintell Beach finished and what was the cost?

(2) How many calls have been made by the Weipa and other barge-type vessels?

(3) What are the waiting-time charges by shipping companies for vessels which cannot berth or leave the ramp because of unsuitable tides?

Answers:—

(1) "The practical completion date of the Quintell barge ramp was May 15, 1972 and its cost \$71,030."

(2) "No barges have used the ramp. The owners of the barge 'Weipa' have advised they propose to use the ramp and are awaiting a full load of cargo before calling."

(3) "I am not aware of the waiting time charges by shipping companies."

OPERATIONS OF RURAL RECONSTRUCTION BOARD

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

With reference to the activities of the Rural Reconstruction Board—(a) how many primary producers have sought assistance to date, (b) how many applications have been approved, (c) how much money has been distributed, (d) how many applications are under consideration, (e) how many applications have been rejected (i) in part and (ii) totally, (f) what is the financial position relative to the fund and (g) are there any prospects of further assistance from the Commonwealth Government?

Answer:—

"(a) 2,302. (b) 908. (c) Rural Reconstruction Fund, \$12,387,496; Woolgrowers' Assistance Fund, \$3,513,445. (d) 188. (e) (i) Statistics are not readily obtainable. (ii) 1,138. (f) The Queensland allocation has been increased to \$25.9 million to cover commitments on account

of the Rural Reconstruction Fund to June 30, 1973. Because of the time lag between approvals and drawing the advances, \$5.4 million of this amount will not become available in cash until after June 30, 1973. Up to date \$17,743,176 has been committed, leaving a balance of \$8,156,824 available for commitment for the balance of this financial year. (g) The Commonwealth Government has indicated that a review of the scheme will be held about February 1973, when the question of additional funds will be discussed."

REGISTRATION OF CARRIERS OF FIREARMS

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

Because of the increasing examples of indiscriminate use of firearms in our community, in many cases causing grave risk, injury and sometimes death to people and livestock as well as property damage, has progress been made following initial discussions nearly two years ago between the State Ministers concerned, with the purpose of working out a national scheme to register the carriers of firearms and, if so, what is the present position?

Answer:—

"Commonwealth and State Ministers may be in a position at the end of this year to resume conferences on the question of uniformity in firearms legislation."

STAGE II, LESLIE DAM

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

What replies have been received from the Commonwealth Government following receipt of a documented case from Queensland for finance to provide for the construction of stage II of Leslie Dam?

Answer:—

"A detailed report on the construction of the second stage of Leslie Dam will be available within two weeks. No answer has been received from the Commonwealth on finance for this scheme pending receipt of this report."

FULL-TIME DISTRICT COURT JUDGE,
ROCKHAMPTON

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

Further to my unanswered correspondence regarding the Rockhampton District Court and the need for a full-time District Court Judge in Rockhampton, will he give immediate consideration to this request in view of (a) the undertaking given by the previous Minister for Justice, Dr. Delamothé, when I made representations to him last year to review this matter, (b) the back-log of over 70 civil cases at

present listed at Rockhampton, which under the present arrangements could take three years to be dealt with, and (c) the growing concern amongst members of the legal profession that unless some positive action is taken the situation will further deteriorate to the serious detriment of justice in the Rockhampton district?

Answer:—

"District Court work at Rockhampton is reviewed constantly by the Chairman of District Courts. As a result, a District Court Judge was in Rockhampton for a special civil sittings for two weeks from July 10 last and will return for a further two weeks from August 21. These sittings are in addition to the normal criminal and civil sittings gazetted to commence today, August 8. The position will continue to be kept under review."

SITTINGS OF DISTRICT COURTS

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

(1) During each of the last three years, (a) how many sitting days were held in each of the District Courts and (b) how many (i) civil and (ii) criminal cases were dealt with by the respective District Courts?

(2) What is the present number of cases listed by the Registrars in each district which are waiting to be dealt with?

(3) What is the present salary paid to District Court Judges?

Answers:—

(1) "(a) No statistics are available which would indicate the number of sitting days held in each of the District Courts during the period mentioned. During the law year the Judges of District Courts normally sit five days per week. (b) Details of the civil and criminal cases dealt with by the various District Courts during the years 1969, 1970 and 1971 are set out in the Schedules 'A' and 'B' respectively, which I table."

(2) "Details of the number of civil cases in the various registries which are waiting to be dealt with as at June 30, 1972 are set out in the Schedule 'C' which I table. These are the latest statistics available."

(3) "\$16,450 per annum."

Paper.—Whereupon Mr. Knox laid upon the Table of the House the Schedule referred to,

CURTALMENT OF RAIL-MOTOR SERVICES,
TULLY-CAIRNS

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

In view of the inconvenience caused by the curtailment of the rail-motor services from Tully to Cairns, will he assure the

House that this curtailment will not be used in the future to reduce the services previously supplied?

Answer:—

"Train services are continually under review. The continuation of any train service is dependent upon the patronage."

MAGISTRATES COURT, HERBERTON

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

As Herberton is the centre closely associated with the primary and secondary industries of the Atherton Tableland, will he give an assurance that the Magistrates Court at that centre will not be moved to Atherton?

Answer:—

"Such a suggestion is not being considered at present."

FREE SCHOOL-TRANSPORT SERVICES FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

Mr. Sherrington for **Mr. N. F. Jones**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Education,—

As the Premier promised during the election campaign that school transport services for sub-normal, spastic and multiple-handicapped children would be paid for by the Government, when does his Department intend to implement this scheme?

Answer:—

"The implementation of election promises regarding school transport services for sub-normal, spastic and multiple handicapped children is being considered in the preparation of the Budget for the coming financial year."

RENT REMISSIONS FOR PRIMARY PRODUCERS

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

(1) Is he aware that many landholders have been refused remissions of back rent, which has caused a further heavy burden on an industry destined to have a huge displacement of personnel as more and more people are being forced from the land?

(2) Is this policy designed to expedite the movement of farmers who are considered completely non-viable, with a view to the aggregation of their properties?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "The Honourable Member is obviously not aware of the factual position. Substantial assistance has been extended to landholders in the matter of payment of Crown dues. (a) Under the Wool

Industry Assistance Scheme of 1970 a 30 per cent remission of rentals was granted in respect of selections and pastoral leases used predominantly for wool production and this was later increased to as much as 50 per cent in certain areas. (b) It has been customary in cases where good and sufficient reasons exist to remove penalty for late payment of rent and this, in effect, gave the lessee an interest free loan until he was in a position to pay his Crown dues. (c) In the case of leasehold tenures where a lessee's rental was substantially in arrears through no fault of his own the procedure adopted was to remove penalty from those arrears and to project the arrears into a split-rent account whereby he may make payment by equal annual instalments over a period of up to seven years. (d) The purchase term under freeholding was statutorily extended from 30 to 40 years and subsisting leases were likewise extended by 10 years, thus significantly reducing the annual commitment. In the case of extreme hardship the benefit of the extension of the term was further enhanced by a 'rest' from payment of an instalment in the 1971 year. (e) Otherwise arrears of instalments were capitalised, without penalty, for payment over the balance of the term then to run at the time the concession was granted. These concessions in respect of payment of Crown dues have been complementary to the many other aspects of rural reconstruction—the Rural Reconstruction Board has been fully functional in the sphere of debt adjustment. A liberal policy has been adopted in respect of private subdivision of holdings to allow landholders to effect, as between themselves, practical re-adjustment of property sizes towards achieving economy of scale. All land available to the Crown has been and is being granted as additional areas to existing producers in the sheep areas. The concessions granted with respect to payment of Crown dues have amounted to significant monetary proportions. It must be realised that it is not practicable to grant a blanket remission of all back rent. The many avenues of assistance to primary producers mounted by the Government have created every possible source of assistance to landholders, with outstanding effect. The Honourable Member would be well advised to acquaint himself with the many measures that have been introduced so that he will have a better appreciation of just how much industry has, indeed, been assisted."

ALLOWANCES FOR STUDENTS FROM ISOLATED AREAS

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

(1) How many branches of the Isolated Children's Parents' Association are there in Queensland, where are they located and are they recognised by his Department?

(2) Is any financial assistance allowed to parents of children from isolated areas, (a) who are forced to live or board away from home to attend primary or secondary schools and (b) towards the provision of a governess or domestic help so that the mother can teach her children?

(3) If not, will the Government do something to help these under-privileged children?

Answers:—

(1) "As at April 15, 1972 there were 26 branches, and a further three were to form. They are at Cunnamulla, Dirranbandi, Bollen, Morven, St. George, Tomoo, Blackall, Langlo Crossing, Charleville, Thargomindah, Longreach, Richmond, Aramac, Hughenden, Barcaldine, Adavale, Julia Creek, Talwood, Weengallon, Surat, Mitchell, Nindi Gully, Thallon, Mungallala, Dunkeld and Quilpie. Those that were to form were Moonie, McKinley and Tambo. Considerable correspondence has been entered into with various branches of this Association and I have personally interviewed representatives of the I.C.P.A."

(2) "(a) A Remote Area Allowance of \$160 per annum is payable in respect of eligible children in grades 6 and 7. A Junior Remote Area Allowance of \$200 per annum is paid to the parents of all students in grades 8, 9 and 10 who are compelled by distance to live away from home to attend a secondary school. A similar Senior Remote Area Allowance of \$250 per annum is payable to parents of senior students in similar circumstances. (b) No."

(3) "Discussions are taking place with Commonwealth officers on ways and means of giving further assistance to parents of school children living in isolated areas."

CURTAILMENT OF OVERPRODUCTION IN FRUIT INDUSTRY

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

(1) Has the Commonwealth Government offered Queensland a financial inducement for fruit farmers to reduce production?

(2) Does this scheme embody the uprooting of fruit trees and the granting of money to start fruit farmers in another industry?

(3) Will fruit farmers be permitted to uproot trees, secure a grant, sell out and commence in a new field of industry?

(4) What is the proposed percentage of decreased production on present levels?

(5) Does the fruit industry face heavy overproduction with a lack of world markets that apparently projects a gloomy picture for years, or has the Government failed to seek new markets?

Answers:—

(1) "Growers of canning peaches and pears, apples and fresh pears in all States will be eligible to apply for assistance to reduce excess production of these fruits under a scheme recently agreed between the Commonwealth and State Governments. A sum of \$4.6 million is being provided by the Federal Government to finance the scheme, which will be administered by the States."

(2 and 3) "The scheme does not embody straight-out grants. However, advances made may be abated or finally written off if all conditions of the scheme are met. Growers will obviously consider alternative land use but this would be a decision for each grower as would be any decision taken by a grower to sell his property and undertake a fresh enterprise."

(4) "I am not aware of a proposed percentage of decreased production. The scheme is an entirely voluntary one designed to assist growers seeking a way out of difficulties flowing from over-production of the particular fruits grown by them."

(5) "The canned deciduous fruit industry is over-produced in relation to very competitive world markets. Britain's entry into the E.E.C. and the effects of currency adjustments and cost increases will accentuate the present marketing problem."

ESTABLISHMENT OF WOOL-SCOURING AND CARBONISING WORKS, WESTERN QUEENSLAND

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

(1) Has an economic survey been made into the desirability of re-establishing wool-scouring and carbonising works in selected areas of Western Queensland?

(2) Is he aware that Blackall supports a wool scour which is a viable concern and is possibly the last of its type in the west?

(3) Has his Government attempted to work in consultation with the Blackall scour to promote and improve the service that could be provided as a link to decentralisation and employment?

(4) As a top-making or partially-processing wool treatment works could be established in Blackall in conjunction with scouring activities and act as a pilot scheme for cheaper handling of local wool and industry diversification, will he undertake to explore this possibility?

Answers:—

(1) "No."

(2) "Yes."

(3) "No."

(4) "No, not at this juncture. A sub-committee of the Australian Wool Board Advisory Committee has published a report which looked into the proposal for the establishment of a processing plant at Walgett. This report is available from the Australian Wool Board and states in part under section 38 . . . the evidence points to a conclusion that the proposal is uneconomic and cannot be recommended". Knowing that the Australian Wool Industry Conference submission for 'an integrated marketing system for the Australian wool clip' has been considered by the Commonwealth Parliament and is being implemented in part or whole it would be inappropriate to set up another investigation at this time."

DISEASE IN FISH, BUNDABERG AREA

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

(1) What progress has been made with identification and control of the mystery disease first reported as affecting fish in the Burnett and adjoining rivers and now reportedly affecting fish south to Noosa and on near-shore reefs?

(2) Is the disease considered to be a human health hazard and, if so, what precautionary measures have been taken to protect consumers?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "The condition is believed to be due to an abnormal build-up of fungus causing irritation to the skin of the fish. It has not been previously reported to the extent of the present outbreak. Such fungus is normally present on fish and is not considered to be a health hazard as it would be removed in the usual course of scaling and cleaning. In severe cases of the type reported this year, the condition is very obvious and such fish would be unsaleable. The build-up of the fungus this year is believed to be associated with unusual environmental stress, of which one important factor was the cyclonic rain and the prolonged wet season. The condition is reported as being of significance only in the Bundaberg area. A close watch has been kept on its progress and samples have been taken for scientific investigation. Checks have also been made on pollution as a cause. The results to date have been inconclusive. All fish being received at the Bundaberg Fish Market are being subjected to close inspection."

LOCAL AUTHORITY BOUNDARIES INQUIRY

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

(1) Is the committee which was appointed under the chairmanship of Professor R. C. Gates to study local authority

boundaries in Queensland in general and the local authority boundaries of the Burrum and adjoining shires as a matter of urgency, now operative?

(2) When will the findings of the committee in regard to the Burrum and adjacent shires be handed down?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "I understand that the research project referred to by the Honourable Member is operative. No indication can be given at this stage as to the precise time when findings in relation to the Shire of Burrum and adjacent local authority areas will be available but Professor Gates advises me that he expects to submit a report on this aspect towards the end of this year."

SYDNEY BRANCH, QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT TOURIST BUREAU

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

(1) What present weekly rental is being paid for premises known as Culwulla Chambers, King and Castlereagh Streets, Sydney, which are occupied by the Queensland Government Tourist Bureau?

(2) What are the terms, conditions and attachments applicable to the lease of these premises and for how long will the present rental and lease agreement remain in force?

Answers:—

(1) "\$500 per week."

(2) "The Honourable Member is referred to Order in Council dated 24th day of March, 1966, published in the *Queensland Government Gazette*, No. 77, dated 26th idem for full details of the information now sought."

(b) Mr. Hanson, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Tourism,—

(1) What are the present staff numbers in the Sydney office of the Queensland Government Tourist Bureau and have staff numbers increased over recent years?

(2) What has been the annual turnover of the Sydney office during the last five financial years up to and including the year ended June 30, 1972?

Answers:—

(1) "At the present time twenty-four officers are employed at Sydney branch of the Queensland Government Tourist Bureau. The figure of twenty-four has remained constant since 1967 but vacancies caused by the departure of two female clerk-typists were filled by the appointment of two male clerks."

(2) "Collections from over-the-counter sales at Sydney branch over the last five financial years are—1967-68, \$1,021,921;

1968-69, \$1,085,026; 1969-70, \$1,110,805; 1970-71, \$1,199,790; and 1971-72, \$1,186,904."

**HOUSING COMMISSION OPERATIONS,
ROCKHAMPTON AREA**

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

(1) How many Housing Commission homes were built in (a) Rockhampton and (b) Rockhampton North for (i) rental and (ii) sale during each of the last three years and of those built for rental, how many were made available to specific industrial establishments?

(2) How many applications are presently held by the Rockhampton Housing Commission office for (a) rental and (b) purchase?

(3) How many Housing Commission homes are to be built for (a) rental and (b) sale this financial year?

(4) What are the grounds or factors which are considered when applications are being processed for (a) rental and (b) purchase?

(5) What is the present average deposit required for the purchase of a Housing Commission home?

Answers:—

(1) "South and north of the river respectively—

	South	North
1969-70 Ownership ..	7	15
Rental	2	..
1970-71 Ownership ..	1	12
Rental	7	..
1971-72 Ownership	11
Rental	11
Totals	17	49

To these figures must be added \$557,861 diverted to Housing Societies being 1969-70, \$177,861; 1970-71, \$200,000; 1971-72, \$180,000. Eight houses were for the Army and one for industry."

(2) "(a) With priority 24; without priority 67; aged persons 13; (b) Ten enquiries are listed."

(3) "An additional 21 dwellings will be provided from current contracts and tenders. Further construction will depend on development of Commission land in North Rockhampton for which the council is preparing engineering designs and estimates. Finance is available for persons desiring to have Workers Dwellings erected on their land. An initial allocation of \$140,000 has been made to the Housing Society."

(4) "(a) Rental applications are assessed on the applicant's housing conditions, i.e. unfit premises, overcrowding, divided families, etc. (b) Purchase applicants and applicants for Workers Dwellings loans must require accommodation for themselves and their families and may not own another dwelling."

(5) "\$1,305, based on last contract let in Rockhampton. Applicants who may not initially have the full deposit are able to make a part deposit and accumulate to the required amount under the Rental/Purchase Scheme."

HOSPITALS BOARDS SPECTACLE CONTRACTS, CAIRNS, ROCKHAMPTON AND TOOWOOMBA

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

In respect of Hospitals Boards at Cairns, Rockhampton and Toowoomba—

(1) Which optical firm is contracted to supply spectacles to qualifying people?

(2) What are the prices for lenses in each contract?

Answers:—

"The managers of the respective hospitals boards have advised—

(1) "Rockhampton Hospital—The contract for optometrical services is held by A. J. Ralston of 13 East Street, Rockhampton. Toowoomba and Cairns Hospitals—Arrangements exist with Trevor Henderson of T. & G. Building, Queen Street, Brisbane, for the supply of optometrical services."

(2) "Rockhampton Hospital—The contract provides for the supply of single sight lenses with power to 8D and 6/4 in nickel frames at no charge. Special lenses above power 8D and 6/4 are supplied at a cost of \$2 per lens. Toowoomba and Cairns Hospitals—The arrangements are for the provision of single sight lenses in nickel frames for a peppercorn. Patients receive a free service when supplied spectacles in terms of the hospital contracts. If patients elect to be supplied with a type of spectacle not provided for in the hospital contracts, then this becomes a private arrangement between the patients and the contractor and the hospitals board is not responsible for any charges involved."

OPPORTUNITY SCHOOLS

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

(1) What is the waiting list for admission to each of the State's opportunity schools and classes?

(2) Which opportunity schools are contained within the grounds of primary schools?

(3) Are any two-class units classified as schools?

Answers:—

(1) "I table the information requested by the Honourable Member regarding the waiting list for admission to each of the State's opportunity schools and classes. I am sure the Honourable Member will be pleased to note the very considerable reduction in waiting lists throughout the State."

(2) "Bundaberg, Cairns, Mackay, Petrie, and Townsville opportunity schools."

(3) "Yes. Ingham and Murgon opportunity schools."

Paper.—Whereupon Sir Alan Fletcher laid upon the Table of the House the information referred to.

INVESTIGATION OF MAFIA-STYLE OPERATIONS

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

(1) What type of investigation has the Queensland Government carried out with relation to alleged Mafia-style operations in Queensland and what was the result?

(2) Has he forwarded any such information to the Commonwealth Government and what form will the Premiers' co-operation with the Prime Minister take?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "Appropriate enquiries have been made and, for reasons which should be obvious to the Honourable Member, it is not proposed to divulge confidential police information on this matter. Naturally, the Queensland Government's collaboration with the Commonwealth Government in such matters would follow if the occasion demands."

COMPENSATION FOR LAND RESUMPTIONS FOR DAM PURPOSES, REDLANDS ELECTORATE

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

Referring to my Question on August 20, 1969, on the scope and timing of compensation to be paid to farmers, businesses and residents whose properties have to be taken over for dam site purposes and in view of the widely publicised proposal that the Brisbane City Council and Main Roads Department widen their areas of compensation for freeway resumptions will he consider making such further widening in the case of dam site resumptions?

Answer:—

"The acquisition of land for public purposes is subject to the provisions of the *Acquisition of Land Act 1967-1971* which is administered by my colleague, the Honourable the Minister for Lands and Forestry. The Honourable Member might accordingly give consideration to addressing his Question to that Minister."

OVERRULING OF DECISION OF AIR POLLUTION COUNCIL

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

(1) With reference to the resignation of Mr. Edgar Williams, Queensland Secretary of the A.W.U., from the Queensland Air Pollution Council as a protest over a Cabinet decision to overrule or rescind the Council's decision not to allow Metals Exploration Queensland Pty. Ltd. and Freeport (Qld.) Nickel to use highly sulphur-contaminated fuel oil at their treatment works at Yabulu, via Townsville, if the decision of this Council, composed as it is of responsible men, can be overruled in such a cavalier fashion, what is the point of the Council and why was it formed in the first place?

(2) What effect will Cabinet's decision have on the health of the employees and the environment at and around Yabulu?

Answers:—

(1) "The direction by the Governor-in-Council to which the Honourable Member refers was given in accordance with section 15 of *The Clean Air Act of 1963*." The Honourable Member's Question appears to be based on wrong premises. It infers that the council serves no purpose if a decision can be overruled. He might as well say that local governments are pointless since the Local Government Act contains a somewhat similar power for the Governor-in-Council to set aside decisions. I can assure the Honourable Member that the Government recognises the valuable work done by the Air Pollution Council. The Government supports the desire of the council to keep the sulphur content of oil burned to a reasonable minimum but believes that the special considerations arising in this case justify some relaxation, for a limited period, in the conditions normally considered appropriate in areas with a greater degree of industrial concentration."

(2) "The effect of the direction given by the Governor-in-Council is to allow the companies to burn oil with a maximum sulphur content of 3.5 per cent during a period of up to five years after they commence operations. The companies have given an undertaking to reduce the sulphur content of oil burned after that period to conform with the Air Pollution Council's

normal requirements at that time. The companies have pointed out that some 58 per cent of the sulphur in the total oil consumed at the plant is fixed and disposed of in solid and liquid effluents whilst only 42 per cent is discharged in gaseous form. It is not considered that the variation between 3 per cent and 3.5 per cent will have any material bearing on the health of employees and the environment at and around Yabulu."

SECTION 35A VOTES IN TOWNSVILLE
NORTH ELECTORATE, 1969 GENERAL
ELECTION

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

How many votes were cast under section 35A of the Elections Act in the 1969 State General Election for the Electorate of Townsville North and of these votes, how many were subsequently allowed by the Returning Officer?

Answer:—

"Two hundred and seventy-two such votes were permitted of which thirteen were allowed and counted."

HOUSING COMMISSION PENSIONER
UNITS, CAIRNS

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

(1) When will tenders be let, under the aged-pensioners' housing scheme, for units at Cairns?

(2) When will construction commence and what are the anticipated dates of completion and occupation?

(3) How many units are for (a) single age pensioners and (b) married pensioners and what type of accommodation will be provided, at this time, for Cairns?

(4) What rentals will be charged for married and single units?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) "The Cairns City Council has proved most co-operative in regard to the provision of aged persons units at Cairns. The council was holding a local government reserve for this purpose and had constructed some units. As the reserve contains a large area of land it has been arranged that portion of the reserve will be transferred to the Queensland Housing Commission for aged persons units. The utilisation of this portion of the reserve in relation to the ultimate development of the whole has been discussed with the council which has now requested the Land Administration Commission to effect the necessary transfer. Tenders for construction will then be called."

(3) "(a) Eleven; (b) Four. Each unit will be self-contained and the only shared equipment are the washing machines in the laundry. The single units will contain a bed-sitting room, kitchenette and bathroom with toilet and a front porch. The couples units are similar but have a separate bedroom."

(4) "Weekly rents will be \$3.70 for single age pensioners and \$5.70 for age pensioner couples."

ADDRESS IN REPLY

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE—FIRST
ALLOTTED DAY

Debate resumed from 3 August (see p. 35) on Dr. Scott-Young's motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Mr. HOUSTON (Bulimba—Leader of the Opposition) (12.1 p.m.): In speaking to this debate let me indicate, firstly, that I intend to move an amendment to the Address in Reply because the Opposition feels that this Government does not have the confidence of the people as a whole.

I now move the following amendment:—

"Add to the Address the following words:—

"However, it is the opinion of this Legislature that due in great measure to your present advisers—

(a) having failed to provide a fair and impartial redistribution to enable the election of a Government in accordance with the true wishes and desires of the community;"—

Mr. Hinze: You'd have to be joking. Who won the election?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I do not intend to tolerate undue noise in the Chamber. I do not mind a little interjecting now and again, but I will not allow it to continue in the way it has been going on.

Mr. HOUSTON:

"—their failure to secure at the appropriate time the passage of enabling legislation for the conduct of the election, because of the incapability and incompetence of the coalition to reach agreement on appropriate terms of reference so as to enable the Commission sufficient length of time to give attention and detail to such a serious matter; their failure to provide competent machinery such as the compilation of accurate rolls for the conduct of such an election, thereby disfranchising many electors within the State; their failure to have completed in adequate time rolls and electorate maps to enable voters to check enrolments, and be adequately informed on the boundaries of the new electorates; the failure of your present advisers to provide a fair and just method of voting, thus creating

the scandalous situation whereby they now hold office merely because varying numbers of votes were needed to ensure the election of various political candidates; their failure to gain a majority of the valid votes cast in the election and, in particular, the fact that the senior party in the Government, namely, the Country Party, gained the least number of valid votes cast for all the major parties, yet maintained its seniority with a mere 20 per cent of the vote;

For these reasons, the Government has not been elected in accordance with the accepted principles of decency and justice and does not reflect the true electoral intentions of the community;

(b) having, by recent events, clearly demonstrated its inability to decide what is best for the State and its citizens, shown arrogance in the unwarranted interference in local government affairs, weakness and lack of leadership in all industrial matters;

Accordingly, we desire to advise that it does not possess the confidence of this House."

Mr. Hinze: Did you get Tommy's approval to read that?

Sir Gordon Chalk: Tom told you that.

Mr. HOUSTON: It is very interesting to hear the parrots on the Government side talking now. Tomorrow morning we will see them clawing at one another and fighting in order to determine which of them will be the dominating factor. One thing I can say—Government members certainly cannot—is that I have the complete loyalty and support of every member of my party in this House.

Government Members interjected.

Mr. HOUSTON: That makes Government members sit up and jump around.

Mr. Lane interjected.

Mr. HOUSTON: I will deal with the honourable member shortly.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. HOUSTON: I have never previously seen in this Chamber such a weak performance as the one we saw last week. A Government candidate for the position of Speaker, who had displayed notices in the building indicating that he was Speaker-elect, was nominated for the office, not by the Premier, or even the Deputy Premier, but by a junior Minister who was supported by a Government back-bench member. When another member of the Government parties nominated the present holder of the office of Speaker, did the Premier and the Deputy Premier endeavour to justify that nomination? Of course not. Instead, they allowed

the honourable member concerned to nominate Mr. Lonergan notwithstanding that he did not have the support of senior members of the Government parties. I do not believe that in any other Parliament of the British Commonwealth would one witness a Government nominee for this office not being supported by his leader.

Before dealing with the amendment in detail, on behalf of the Opposition I again express continued loyalty and affection to the Throne in the person of Her Most Gracious Majesty. I also congratulate Sir Colin Hannah and Lady Hannah on their appointment. I thank the electors of the newly constituted electorate of Bulimba for their support, and I do appreciate the 64 per cent of votes that I obtained. I also thank my former constituents for their magnificent support of my two colleagues, Fred Newton and Tom Burns. As leader of this great party, I extend my appreciation to all those who supported the Labor Party. Under any democratic system of election, the Labor Party would surely be the Government today.

I thank Jack Egerton for his administrative leadership, Bart Lourigan for his administrative application, Clem Jones for his metropolitan campaigning, and my parliamentary colleagues, headed by Percy Tucker, for their policy advice and support. Naturally, I thank all Labor candidates.

Sir Gordon Chalk: What about Casey and Bennett?

Mr. HOUSTON: I will deal with them in due course, as I will with every matter of importance to this House and the State of Queensland.

Mr. Knox: Will you give them a vote of thanks?

Mr. HOUSTON: I can say that not one member of the Labor Party who campaigned deliberately omitted the name of his party from his propaganda, as the Minister for Justice did. Anyone who looked around the Minister's electorate could see that every sign he erected said, "Vote Bill Knox." Never once did he ally himself with the Liberal Party. Everyone knew he was afraid to have himself associated with the Liberal Party and, as a result, he deliberately omitted reference to it on his campaign signs.

Mr. Lane: Why didn't Clem put you on his rubbish-bin signs?

Government Members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! Would honourable members on my right please restrain themselves a little.

Mr. HOUSTON: Naturally, all honourable members listened with interest to the Governor's Opening Speech. I felt rather sorry for him because, after all, what did he have to

boast about in his advisers? It was a relatively short speech, which was to be appreciated, but the main reason for its brevity was that he had very little to boast about in the Government's actions and activities.

It is customary not to interject during a member's maiden speech, and that custom was respected on this occasion. It is also customary to congratulate the mover and the seconder of the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. However, in all conscience I cannot congratulate the mover on this occasion because I believe that he let his side down. After all, the honourable member has had some experience, so I am told, in public life, and I was somewhat surprised that he should take only 11 minutes in initiating this debate on behalf of the Government. I am sure that Mike Reynolds, the Labor candidate for Townsville, would have done a much better job for the people of Townsville.

Mr. Hinze: Tell us about the seconder of the motion—my protegee.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for South Coast is interjecting far too frequently. I will not tolerate it much longer.

Mr. HOUSTON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would have thought that this new member would deal with Townsville and some of its problems—the problems of people so gravely affected by the cyclone and the lack of Government assistance and appreciation of their needs. I also believe that some statement could have been made about the sea wasp menace and the Government's failure to do anything about it. The Government has left it to the surf live-savers to spend their hard-earned money in trying to overcome this problem. Apparently the Government is not concerned about pollution in the northern areas.

We appreciated that the honourable member could find nothing wrong with Percy Tucker's representation over the past 12 years. That speaks highly for his representation.

I must say, seeing that the honourable member for South Coast has raised the matter, that the honourable member for Surfers Paradise seems to be under the impression that his main purpose in this Chamber should be to criticise his fellow councillors. He used his parliamentary privilege to make accusations that he would not make outside this Chamber.

The honourable member's election was not greatly appreciated by the Liberal Party. In an article in "The Courier-Mail" of 9 May, the Treasurer criticised the honourable member for Surfers Paradise, in these words—

"... an individual like Alderman Small, who wanted to be a one-man band, could find no place in an area where teamwork counted."

I hope the honourable member for Surfers Paradise keeps that in mind when he is in the joint party room.

The Treasurer was also reported as follows—

"Alderman Small had done much to promote the Gold Coast as a tourist centre. But when it came to conduct around the council table, the Gold Coast Council had become the laughing stock of Queensland.

"It took more than one person to create such a state of affairs, but the Mayor must accept the major responsibility because nine times out of ten he was the odd man out."

Yet the honourable member for Surfers Paradise, in his speech last Thursday, said that all the other aldermen were at fault, and that he was not.

Mr. SMALL: I rise to a point of order. I find the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition objectionable, and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the Leader of the Opposition has said anything objectionable, will he please withdraw it?

Mr. HOUSTON: If I have said anything objectionable to the honourable member, of course I withdraw it. But I cannot withdraw the objectionable statements made by the Treasurer earlier this year. That is when the honourable member should have raised his objection. He will learn as time goes on.

The honourable member is fortunate to be in this Chamber; if he had polled better with his first preferences he would not be here at all. This shows how ridiculous the preferential voting system is. The result in Surfers Paradise, before the distribution of preferences, was—

Bassani (DLP)	...	536
Daniel (Ind)	...	303
Hunt (ALP)	...	4,223
McIlwain (Lib)	...	4,202
Peters (Ind)	...	655
Small (CP)	...	4,122

Daniel was eliminated first, and Hunt received 127 of his votes. If 26 of the people who gave their second preferences to Hunt had given them to Small, which would have improved Small's primary vote at that stage, Hunt would eventually have been third. He would have been eliminated, and his preferences would have elected Mr. McIlwain.

Mr. Small: Why?

Mr. HOUSTON: Because the great majority of Mr. Hunt's preferences, so I am told by the honourable member's scrutineers, did not support the honourable member for Surfers Paradise.

Mr. Small: Why?

Mr. HOUSTON: Because of the good sense of the electors, of course.

The point is that this shows quite conclusively the ridiculous situation in which a person can lose his seat because he obtains far too many primary votes. That is the system that the Government is supporting. I say to the honourable member for Surfers Paradise, "Don't do too well and become too popular in your electorate, because if you do you will lose your seat for sure." That is the way the system that the Government supports operates.

Let us look at the general voting results in the last election. I said earlier that the Labor Party should be the Government of this State. Let us look at the way the votes were cast. These figures appeared in the Press, and they have not been denied by any Government spokesman. The A.L.P. received 48 per cent of the votes cast, and won 33 seats. The Liberal Party received 22 per cent of the vote, and gained 21 seats. The Country Party received 20 per cent of the vote, for 26 seats.

Mr. Hinze: The Country Party only contested 42 seats.

Mr. HOUSTON: The Country Party was not game to contest the others. In a moment I shall tell the honourable member what happened in electorates that the Country Party did contest. The D.L.P. gained 7.7 per cent of the vote without winning any seats, and Independents gained 2.3 per cent of the vote, for two seats.

Those figures show that it required 13,044 votes to elect one A.L.P. member, whilst 9,600 votes were required to elect one Liberal member. Country Party members were elected on a miserable average vote of 6,972. In other words, two Labor votes are required to one Country Party vote to return a member to this House. One Country Party member referred to what he termed the "magnificent" vote that his party obtained. It is just as well that it did not contest more seats because, if it had, its voting percentage would have been even lower.

Let us see how the Country Party fared in some metropolitan electorates. It set out to win Redlands, and for this purpose put forward another mayor as its candidate against Mr. Ted Baldwin. The Country Party received only 24.4 per cent of the vote in that electorate. That is all that the Country Party could obtain in that attempt to make inroads into a Brisbane electorate. In Pine Rivers the Country Party received 23.2 per cent of the vote, and 12.3 per cent in Everton. According to the Premier and other Country Party supporters, Everton was where the Country Party was coming in to show the Liberals where they got off. Yet it polled only 12.3 per cent of the vote!

The Liberals cannot boast very much, either, when it comes to the support they obtained in country areas. Let us look at some of the results they obtained outside

Brisbane and Townsville. In Redcliffe, the Liberal Party obtained 19.3 per cent of the vote. In Toowoomba South it won 18.5 per cent of the vote. In South Coast the percentage was 17.5, and in Murrumba it was 15.2. In Toowoomba North the percentage was 13.4, and it was 10.2 in Mackay. The Liberal Party poured a tremendous amount of finance into the campaign in Cairns, yet it received only 8.1 per cent of the vote. A party that claims to represent Queensland and to legislate for all Queenslanders received 8.1 per cent of the votes cast in a major city in this State.

I left till last my reference to Barron River. The honourable member for that electorate, Mr. Bill Wood, knows full well that the Liberals received 3.5 per cent of the vote in that electorate.

Mr. B. Wood: Sir Gordon Chalk campaigned there.

Mr. HOUSTON: That was the reason for the poor Liberal vote. And the Liberals talk about representing Queensland!

Let us look at some of the factors that allowed the Government parties to win the election. One of them, of course, was the redistribution. It was quite ironic to read only the other day that the Liberal Party convention was now saying, "Please give us another redistribution, but please put a Supreme Court judge in charge of it. Please let us make all submissions to the tribunal publicly, and please let the public know everything that is going on." But in this Chamber 12 months ago honourable members opposite deliberately voted against every one of those proposals. The parliamentary representatives of the Liberal Party voted against them.

Mr. R. E. Moore interjected.

Mr. HOUSTON: The honourable member was one of those who made the greatest outcry in support of what was then proposed.

Mr. R. E. Moore: Prove it.

Mr. HOUSTON: That would be similar to proving that a child likes lollies. These very important questions were before the Parliament of Queensland in August 1971.

Mr. R. E. Moore: Can you read Burns's handwriting?

Mr. HOUSTON: I can at least read.

The claim by the convention of the Liberal Party, although belated, is just. As I have said on other occasions, it was a shocking redistribution.

Mr. R. E. Moore: Until after the election, you said it was very fair.

Mr. HOUSTON: I will deal with that point later.

The Electoral Redistribution Commissioners were Sir Douglas Fraser, Mr. A. Archer, and Mr. H. E. Radford, and I can say

honestly that their names will long be remembered in the Labor movement.

The Bill providing for the redistribution was assented to on 24 August 1971, and the Commissioners made their first report on 10 December 1971. The report that was published seemed to be reasonable, and I do not think anyone would say that it was not. The Commissioners set a quota of 12,657 for the south-eastern zone and 12,086 for the Bundaberg area. In fact, with the exception of Mackay, which had a quota of 15,000 under the Act, and Mt. Isa, which had a quota of 10,000 under the Act, all electorates in zones 1 and 2 seemed to have a fair relativity. The quota for the western zone was 7,641, and for the country zone, 9,976. In the report, the number of electors in each electorate appeared to be fairly closely related and generally in accordance with the terms of the Act.

Under those conditions, I and other men holding responsible positions in the Australian Labor Party—incidentally, I make no apology for Mr. Burns, the secretary of the A.L.P., who is now the honourable member for Lytton, or anyone else making statements at that time—accepted that report as a document based on facts. However, we found later that it was not.

Within a few days of the publication of that report, the Liberal Party and the Country Party complained that they were being robbed. In fact, they brought back a Mr. Baker from Victoria to help them out.

A Government Member interjected.

Mr. HOUSTON: I have the report here. Baker was the man who made the original submission, the submission that could tell the honourable member for Mansfield, Mr. Kaus, even before the print on the Bill was dry and before the report was published, that the electorate of Hawthorne had been eliminated. Honourable members opposite should not try to tell those on this side of the Chamber that they did not know what was going on.

Mr. R. E. Moore: We received our information from the A.L.P. and from the City Hall. You had it before we saw it.

Mr. HOUSTON: The honourable member should give his ears a chance to flap quietly. The point is that the A.L.P. accepted that report as accurate and truthful and selected its candidates on that basis.

As soon as the Liberal Party saw that Alderman Clem Jones, Alderman Roy Harvey and other aldermen were candidates, it complained and, as a result, a further redistribution was made in which 34 seats were changed.

Mr. R. E. Moore: All able to do two jobs, too.

Mr. HOUSTON: The honourable member for Windsor should not talk about doing two jobs. The honourable member for Surfers Paradise will have something to say to him if he does.

The Commissioners submitted a second report, but again the facts were not brought to the fore. When the revised electoral rolls became available to us, we were able to make a detailed analysis of the 82 electorates. They became available on 31 December 1971, and I claimed that an electoral commission should have had the latest figures available to it to enable it to ascertain trends and movements in population. If such figures were not available to the Commissioners on this occasion, there must have been a breakdown in the Government departments concerned, because an electoral redistribution costs a great deal of money and is not something that should be made every year.

The rolls showed that four electorates—Merthyr, Brisbane, Bundaberg and Everton—were 10 per cent or more below quota before the first election after the redistribution. Nine electorates—Mt. Isa, Surfers Paradise, Pine Rivers, Belyando, Albert, South Coast, Mansfield, Redlands and Murrumba—were all 10 per cent or more above quota. Before the first election was held Mt. Isa was 22.8 per cent above quota, Surfers Paradise 21.1 per cent, and Pine Rivers 20.1 per cent. The Act laid it down quite clearly that the distribution had to be within 20 per cent above or below quota.

Mr. Hinze: That is why we are asking for a redistribution now.

Mr. HOUSTON: They should have asked for it before the election.

Mr. Hinze: We did.

Mr. HOUSTON: The honourable member did not. He was running around the place and saying all through the election campaign, "Do Bishop!" All the honourable member was saying was, "Do Bishop at any cost!"

Mr. Hinze: I did, too.

Mr. HOUSTON: The honourable member did, too; there is no doubt about that.

The three electorates I mentioned were already above the quota variation prescribed by the Act. On a review of the commission's findings, which were released on 29 February 1972, when the enrolment figures as at 31 December 1971 would surely have been available, we find that the commission reduced enrolments in electorates that were obviously already below the electoral quota. Why did it do that? Why would it further reduce them if it were not for the purpose of looking after certain candidates and certain members? In the Brisbane electorate the figure was reduced by 588 so that it finished with an enrolment of 10,802.

Mr. Lane: Were they looking after Davis?

Mr. HOUSTON: It was trying to look after the honourable member's mate. Of course, the representation of Brian Davis was so good that the people had no hesitation in returning him. The Brisbane electorate was left 14.6 per cent below quota.

The Merthyr figure was reduced by 93. It finished with 10,722 voters, representing 15.3 per cent below quota. The reduction in Yeronga was 379, which dropped it to 11,938 voters, or 719 electors below quota.

Mr. Sherrington: It pulled the Labor voters out and put them into Archerfield.

Mr. HOUSTON: That is right. Although the total number was only 379 fewer, there was a shift of many hundreds of voters between other electorates to make sure that the Labor vote was kept to a minimum. Even the electorate of Lockyer had a reduction of 631 voters, so that it finished with 12,175, or 482 voters below quota.

In the review of 1972 some electorates were increased in enrolment to further increase their number above quota. Nudgee was one such electorate. It was estimated to have 12,868 voters, but it was given more electors so that it finished with 13,134. Again the number of Labor voters was built up in one area so that the Minister for Justice could be saved in his electorate. Murrumba was given an extra 319, finishing with 13,963 voters or 10.3 per cent above quota. Redcliffe was given an extra 281 voters so that it finished with 12,886.

The most obvious thing that was wrong with the redistribution in South-east Queensland was the taking of Bribie Island from the electorate of Murrumba and the placing of it in the Landsborough electorate. For what reason the commission did this, other than to put the right numbers in the right place, I will never know. The whole point is that there is no connection—physical, local authority or any other—between Bribie Island and the Landsborough electorate. There is no direct road link between Bribie Island and Landsborough. The only reason that could be advanced was that at some time in the future a bridge will be constructed at the northern end of Bribie Island. What a ridiculous situation! The only reason Bribie Island is not in the Murrumba electorate today is that it was desired to make sure, if possible, that Murrumba would return a Country Party member.

Let us consider some of these shocking figures. Let me compare the figures in this document of the commission with the actual figures as shown in the rolls. As I said earlier the Brisbane figure, according to the commission, was 13,308, whereas it was actually only 10,802. In Mansfield, according to the commission, the number was 12,203, whereas it was 14,084. According to the commission, Merthyr had 12,611 electors, whereas the actual number was only 10,722.

Mr. Lane: That was on the 1970 roll figures.

Mr. HOUSTON: I think the honourable member should go and take a roll.

Mr. Lane: There is a growth factor there, too.

Mr. HOUSTON: The growth factor should have been shown. In fact, when we were debating the legislation I am sure it was clearly understood by all members that areas that could be expected to expand would be below the quota for a start.

Mr. Lane: Merthyr is an expanding area. It is expanding upwards. Go and have a look at it.

Mr. HOUSTON: That is why there are only 10,722 electors on the roll now.

Anyway, let us look at some of the other electorates. In Albert 14,361 electors are on the roll, whereas the Commission said there would be only 12,774. In Surfers Paradise the commission said the figure would be 12,623, but the roll shows it was 15,345.

Dealing now with Mt. Isa, this is an electorate which the Act showed as a separate electorate. In other words, the new electorate of Mt. Isa was the old electorate of Burke so, in this case, there can be no comparison on the rolls or anything else, yet according to the Commission it was to have 10,569 electors, whereas in actual fact it has 12,981.

I am claiming that the redistribution was far from accurate, that it was far from just and that it was certainly loaded in favour of the Government parties. Let us hope that saner counsel will prevail and that we will have another redistribution but this time let everything be above board so that there will be no doubt at all that the public will know, as it should, what is going on.

Mr. R. E. Moore: What about your own rotten gerrymander? We have never done a gerrymander yet.

Mr. HOUSTON: I think we have to forget the honourable member's statements because, unfortunately, they are so wild that no-one would really take him seriously.

Although the boundaries were bad enough, the rolls themselves were in a shocking condition. This is not solely my view; it is the view of virtually every honourable member in this Chamber. I informed the Electoral Office of 90 names in my own electorate in respect of which the roll was wrong, and that was discovered only because one of my canvassers happened to call on electors in a certain street. How many other mistakes were made, I do not know, but we witnessed the spectacle a few months before the election of hundreds of people complaining because their names had been wrongfully removed from the roll. I think even members of this Chamber discovered that members of their families were not enrolled.

Mr. Lane: You are picking on the Public Service again.

Mr. HOUSTON: I am picking on anyone who allows our electoral system to deteriorate. If any public servant did not do his job properly, he should not be there. If the honourable member had any sense of justice at all, I would not be required to make this point because the first business of the House would have been the setting up of an inquiry to find out why certain of these things happened. I can assure honourable members that if we had been the Government, that is one of the first things we would have done.

Mr. Lane: Continuing inquiries into everything but no action; that is all you do.

Mr. HOUSTON: The only action I want from the honourable member is that he use a little common sense and be quiet for a while.

Dealing now with the actual voting on election day, never before have we seen so many section 35A votes cast. There were hundreds in every electorate.

Mr. R. E. Moore: How many were counted?

Mr. HOUSTON: About 20 per cent of them. If the honourable member did his homework he would know that without asking me. The whole point is that hundreds of people were disfranchised. But the worst feature was that some returning officers and presiding officers—not all—told electors that they could not have a vote on any account.

Mr. Sherrington: An official instruction was issued to discourage section 35A votes.

Mr. HOUSTON: That is right, yet the honourable member for Merthyr speaks about my attacking public servants. Every person working on a polling booth on that day was a public servant for that day and should have been instructed that every person who claims a vote is entitled to one under section 35A.

Mr. R. E. Moore: They were so instructed.

Mr. HOUSTON: If they were they disregarded the instructions.

I now wish to speak about the Brisbane City Council. I do not know by what authority the Government decided it would amend the City of Brisbane Act to alter the method of election of the Lord Mayor and the number of aldermen. At the outset let me make it clear that if there is any interference by the Government with the present set-up in the Brisbane City Council, a future Labor Government will not allow the situation to continue to be different from that in the other local authorities throughout this State. I warn the Government that we would not allow Brisbane to be the odd man out.

Mr. R. E. Moore: You won't be here to do it, so don't worry about it.

Mr. HOUSTON: That is my view; let there be no doubt about it.

Mr. Lane: Are you in favour of the proposals right across the board?

Mr. HOUSTON: The honourable member can make his own speech later on. Let me refer to some of the statements that have been made. It is a pity that the Minister for Local Government and Electricity is not in the Chamber, but he appeared on television, and said, first of all, "It is my proposal." He claimed it was his idea—yet he had been a Cabinet Minister for only about one month.

Mr. Wharton: It wasn't ours.

Mr. HOUSTON: It was not the Country Party's idea, but that party is not showing any fortitude in trying to stop it. Apparently, the Country Party wants all the chairmen of the country shires to be elected in the same way.

Mr. Wharton: No, we don't.

Mr. HOUSTON: Of course it must. The next thing the Minister said was, "I have had a lot of experience with local authorities." I checked with the local authority that the Minister represented for a short time, namely, Waggamba, which surrounds Goondiwindi. It is a fairly large shire with an area of 5,340 square miles. By comparison, Brisbane has an area of only 375 square miles. However, whereas the population of Brisbane is approximately 706,000, that of the whole of the Waggamba Shire today is 2,913. In Brisbane there are 201,319 dwellings, whereas in the Waggamba Shire there are 898. Without making too great a comparison, let me deal with some other aspects of his shire, in which, he claims, he has had this tremendous experience. His shire contains only four factories, 27 retail establishments and nine schools. Of course, it might be claimed that the shire is a rural one. I point out that it contains only 405 rural holdings. The rates collected amount to \$341,000, and the total expenditure is \$804,000, whereas the total expenditure by the Brisbane City Council is \$131,000,000. The Waggamba Shire contains 167 miles of sealed roads. It has a total of 1,826 miles of roadway, but of that figure 440 miles are not at this stage even formed. Only 232 premises in the shire are connected to a water supply; none at all have sewerage; and only 63 have septic. The Minister comes into this Chamber—

Mr. Sherrington: He is not here.

Mr. HOUSTON: He appeared on television and talked about his great local authority experience. He would not know what local authority administration really is.

Mr. B. Wood: How long was he on the shire council?

Mr. HOUSTON: That, I could not find out, but it was not very long.

Mr. R. E. Moore: The Minister is here now.

Mr. HOUSTON: That is fair enough.

What about transport, water, sewerage, electricity, channelling, footpaths, parks, gardens and libraries in Waggamba Shire? It has nothing at all.

The Government has no mandate at all to try to force this changed set-up onto the people of Brisbane. It should forget the whole idea, but if it wants to persist it should hold a referendum on the issue at the same time as the proposed one on daylight saving. Then the people of Brisbane can give the Government the thrashing that it deserves.

Mr. R. E. Moore: Why are you crying so much about it?

Mr. HOUSTON: I am not crying about it, but I believe in honesty and justice. The Government does not have such a mandate. The taxi-drivers who told the Minister what he should do were only having him on. In fact, I do not think there is even one taxi-driver in his shire. I do not know how he got on when, as chairman, he was in charge of finance. Where did he get his information?

Mr. McKechnie: That remark proves how ill-informed the honourable gentleman is. There are at least 80 taxi-drivers in Goondiwindi alone.

Mr. HOUSTON: Goondiwindi is not part of the shire to which I am referring. That is how much the Minister knows about it.

Mr. McKechnie: It is part of my electorate.

Mr. HOUSTON: I did not refer to the Minister's electorate. He does not even know the boundaries of his shire. The Minister should think before he speaks. I referred to the shire, not the electorate.

The Government's arrogance is clearly demonstrated by its intention to take this step. Members of the Government were sour on Clem Jones; they were very annoyed with him for contesting the seat of Yeronga. In these circumstances members of the Liberal Party applied pressure on the Minister. He was not acceptable to the Liberal Party as a Minister if he would not fall into line with this proposal.

(Time expired.)

Mr. SHERRINGTON (Salisbury) (12.41 p.m.): I second the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition, and I believe that never has there been a more timely one. Before dealing in depth with our reasons for the amendment, I associate the electors of Salisbury with the motion of loyalty to Her Majesty. At the same time, I compliment you, Mr. Speaker, on attaining that very high office, a fact that brought only chagrin to the Premier and his supporters. You had

the courage to stand up for North Queensland and to register a protest on behalf of the North, and I believe your stand was fully justified. At no time did you seek glory for yourself; you sought to attain this office only because of the lack of Cabinet representation that has been accorded to that sparsely populated area of the State.

I also place on record my deep gratitude to the electors of Salisbury on reaffirming their faith in the ideals, aims and objectives of the Australian Labor Party, and my thanks to my campaign director, Bill Wilcox, who was supported by a band of dedicated A.L.P. members in the Coopers Plains and other branches. I thank them all sincerely for their assistance in enabling me to present their beliefs and ideals in this Assembly. Because of their dedication, I have a bounden obligation to support to the utmost of my oratorical ability the amendment so ably moved by my leader.

On examining the contents of the amendment, we see that it seeks to prove that this Government attained office—I do not say that it was elected—against the clearly expressed desires and intentions of the voters. Any people with a sense of decency who scraped together sufficient seats to hold a Government in these circumstances would, if they were worthy of their salt, tender their resignation. (Government laughter.)

I hear laughter from the Government benches. One of those laughing was the honourable member for Yeronga. He is there thanks to the connivance that took place in the electoral redistribution. The Rocklea area was taken out of the Yeronga electorate and put into Archerfield, which already had its quota under the terms of the redistribution legislation. This is typical of the Government. It sits over there in smug self-satisfaction because it has scraped together sufficient seats to gain the numbers.

Mr. R. E. Moore: Your envy is showing.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I agree that my envy is showing. The Government, when in Opposition, gave the blue ribbon to the Australian Labor Party for being the greatest gerrymanderers this side of the black stump. My envy is showing because I am ashamed that my predecessors could never gerrymander the electorates as this Government has done. They have been shown to be rank amateurs in this regard.

The Liberal Party was so unpopular in Salisbury that it had eight-year-old and 10-year-old children manning its booths; it could not get sufficient adults to man them. Yet the Government is so self-righteous about not influencing juveniles in our schools in regard to political ideologies.

Mr. Lee: Clem was paying yours. Deny that!

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I do not know whether he was paying them or not, but, if he was, I hazard the guess that he was

paying them more than the honourable member was handing out.

It is rumoured that it cost the honourable member for Yeronga \$20,000 to hold his electorate. Twelve months before the election, I asked the Minister for Mines and Main Roads why the Main Roads Department had not proceeded with the covering of the tram-lines in Ipswich Road. Yet, a week before the election, it was impossible to drive along Ipswich Road because so many contractors and Main Roads Department employees were trying frantically to cover the tram-lines before the election. The small, tin-pot newspaper which is circulated in Yeronga claimed that the honourable member for Yeronga had announced that he had \$20,000 or \$30,000 set aside to have the tram-lines covered.

Mr. Lee: \$100,000.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: \$100,000. But it was not done until it could save the honourable member's scrawny neck.

I am concerned not with the honourable member for Yeronga, who is like a little Chihuahua barking at my heels, but with the Great Dane leading the Government. This election will go down in the annals of this State as one in which a Government, unwanted by the public and unpopular with it, foisted itself on the people.

Mr. K. W. Hooper: Can you speak up a little?

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I would be happy to switch the microphone off. Apparently honourable members opposite do not like hearing the truth.

I have heard rumours that one of the major pieces of legislation to come before the House this session will be a Bill dealing with law and order. I say to the Premier that his actions during the recent State election sowed the seeds of anarchy and all the other things that he ostensibly despises. The Government is setting up a situation in which, no matter how politically unpopular and unwanted it is, the people of this State will not be able to rid themselves of it. If that is not sowing on fertile ground the seeds of unrest and protest, I do not know what it is. Queensland is reaching the stage that was reached in other countries where, no matter how low the regard in which the Governments are held by the people, and irrespective of how the people vote, they cannot get rid of them. I shall prove that claim as I proceed.

I now wish to deal at some length, as the Leader of the Opposition did, with the last election. Because of the shemozzle it caused, the Government could not proceed with enabling legislation to allow the boundaries commission sufficient time to give serious study to the redistribution. The whole thing was thrown together in a shambles.

Mr. Lee: You were whingeing about that a minute ago.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I ask the honourable member for Yeronga to keep quiet. I am endeavouring to make an intelligent contribution to the debate.

I might say, for the edification of the honourable member for Yeronga, that people have said to me that, despite this performance by the Government, it is starting to create so many knights in this Parliament that no longer do people go to Parliament House; they go to "Sirs". All those who incur the good graces of the Premier have knighthoods handed out to them. I cannot imagine anything worse than having to enter this Chamber and refer to "Sir Norman" Lee. And what if we had to say "Honourable Sir Claude" Wharton or "Honourable Sir William" Knox? To give possibly the most classic example, would it not be edifying if I had to turn round in my place and refer to the honourable member for Windsor as "Honourable Sir Edgar" Moore? What an uplift that would provide in the standard of Parliament!

My only regret is that we will never have to refer to "Sir William" Lonergan, "Sir Valmond" Bird, or "Sir Roy" Armstrong. They will never attain such a high status. As I have already mentioned, one no longer goes to Parliament House; one goes to "Sirs".

Let us now look at what happened during the last election. The Leader of the Opposition has quite clearly shown that, because of the percentages of votes that the Government parties obtained, they have no moral justification for occupying the Treasury benches. However, I do not want to deal with figures; I want to deal with hard, cold facts.

Mr. R. E. Moore: You didn't get 50 per cent plus 1.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: No—I got 65 per cent plus. I do not mess around in my electorate. Now that the honourable member for Windsor has raised this matter, I shall deal with what the Deputy Leader of the Country Party, Mr. Camm, had to say when he spoke about the A.L.P. whingeing and trying to turn a vote of 48 per cent into a majority vote. The arguments of the illustrious Mr. Camm make Archimedes, Euclid and Pythagoras look like a bunch of mathematical hicks.

Mr. Lane: Tell us the name of that middle man again?

Mr. SHERRINGTON: If the vociferous honourable member for Merthyr wishes to buy into this, I will tell the House that he is the greatest master of the use of trumped-up evidence who has ever entered this Chamber. What was the reaction of the honourable member for Merthyr when Mr. Chipp, the Federal Minister for Customs and Excise, gave his blessing to the dirty "Little Red Schoolbook"? He said that Mr. Chipp should be in the Australian Labor Party.

Mr. Lane: Exactly!

Mr. SHERRINGTON: He is one of your greasy mob.

Mr. Lane interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. SHERRINGTON: The honourable member for Merthyr tried to shrug off his embarrassment by saying that Mr. Chipp should have been a member of the Australian Labor Party, in spite of the fact that for many years Mr. Chipp has been a senior member of the Liberal Party. It is now emerging from Gallup polls that Mr. Chipp is not quite the bad boy that he was made out to be. Because of that gain in popularity, no doubt, the honourable member for Merthyr will want Mr. Chipp to rejoin the Liberal Party.

Mr. Lane: No, thank you!

Mr. SHERRINGTON: What a performance!

Mr. K. W. Hooper: What do you think of "The Little Red Schoolbook"?

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I cannot tell the honourable gentleman, because I do not read that sort of trash. I make no bones about that.

Mr. Lane: Bob Hawke said on television last night that he thought it was a good thing.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: Anyone who wishes to read it is welcome to do so.

Mr. Lane: The Federal A.L.P. will do away with all censorship. Tell us about that!

Mr. SHERRINGTON: The honourable member for Merthyr has spoken in this Chamber about abortion reform. The only legislation in force in Australia at the moment relating to legal abortion was introduced by a Liberal-Country Party Government in South Australia.

Mr. Lane interjected.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: The honourable member cannot have it both ways. No wonder some of the criminals that he has railroaded are now doing time in Boggo Road gaol.

I say in answer to the Minister for Transport that trash of the type of "The Little Red Schoolbook" has never appealed to me. I have a better mission in life than to be delving into the thoughts and expressions of someone who, in my opinion, must have been on a "trip" when he wrote rubbish of that sort; but I do not deny any person who wishes to read it the right to do so. That is my attitude to "The Little Red Schoolbook".

I turn now to the reasons why the Opposition says that the present Government does not reflect the wishes of the people or the desires of the voting community. Let us look, Mr. Speaker, at what happened in this

election in terms of plain, cold, hard facts. There were 47 seats in which the Government—I am not going to say "won"; perish the thought!—scraped home by fair means or foul, and 22 of those seats were decided by the counting of preference votes.

Mr. R. E. Moore: What is wrong with that?

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I ask the honourable member to wait till I go into the question a little more deeply.

In contrast, the A.L.P. won 33 seats, only four of which were decided on preferences. The vociferous honourable member for Windsor asks for more information. I point out to him—and this is not to the credit of the Liberal Party—that of the 21 seats that his party gained, 14 were decided by the counting of preference votes. Of the 26 seats that the Country Party scraped together, eight were decided on preferences.

Mr. R. E. Moore: More than the Labor vote, though.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: Be quiet.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

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

Mr. SHERRINGTON: Prior to the luncheon break I was dealing with the scandalous situation created by the machinations of this Government. The Government now holds office not because it has been elected honestly, and not because it reflects the intentions of the voting community, but because, by its machinations, it was able to scrape together a sufficient number of seats to occupy the Treasury benches.

If one looks at this very sordid document, Queensland Government Gazette No. 62 of 24 June 1972—

Sir Gordon Chalk: Why is it sordid?

Mr. SHERRINGTON: Because it shows the whole sorry, sordid episode that honourable members opposite perpetrated on the State of Queensland. It indicates that the seats of Ashgrove, Carnarvon, Chatsworth, Clayfield, Condamine, Greenslopes, Hinchinbrook, Ipswich, Ithaca, Kurilpa, Mansfield, Mount Gravatt, Murrumba, Nundah, Redcliffe, South Coast, Surfers Paradise, Townsville, Warwick, Wavell, Windsor and Yeronga, all held by Government members, had to be decided on preferences. On this side of the Chamber sit 33 A.L.P. members, only four of whom were elected by preferential votes. It goes deeper than that. Ten Government members who are here under false pretences—I make no bones about saying that—representing the electorates of Ashgrove (held by the Minister for Health), Ipswich, Kurilpa, Mansfield, Mouth Gravatt, Murrumba, Redcliffe, Surfers Paradise, Warwick, and Wavell, could not command sufficient respect among the voting public to top the primary votes. Because of this rotten, preferential voting system foisted on the

State by this Government, those 10 honourable members opposite now occupy the Treasury benches even though they finished well behind on primary votes.

Sir Gordon Chalk: You get paid only when you win.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: The Treasurer is one of those persons to whom I was referring earlier—he was not here at the time—when I spoke about the number of knighthoods that have been handed out. I commented then that we would never have a Sir William Lonergan, a Sir Roy Armstrong or a Sir Valmond Bird. Those gentlemen came to me at the luncheon recess and said, "You are entirely wrong. We have already been called 'Sir', but the trouble is that it is spelt 'Cur'." It is all very well for the Treasurer to sit there, make his asinine remarks and laugh it all off as a big joke. He and his Country Party and Liberal Party colleagues are here, not because they got the popular vote in their electorates but because of a rotten, stinking preferential voting system that has been foisted on the people of Queensland.

I am not going to attack the honourable member for Surfers Paradise: I will leave that until he has had a little more experience. He comes in here and says, "How fortunate this State is to be blessed with a Government of this calibre." Let me point out what the Right Honourable William McMahon had to say about this, as reported in "The Courier-Mail" on the Monday after the State election. I can well understand his attitude when he saw the caption, "While Australia searches for a leader, Queensland has Joh. Bjelke-Petersen." That was the most inconclusive piece of publicity I have ever seen. The fact is that the Country and Liberal Parties have still not found a leader anywhere in Australia.

In "The Courier-Mail" of the Monday following the election we read the usual "blurb" about how the Premier relaxed after the election. I can well understand what Billy McMahon had to say. The Premier said he was never worried; that he was always confident. Why not? He had the electorates so rigged that he could not be defeated, no matter what was done.

It is quite a good article about what happened on the Sunday night after the election, when the Premier was relaxing at his country estate. His daughter came out and said, "The Prime Minister is on the phone." The article goes on to say that Mr. Petersen came back three minutes later and said, "Billy is very pleased." We have the Prime Minister of Australia, with no restriction on his use of the telephone and able to use it for 24 hours if he so wishes, taking exactly three minutes to congratulate the Premier of this State on winning the election.

There could be different reasons for this: either he was so disgusted at the political unpopularity of this Government in

Queensland or he was running round trying to plug the leaks in his own caucus. Whatever the real reason may have been, I leave it to the people of this State to judge. Despite the result of the election, it cannot be denied that this Government does not represent the true wishes of the people of this State. As I said earlier, if honourable members opposite had any sense of decency or justice they would resign their Commission to govern the State. They cannot for one moment claim that this Government was elected on its policies or popularity. They are here because they have connived to introduce legislation which inhibits the electors in this State from ever getting rid of them. If they are prepared to go on doing these things, then they are sowing the seeds of protest, demonstration, and so on.

Having attained this high office in the land, Government members proceed to show their arrogance. No mention was made during the election campaign of the intention to decimate the Brisbane City Council. No firm evidence was produced to the electors in this regard to help them form their opinion at the election.

The Deputy Premier is very vociferous this afternoon. He is probably trying to cover up his own guilt. He has been accusing Clem Jones of holding back flood information.

Sir Gordon Chalk: So he did.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I do not intend to argue whether he did or not, but if he did I am saying that during the election campaign the Minister for Local Government and the Government as a whole deliberately withheld information about what was going to happen to the Brisbane City Council. Probably the Minister for Local Government, in between consulting his taxi drivers, was having his teacup read or getting the message by studying the stars. Not one valid reason has been given to this Parliament or the people of this State to show that the proposed action is necessary, yet the Deputy Premier has the colossal audacity to accuse a man whose only crime is that he has made this city move and who has been prepared to accept unpopularity because of some of his decisions, of withholding information from the public.

Sir Gordon Chalk: I did.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: Of course the Treasurer did. What is his answer in regard to the proposal for the Brisbane City Council?

Sir Gordon Chalk: I am not in the witness-box.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: As I say, the Treasurer is himself guilty of the type of thing he accuses the Lord Mayor of. He did not tell the electors what was intended, and

thus he has no mandate from the people on the subject. But he has no inhibitions in showing his arrogance.

If the situation were not so serious I would be tempted to say that, over the years and particularly during the last couple of years, the Premier has earned for himself the sobriquet of "Speedy Gonzales". This is the cartoon character who was created by the Walt Disney Studios and had the great attribute of making very firm statements, and concluding by saying, "I theenk." Over the past couple of weeks the Premier has said, "We will not have a bar of daylight saving—I think." He has said, "There is no doubt that Mr. Houghton will be elected Speaker of this Assembly," and a couple of days later has added, "I think." Having told the public as a whole and this Parliament that, in a completely undemocratic manner, the Government will carve up the Brisbane City Council, a couple of days later the Premier said, "I think." Only the other day he said, "Before this session has ended Sir Gordon Chalk will resign—I think." He is never quite sure. The trouble at the moment is that the Liberal Party and the Country Party just do not know what each other party is doing. Recently we have seen the greatest exhibition of backing and filling. We have heard statesmanlike utterances by the Premier and the Minister for Local Government and Electricity. "The Australian" gave the latter authority from the Waggamba Shire Council a good old write-up. After the proposal to carve up the Brisbane City Council had been announced, that newspaper proclaimed "Dial Billa Billa for action." Government members simply sit in their places and try to laugh it off. I do not know how they hid their embarrassment over the election of Mr. Speaker. They said, "After all, it is not very important. 'Old Bill' got up, but it doesn't matter; it is not a slap in the face for the Government."

Sir Gordon Chalk: Fancy calling Mr. Speaker "Old Bill".

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I am only repeating what the Treasurer said to me in the corridor. The election of the Speaker shows just how naive and politically immature Government members can be. They knew that their nominee did not stand a snowflake's chance in hell of being elected Speaker. As late as an hour and a half before this Assembly met on the day that Mr. Speaker was elected, the Government parties held a caucus meeting and tried to twist the arms of Mr. Lonergan and those members who intended to nominate him. They did not have the brains or the intelligence to tell Mr. Houghton that he was not wanted and to make a polite statement. Instead, in their political naivety they came into this Chamber in the knowledge that he would be defeated.

Mr. Houston: They sacrificed him.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: That is right—just as they had sacrificed many other people in the community.

Sir Gordon Chalk: Like Casey.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: The Treasurer thinks he can stir up that one with me. I have never attacked a political colleague. I gave the Treasurer more intelligence as an astute leader than to try to peddle that silly little bit of garbage in this Chamber.

I wish to refer in some detail to various editorials that have been written on the fate of the Brisbane City Council. The Government announced out of the blue that it was going to destroy the system that has operated efficiently over the years. Every newspaper published in this State bitterly attacked the Government's attitude.

Sir Gordon Chalk: Your junior counsel is having trouble.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: There is no need to worry about that. I can remember this.

Only last Saturday "The Courier-Mail" carried one of the most blistering editorials that I have ever had the privilege to read concerning this Government.

Sir Gordon Chalk: Can't you find it?

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I do not need to. I can quote these things from memory.

Sir Gordon Chalk: What date did you say?

Mr. SHERRINGTON: "The Courier-Mail" of last Saturday. Even if the Treasurer can read, and I doubt very much that he can, he probably could not comprehend.

Sir Gordon Chalk interjected.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: The Treasurer should not worry about me in Salisbury. I have beaten all candidates out there.

As I have said, it was one of the most blistering editorials I have had the privilege to read about any Government or political party in this State.

Sir Gordon Chalk: After all the things you said.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: For the benefit of the loud-mouthed Treasurer, it said that the fact that the Liberal Party had given its blessing to this measure did not make this sordid, dirty little piece of legislation any better.

Sir Gordon Chalk: You have been using the word "sordid" all day.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I was quoting from the editorial.

The Premier could hardly claim that "The Courier-Mail" camps in the halls of the A.L.P. On the Friday before the election the same

newspaper published the following statement, "In our opinion the people should support the Country-Liberal Government." It is beyond my comprehension why the newspaper bothered to print that, because it has been writing the same type of editorial since Caxton invented the printing press. It could hardly be claimed that the blistering editorial in "The Courier-Mail" was written with a political bias. The "Telegraph" newspaper went to great lengths to say that it very seldom carried an editorial, but it gave the Government the greatest "send-off" I have read for a long time on the Government's proposals concerning the City Council.

Sir Gordon Chalk: You got the "send-off".

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I have not had a "send-off" at any time. If "The Courier-Mail" should "send me off" at any time, I would take it as a compliment.

In view of what has transpired in the Press and elsewhere, it is quite evident that this legislation is not wanted. The Government has no right to introduce it in this House and it has no mandate to do so. I challenge the Government to tell this Assembly who initiated the move to carve up the city council, and the reasons advanced for doing so.

A Government Member: Tom Burns.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: That is not so. I know who did it and everybody else knows.

Mr. Hinze: Jones has been running the place like the Kremlin ever since he has been there.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: That is fair enough. The honourable member for South Coast, the great old shadow-sparrer who could not go two rounds with a revolving door, wishes to interfere with a system that gives the people the right to change an elected council every three years. He would rather wreck it and return to the days of the shires when development took place only in areas like St. Lucia and Indooroopilly, where the Treasurer lives, where the residents can afford mink-lined garbage cans and so on. He would like to see a city of patchwork-quilt development, in which the suburbs that can afford it are developed, and those without the wherewithal to meet council charges fall behind. That is the Government's proposal. It suggests a reduction in numbers to improve efficiency. But, last year, it did not hesitate to introduce, in this House, a measure that provided for 32 parliamentary seats in the south-eastern corner of Queensland. It hoped that the result would be increased Liberal Party representation in this Parliament. Unfortunately, the wiles of the Premier were too good.

(Time expired.)

Question—That the words proposed to be added to the Address (Mr. Houston's amendment) be so added—put; and the House divided—

AYES, 29

Aiken	Jones, R.
Baldwin	Jordan
Blake	Leese
Bousen	Marginson
Bromley	Melloy
Burns	Newton
D'Arcy	O'Donnell
Davis	Sherrington
Dean	Wallis-Smith
Hanlon	Wood, B.
Hanson	Wood, P.
Harris	
Hooper, K. J.	<i>Tellers:</i>
Houston	Jensen
Inch	Moore, F. P.
Jones, N. F.	

NOES, 45

Ahern	Lane
Aikens	Lee
Alison	Lickiss
Armstrong	Low
Bjelke-Petersen	McKechnie
Camm	Miller
Campbell	Müller
Chalk	Murray
Chinchen	Neal
Cory	Newbery
Edwards	Porter
Fletcher	Rae
Frawley	Row
Gunn	Scott-Young
Hartwig	Small
Herbert	Sullivan
Hewitt, N. T. E.	Tomkins
Hewitt, W. D.	Tooth
Hinze	Wharton
Hodges	
Hooper, K. W.	<i>Tellers:</i>
Houghton	Bird
Kaus	Moore, R. E.
Knox	

PAIRS:

Tucker	Crawford
Yewdale	Hughes

Resolved in the negative.

Mr. MULLER (Fassifern) (2.45 p.m.): I take this opportunity, the first available to me, to again pledge my loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen, and I wish also to associate the people of my electorate with that pledge. I congratulate the Governor and Lady Hannah upon their efforts during their four months in office. It is beyond doubt that they have already accomplished much in the interests of Queensland.

I pay a tribute to the mover of the motion, Dr. Scott-Young from Townsville, who was severely criticised this morning by the Leader of the Opposition. I remind the Leader of the Opposition that in 11 minutes Dr. Scott-Young made more statements that were of advantage to the people of his electorate and the people of Queensland than I have heard from the Leader of the Opposition since he has been a member of this Assembly.

I also support the remarks of and pay a tribute to the seconder of the motion, the honourable member for Surfers Paradise,

Mr. Bruce Small. In my opinion, his contribution in the interests of local authorities and on behalf of the people whom he represents was very commendable.

I extend a very sincere welcome to all new members of the coalition Government parties—Dr. Edwards from Ipswich, Mr. Frawley from Murrumba, Mr. Gunn from Somerset, Mr. Hartwig from Callide, Mr. Row from Hinchinbrook, and Mr. Neal from Balonne. It has been my privilege during the past few weeks to make the acquaintance of a number of these men for the first time. I admire their outlook and their attitudes and believe that, if they continue according to their intentions, their interest will be to the advantage of the people of Queensland. I wish them a long and successful career in the Parliament of this State.

I pay a very special tribute—and this may be a little unorthodox—to the honourable member for Mackay, Mr. Casey, who was elected despite the opposition of his former party. He is dedicated to the cause of the people whom he represents. I congratulate him, and I pay a very special tribute also to the people of Mackay who, in their wisdom, insisted that some justice should prevail.

I extend my sympathy to the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Houston: I do not need your sympathy.

Mr. MULLER: I know the honourable gentleman does not. The fact is that the Leader of the Opposition is so offside with his party that I think this comment is quite fitting: there is no point in going to the top of the ladder if it is leaning against the wrong wall.

I believe that there is a message in the recent election for members of the A.L.P. who profess to be the champions of the so-called working-class people, although I am not sure who the people so classified are. It is that the unions do not have the confidence of the people whose cause they promote.

Mr. Baldwin: They have more than the Government parties.

Mr. MULLER: I would be very disturbed if the honourable member was on my side.

The recent oil strike lasted for 34 days, possibly because of the promotion of the A.C.T.U. and those who support it. When a vote was taken as to whether or not the men should return to work, the figures revealed that in Brisbane 120 men were in favour of returning to work and three were opposed to it. In Sydney 161 men indicated their desire to return, with only two opposed to returning. In Melbourne 215 men supported the return and 35 were opposed. In Adelaide, in the State which honourable members opposite tell us has the capacity to administer its affairs better than other States, the figures were 70 in favour of

returning to work and none opposed to returning. I need not remind honourable members that I make this reference for the purpose of having it recorded in "Hansard". That was the position in the State that Labor champions. The demands submitted by the unions were completely ridiculous. On previous occasions in this Chamber I have said that I am not opposed to the organisation of unions in the interests of the working class.

An Opposition Member: You could have fooled me.

Mr. MULLER: The honourable member is easily fooled.

The demands of the unions were so ridiculous that they were not accepted by any section of the community. Indeed, they were not accepted by the very persons honourable members opposite profess to represent. They requested an increase of \$28 a week, but the men agreed to return to work for an additional \$4.80 a week. There must be something wrong with the system of honourable members opposite.

Mr. Sherrington: What union have you ever belonged to?

Mr. MULLER: I have not been a member of a union.

These are the indications coming from the people who are vitally concerned. Let them be the judge. Honourable members opposite say on their behalf that it is absolutely essential that they should receive an additional \$28 a week, but the men almost unanimously elected to return to work for an additional \$4.80 a week. Therefore I suggest that there is something wrong with the system.

While I am dealing with such pleasantaries, I wish to make special reference to my parliamentary colleague, the honourable member for Yeronga. The Australian Labor Party set up its big guns against him. Honourable members opposite expected that they could take the seat away from a member of the Liberal Party merely by putting one of their so-called top men against him. The Leader of the Opposition must have had a very happy moment when he observed the result of the poll in the Yeronga electorate. But for Mr. Lee's victory there is a strong possibility that Mr. Houston would not now be the Leader of the Opposition.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. MULLER: The ballot for the speakership was a secret ballot. This is a democracy, and I invite honourable members opposite to respect it.

I turn now to a much more significant and important issue. It concerns the electors of Fassifern, the people I am privileged to represent.

An Opposition Member: You are lucky to represent.

Mr. MULLER: I am lucky; I appreciate that.

For the last hour and 20 minutes in this Chamber I have witnessed the greatest display of time-wasting I have ever seen in my life.

Mr. Davis: You have not answered it.

Mr. MULLER: There was nothing to answer. It was merely the ravings of small-time characters disturbed because their party was not successful at the last election. All types of strange and significant things can be done with figures but, as I said before, I intend to speak about my own electorate. As a result of the last redistribution, the number of electors in the Fassifern electorate was increased from 9,500 to 13,500. The area also has been greatly increased and I want to remind honourable members of this Parliament who talk about gerrymandering—it is their term, not mine—that the area of Fassifern today is five times the size of the entire city of Brisbane.

Mr. Marginson: The Premier said on election night that he was not worried about votes but only results.

Mr. MULLER: My electorate is an instance of both votes and area and I assure honourable members that it is much more difficult to represent people when they are widely distributed. Those who reside in the city are fortunate not to have had this experience. This electorate, which is small by comparison with many of the electorates in Queensland, covers slightly more than 2,040 square miles. It was indicated this morning that the total area of the City of Brisbane is little more than 400 square miles and in this area there are over 30 representatives. By comparison, country electorates are very difficult to administer.

Mr. K. J. Hooper interjected.

Mr. MULLER: The only community of interest they have is that they reside within the Moreton Shire and consequently are classified as such. The redistribution was made on either shire boundaries or divisional boundaries.

Mr. F. P. Moore: What rot!

Mr. MULLER: This is how it has applied in country areas. However, I am not prepared to argue that particular point at the moment. But despite this wide diversification of interests, I heard some uncouth character who has not a clue on what he is talking about, either inside this House or outside, say that the electorate of Fassifern grew only potatoes. I suggest that if this honourable member were to get out of the city of Brisbane and have a look around and see how other people live, his attitude would change to the advantage of the people he represents.

Apart from the fact that in Fassifern a large number of people are engaged in primary industry, which, admittedly, is still

one of our very important and vital industries, there are also a large number of professional men and women in all walks of life. In addition to this, there is the power station at Swanbank, which is probably one of the largest in the State, and Tancred Brothers meatworks is now functioning at Beaudesert and employing more than 620 men.

Because of these developments and the emergence of many progressive attitudes, this Government has experienced many administrative difficulties. Many of these problems flow on to the local authorities, which form the all-important third arm of Government. Frequently councils are called upon to provide essential services and facilities, such as roads, footpaths, street lighting, water and sewerage. Honourable members opposite have referred to Carole Park. It is unfortunate, but true, that at the moment the residents of that area do not enjoy any of those essential amenities except water and lighting.

I would not like any honourable member to suggest that I make speeches designed only to praise the efforts of Government members. If we are to be constructive we must have the right to be critical of those aspects of administration in which we believe there are certain failings. I believe that at Carole Park certain mistakes were made, but I hope they will be corrected.

The Housing Commission found that Carole Park contained a large area of land suitable for residential development, and, faced with the need to provide homes for a number of people who required them urgently, it erected many homes. Of course, the Commission was faced with certain difficulties. The Moreton Shire Council approved of the subdivision of the area.

Mr. Hodges: Not Housing Commission subdivisions, only private subdivisions.

Mr. MULLER: The Minister can correct me if I am wrong.

An Opposition Member: The Minister is the guilty man.

Mr. MULLER: I am not criticising anybody. I am only making this statement because I feel that the situation should be corrected and I want to ensure that it does not recur.

A large number of people moved into the locality in which drainage is very unsatisfactory. I was requested by a man who resides in the area to visit Carole Park one afternoon. As honourable members will recall, until a couple of months ago Brisbane had experienced a very wet season. I had so much difficulty in walking to the home I was visiting that my suit had to be sent to the dry-cleaners. It was impossible to cross the land without getting covered with mud. I hope that the situation will be corrected by the powers that be.

I do not wish to be over-critical of the Moreton Shire Council for having approved the subdivisions in the first place. It is

unfortunate, of course, that, having approved the subdivisions, the shire council was called upon to provide necessary amenities such as sewerage, street lighting, kerbing and channelling. Their cost is quite beyond the council's financial resources, so I hope that it will be afforded sufficient financial assistance to enable it to remedy the situation.

Last year we passed legislation relating to State and regional development. In the light of my submissions, a real challenge lies ahead of our future regional planners and developers. Only a few weeks ago it was reported in the Press that a \$34,000,000 Housing Commission area was to be developed in the Redbank Plains locality.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Will that be in your electorate?

Mr. MULLER: Yes.

At the moment the Moreton Shire Council is providing the water supply for Redbank Plains, but it has not taken this development into account. When it does take place, the water-supply system presently under construction will be completely inadequate. If our regional planners had been able to take this development into account, I have no doubt they would have recommended that the pipeline to reticulate water in this locality should be greatly enlarged. I pass by this area regularly, and only this morning I observed the 12-inch pipe designed to carry the water supply to meet the requirements of the locality. It will prove to be inadequate. It has been estimated that in the future—a number of years may elapse before this happens—about 10,000 people could be residing there.

It would also appear that insufficient consideration has been given to the availability of water. The water supply is to come from the Moogerah Dam, the present supply from which is almost entirely committed. I suggest that in the very near future serious consideration will have to be given to providing an additional water supply to meet the needs of this rapidly developing locality.

Mr. Jensen: Does the Co-ordinator-General come into this?

Mr. MULLER: I am not fully aware who is responsible, but the regional planners will have to take it into account. There are suggestions that a third dam could be built in the Fassifern district. I appeal to the Minister for Conservation and the Irrigation Commissioner to give serious consideration to this proposal.

While speaking about irrigation and water supply, I should point out that a number of people, particularly city dwellers, are not aware of the need to conserve water in Queensland. My authority for that statement is the Snowy Mountains Authority, whose engineers have said that Australia is a very dry continent. Cape York Peninsula is too far south to be affected

by the monsoonal influence and the southern part of Victoria is too far north to be affected by the average rainfall that normally occurs to the south of this continent. Consequently, we have a very low rainfall.

A very large section of South-west Queensland is returning to extremely severe drought conditions. Whenever members of the Country Party make recommendations in this Chamber for more water-conservation schemes, somebody always suggests that they are interested only in the value to primary producers of the water concerned for irrigation purposes. It is significant and vitally important to remind honourable members that industry cannot function and development cannot occur without an adequate water supply.

Most honourable members would not need to be convinced or advised of the advantages of the Swanbank Power Station to the people not only in Ipswich and Brisbane but also in the North Coast area. Swanbank could not function without the water conserved in Moogerah Dam. The volume of water required in this locality is enormous. The final stage of the Swanbank Power Station has not yet been completed, but it could be functioning by March next year. The volume of water required only for the cooling system of this power station is 12,000 acre-feet annually. Converted to figures that the average person can understand, that is more than 9,000,000 gallons daily—a colossal gallonage of water. The development of industry depends on the supply of electricity, which in turn depends on ample supplies of water. As I have suggested earlier, this is a real challenge to regional developers.

I have indicated—and I make no apology for having done so—that water conservation is of tremendous importance to our primary industries. Many people engaged in primary production are not aware of the value of land which has an adequate supply of water for irrigation. The Irrigation and Water Supply Commission has supplied me with figures which indicate that an area of only 460,914 acres of land in Queensland is irrigated at present. Figures can be confusing and can be a nuisance. However, those figures indicate that, of the 667,000 square miles of land in Queensland, an area of only 720 square miles is irrigated. In round figures, which are not quite accurate, only one-thousandth of Queensland's land mass is irrigated. That area produces 16.81 per cent of the value of Queensland's rural production, and the remainder produces 83.19 per cent. Those figures indicate that a large proportion of the primary wealth of this State is derived from the small area of land irrigated. I therefore suggest that if progress is to be made in primary industries, and in the development of secondary industries, it is obviously essential to think in terms of water conservation.

I repeat, as I said earlier, that I am proud of the efforts made by the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission since this Government took office. In saying that, I am not attempting to condemn the efforts of previous Governments. However, since this Government took office, water conservation in Queensland has increased sixfold, and I commend the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission on its efforts.

Many more schemes are, I know, planned. Recently I received advice indirectly that a large water-conservation scheme is in the process of development at Mt. Isa. Although it will not serve primary producers there, nor is it intended to, it will be of considerable advantage in the development of industries in that great centre in the North-west.

Mr. Jensen interjected.

Mr. MULLER: I am not concerned about the attitude of the Federal Government. I am merely commending our own officers and indicating how money available to the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission can be used to advantage.

During my election campaign I made many contacts with people in my locality. Possibly, if I may say so modestly, that is one of the reasons why I am here. I want to make it known to Opposition members that I was quite surprised to find that so many people in my electorate with no association whatever with primary industry are concerned about the cost of living. Literally hundreds of them said to me, "At present we are not at all interested in salary increases if the cost of living is also going to increase." They have come to accept that point of view. I met many people in my area who, to the best of my knowledge, were not my supporters; it would have surprised me greatly if they cast their votes my way. I had discussions with many of these people in all walks of life, and I found that they are disturbed by the constant increase in the cost of living. They were people in all age groups. They included persons over 50 years of age who know that if inflationary trends continue their life's savings will not be worth anything to them. They would like to see the cost of living stabilised, and they are searching for an answer to that problem.

Mr. Davis: We will give it to them.

Mr. MULLER: I know the honourable member's solution, but there has been no indication to date it has been successful.

Furthermore, these people have not the slightest interest in a 35-hour week. This is a statement that I know a number of A.L.P. members will be pleased that I have made, as they can now get behind the haystack and say, "If it were not for members of the Government you could have a 35-hour week." Growth and productivity, although two

entirely different words, in effect mean the same thing when related to the economy of the State.

Mr. Davis: You said last year that you would prefer to see a 60-hour week.

Mr. MULLER: I did not say anything about a 60-hour week. What I said was that at this time, in a developing country such as Australia, there should not be a 35-hour week. When people asked me questions during the recent election campaign, I replied to them by making this comment, which I am not ashamed of and which I now repeat: "It is simple mathematics that if you reduce the working hours by 12½ per cent you must expect an automatic increase of an equivalent amount in the cost of living. I am not suggesting what you should do or what you should advocate. Just keep that thought in mind and then make the decision."

I believe that newspaper reports and the findings of Gallup polls indicate that, because of the growth rate in this State, the people have indicated that they have no desire to become involved in shorter hours at present. Many people have also told me that they now have as much leisure time as they can use to advantage. What do the people want? They are more concerned about the development of the State, and about the fact that the money they are earning and have saved over the years should be of some advantage to them. This is their attitude.

In support of that submission and the submissions I made earlier, I refer again to the fact that the Australian work-force decided not to obey the wishes of the unions but to return to work immediately after the recent strike. These are the people to whom all honourable members owe a big responsibility, and there are clear-cut indications that we must take into account the thoughts and wishes of the masses of people within the community if we, as a Government, are to continue to survive.

As my time is running out and as Sir Gordon Chalk is in the Chamber, I shall now get right away from that issue and deal with a subject very near and dear to the hearts of a number of people engaged in rural industry. Submissions have recently been made relating to it; Bills dealing with it were before the House during the last Parliament. It is the old story of probate and succession duties.

I do not propose at this stage to make any specific reference to this matter other than to remind members of the Government that the people of Queensland are vitally interested. I compliment the mover of the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, Dr. Scott-Young, for having made a submission earlier on this important matter.

In the short period during which I have been associated with the Government in this Chamber, two successful attempts have been made to amend the Act dealing with probate and succession duties. Two years ago, and prior to the introduction of the amending

Bill, the Gazette revealed that the Government extracted \$14,200,000 in 12 months from this source. The first Bill was then passed. Perhaps it may not be fair to make a direct comparison in this instance, because the amount of money subject to probate and succession duties may not be truly revealed in these figures. However, after the first amendment of the Act the Government collected, in round figures, \$16,000,000. The Act was again amended in an endeavour to meet the wishes of the people whom we represent and who are vitally concerned. I was advised recently that, as a result of the second amendment, the amount received by the Government has risen to \$18,600,000. If that is correct, I respectfully suggest to the Treasurer that another attempt should be made to amend the Act.

Sir Gordon Chalk: What the honourable member overlooks is the value of the estates involved at the time of death. In one year a number of rich graziers might die—

Mr. MULLER: There are none of those.

Sir Gordon Chalk: Well, I will put it that way. The next year the majority of those who die might be humble workmen. It is the asset value that makes the difference.

(Time expired.)

Dr. EDWARDS (Ipswich) (3.25 p.m.): I should first like to express my sincere appreciation to the House for the courtesy extended to me in allowing me to make my maiden speech in this Assembly at this stage in the Address-in-Reply debate. I associate the electors of Ipswich with my own expression of loyalty to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

I am also very grateful to His Excellency, Sir Colin Hannah, for his address to the House at the opening of this parliamentary session. It was the first occasion and opportunity that His Excellency has had to participate in the opening of the Parliament of Queensland. In the past Queensland has been very proud of the Governors that Her Majesty has been pleased to appoint to represent her in this State, and I sincerely believe that our present Governor will be no exception. He comes to us with a very distinguished career in the Royal Australian Air Force, and has held the highest rank in that service. I take this opportunity to wish Sir Colin and Lady Hannah a long and satisfying period of office as Her Majesty's representatives in this State.

Similarly, I count it an honour to express my sincere appreciation to the people of the electorate of Ipswich who have elected me as their representative in this distinguished Parliament. I am deeply honoured that I have been elected as the member for Ipswich, because for the first time in nigh on 50 years that city will be represented by a non-Labor member of Parliament, and I humbly, yet sincerely, look forward to representation that

benefits the city of Ipswich, because in the citizens it has produced, men and women in all walks of life who have shown total and complete dedication and great sincerity and ability, it has a very distinguished record. Many of them have not only become outstanding and prominent citizens of this State and this nation but have also become people of influence, integrity and respect throughout the world.

It is my intention in the time allotted to me to outline to the House my basic philosophies and concerns, and to speak mainly in a general way. I shall leave specific references to the debates in which they arise in the period ahead.

I should like to emphasise quite clearly at this stage that I believe in the importance of the individual as the basis of a strong and virile nation. I fully believe in the individual's role in a free society, which is so designed as to permit the fullest expression of an individual's conscience and his personality, and the complete achievement of well-being in the society in which he lives. I am firmly convinced that the individual, therefore, has a vital and extremely important role to play in society, and we, as a Government, must legislate to improve and to provide an equal opportunity for all in the community, in every walk of life, no matter what his colour or creed, so that the individual person is able to acquire knowledge to enable him or her to improve his or her station in life and, as a result, benefit the community in general.

As a member of the Liberal Party I am proud to state that within its platform it has as one of its basic principles that it will encourage the development of the individual as well as the development of the community, promoting advanced efficiencies and technological developments with a minimum of restrictive regulation consistent with the common good. I am certain that the greatest material benefits flow from the operation of a competitive free-enterprise system, based on private investment and personal effort, in which the profit motive is accepted as a necessary part of the system.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, allow me to state my basic philosophy in general terms. I believe in man as an individual, as an important person, and I believe in our nation of Australia as a whole. I stand positively for the free man, his initiative, his individuality, and his acceptance of responsibility. My party, with which I am proud to be associated, believes that this nation will certainly be strong and vigorous as long as the importance of the individual is asserted and recognised, and I assure the House that this philosophy of support for the individual is foremost in my mind and interests as I speak today and will be during my stay in this place. With this philosophy in mind, I sincerely believe that only a nation which is built on this solid basis of fundamental principles of care and concern for the individual as a member of society can arrange

its affairs to provide adequately for all members of the community, and only a Government that has this platform as its guiding, principal objective is able to present policies that will benefit the citizen and the community in which he lives.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it does not take my training as a medical practitioner to convince me that the greatest gift a person can acquire is that of good health and the wherewithal to develop and maintain a healthy body and a healthy mind as well as the ability to enjoy such facilities to the best of one's capabilities in order to give the full meaning to life.

I believe that benefits that can be derived from the prosperity of this State and nation should be enjoyed by all. I therefore wish to pay a great deal of attention and devote a great deal of time to research, study and consideration of all aspects of health and welfare services, to ensure that the best facilities are available to all sections of the community so that the people of this State, of which we are justly proud, may enjoy their lives to the optimum. I shall, during my stay in this House, be paying a lot of attention to such issues, and honourable members can expect from me during debates on such matters, both in this Chamber and in the committee meetings of the Government parties, a very vital interest in pursuing these ideals.

I should not like honourable members to think, or to gain the impression, that my representation in this House will be confined solely to matters pursuant to my vocation as a medical practitioner. My constituents know, and I should like to so inform the House at this stage, that my life has not merely been one of primary and secondary studies leading immediately to university level for the study of the art of medicine and training in this noble profession. Indeed, Mr. Deputy Speaker, after leaving secondary school I was apprenticed as an electrician and I completed my apprenticeship and qualified as an electrical mechanic and fitter.

As a result of this experience I am very well aware of the problems facing apprentices and tradesmen and their families. I will therefore show interest in this facet of this trade and other trades in general, together with commercial and domestic activities associated therewith. Indeed, because of our common experience in earlier days of our lives, I look forward to debating technical and similar issues with the Leader of the Opposition, and I trust that, because of their similar trade-training, the honourable members for Murrumbidgee and Windsor will add their support to my contributions to such debates.

As well as this and my medical training, I have undertaken some study in economics over the past few years which I trust will be of assistance to me in the days ahead. I merely indicate this in passing not to bring credit to myself but because I should like

the House to be well informed of my experiences in the past so that it will be understood that I have not only one single interest but wish to concern myself with many phases of Government activity.

Similarly, I should like honourable members to know of my interest in my electorate of Ipswich. It was in Ipswich that I was born, and I have lived there most of my life. I am vitally interested in my city, and therefore I am proud to be associated with such a place of tradition, heritage and distinction.

Ipswich was originally settled by men and women of strong adventurous calibre who had a progressive air about them. They were people of pioneering spirit, people of freedom, people who knew no such word as "pessimism" and who never allowed disappointment or frustration to colour their dreams and hopes for the future. Upon this record my electorate and my city of Ipswich have been built, and I am extremely proud to be their representative. Similarly, I am proud to be a Queenslander and an Australian. I trust that my advocacy in representing my electorate of Ipswich, of which I have already expressed just pride, will be representation to the best of my humble capacity on a broad spectrum covering local, State and national attitudes.

At this stage I would like to introduce one or two concepts about which I feel rather concerned. The first is the situation that exists in the medical profession, or in part of the medical profession. Today, unfortunately, the number of general practitioners is slowly decreasing in proportion to population needs. This is of great concern to me as a medical practitioner and to many other doctors in this State. I believe it should be of equal concern to this and other State Governments, and especially to our Federal Government.

I am convinced that the general practitioner has a tremendously important role to play in medical management. As well as this, he is the first contact the people of the community have when they feel they need medical attention. Today the medical practitioner is faced with the dilemma of an increasing demand for his services and, at the same time, modern diagnoses and management that are far more time-consuming, complex and demanding. The expectations of the patients, other medical practitioners and the community at large have become so demanding that often the family doctor and general practitioner is at variance with his own image of himself and his role in the community. He finds himself being increasingly forced to take over roles and functions that in days gone by were willingly performed by others, for example, ministers of religion, family advisers and, in some cases, the family solicitor. This is due to changes in modern society and the breakdown of close family units.

As well as this the general practitioner has to adapt to the knowledge explosion, develop competence and knowledge in new fields, and adopt new styles and attitudes of performances. There is no doubt that the present demands of technology and medical science place new and heavy strains on the image and status of the general practitioner. It has been said that the family doctor is a person of special competence not shared by any other discipline. He is concerned with prevention, primary diagnoses, treatment and management—entailing, as it does, continuing and co-ordinated care within the framework of a patient's unique environment.

Our Government should be proud of the steps that have been taken to provide a training programme in general practice, and our Minister for Health is to be congratulated on it. This has been set up at the Royal Brisbane Hospital, and medical practitioners of registrar status are given special training of a high clinical standard with a particular view to general practice techniques and requirements.

I might add that this is the first scheme of its kind in Australia, and it is playing, and will continue to play, an important role in adequate and complete training for people who are keen in the years that lie ahead to enter general practice. I would suggest, however, that this scheme, in the future, could be expanded to include other major hospitals in this city and in provincial cities, and that the training programme be so arranged that during this period of training for the general practitioner-registrar some time could be spent in an actual general practice. The practitioner in whose practice this time is spent could then return to the major hospital or the base hospital for refresher-training programmes, which are so vitally important for the general practitioner in his every-day life.

I feel sure that local Australian Medical Association branches and the College of General Practitioners would participate in the organisation of such schemes so that the general-practitioner trainee could spend at least three months of his 12 months in actual general practice. To avoid problems of continually shifting from one city to another, and to avoid interruption of practice by the long absence of the principal, the programme could be arranged in a city amongst a number of doctors and therefore a continuing education and refresher course for general practitioners could be evolved. The good, conscientious general practitioner or family doctor, is therefore to be encouraged. It is he who can play such a tremendous and outstanding role in the community. It is he who knows the people individually during their days of happiness, during their romances and their marriages, and he often shares the joys and excitement associated with childbirth. He alone sees the patient in his home environment and shares the

confidences of home problems and occupational difficulties. He experiences his patients' tragedies and is around in their time of sadness and bereavement.

It is often the family doctor who is the first to arrive uncalled, yet very welcome, when a sudden unexpected tragedy strikes the home of a patient. The general practitioner knows, therefore, the crises in his patients' lives as well as their problems, their aspirations and their disappointments. The family doctor who lives among his patients not only knows them and their families, but enables them to know him and to trust him. Because of the mutual respect that often exists, they come to him not only with their physical problems but with all the complex difficulties of their personalities, their tensions and their stresses that seem to make life's pathway very uncomfortable in this modern generation. These difficult periods are becoming increasingly frequent, and appear to be proportionate to the tempo of life that we are leading in this modern society.

The patients know that the family doctor is aware of their circumstances. They know that he cares and will help as much as he can, without too much interference, to unravel some of their seemingly overwhelming difficulties. It may be just a friendly smile of agreement or perhaps a firm handshake of support that makes the problem seem lighter if the family doctor is playing the role that he should play, has played in the past and, I hope, will continue to play in the future.

I should also like to encourage the general-practitioner training scheme which, at present, medical students undertake at the end of their fifth year of study. In this part of the course the student spends two weeks with the general practitioner, doing calls, sitting in on consultations in the surgery and, in some cases, living in the home of the doctor to whom he has been allocated. I believe that the Medical School and the medical profession are to be commended for this worth-while training period. Many young students are finding stimulating interest towards general practice because of this experience. I speak as one who has taken part both as a student and as a medical practitioner in this scheme. Therefore, I take the opportunity in this debate to plead for the preservation, understanding and encouragement of the general practitioner and the family doctor.

Closely associated with this image of the family doctor is the plight of the elderly in the community. Often today, in this age, owing to the process of development—freeway construction, housing developments and shopping-complex activities—the aged in the community are asked to surrender the family homes in which they have spent many years, which often hold many precious memories and where, on many occasions, their children have been born and have grown up. They are asked to dissociate themselves from

local friends who are often in a similar situation and to shift away from the local scene which has been so familiar for so long.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Lickiss): Order! There is far too much audible conversation in the Chamber. I mention particularly the honourable member for Ipswich West.

Dr. EDWARDS: It is here that they know their local doctor who calls to see them and keeps his eye on their health. Often, the same doctor has done this same thing for many years. To these people he is the only medical practitioner they know and trust.

As well, they may lose contact with their local church, their local aged friendship club and even their local trades-people who have been associated with them for years. These elderly folk find themselves no longer in an environment which is friendly and known to them. Suddenly these folk are found in a new situation—lonely, afraid and unused to their new surroundings. Their individual freedom and associations have altered.

I am convinced, as a medical practitioner who has observed these situations on occasions, that I am particularly conscious of such problems, and I indicate to the Government that this can be a major difficulty. I am certain that, for physical training to be successful—and I believe this to be absolutely essential—there must be a multiplanned and multidisciplinary effort in planning concepts of a major co-ordinated nature. I urge that such concepts include advice, opinion and guidance from social workers, clergy, medical practitioners, charitable helpers and home-nursing personnel, as well as the people involved in this planning, particularly concerning those whose lives will be interrupted by the course of progress to establish communication and good human relationships.

Our Government has again taken the lead to help offset some of the problems by effecting a close liaison with aged people by the establishment of such services as the Community Home Care Service. This service is based on the belief that it is possible for the elderly in the community, as well as the disabled, to receive a competent, helpful and sympathetic service within the confines of their own homes and in familiar surroundings, with the retention of their own family doctor as an integral part of their medical care and management.

It was only a few weeks ago that the Minister for Health announced the commencement of this service in my own city, and already this important activity of the Government, though its excellent Division of Geriatrics, has meant a great deal to many people in my electorate. I forecast even greater achievements in the days ahead because of the acceptance of this programme by the medical profession, home-nursing services and the community at large.

I might add that this State Government was the first to introduce this scheme in Australia and to take advantage of the Commonwealth Government's assistance offered along these lines. I look forward to seeing this service extended throughout the State as an assistance to those in need of such services.

I am also pleased to hear that facilities of assistance are also now available to householders to receive financial help for building additions to house elderly relatives. This is another step in the right direction to enable the elderly and, in some cases, those handicapped by age, to remain part of the family circle and yet perhaps retain some independence, instead of being institutionalised and further isolated. We, as a Government and as individuals, must encourage any attempts to retain elderly folk in their homely surroundings, to stimulate them as individuals in the community and to remain part of the family unit if at all possible.

Mr. M. J. Weston, writing in the "Journal of Geriatrics" for November 1971, said—

"There is a relative dearth of scientifically-based research into the question of the attitude towards ageing and the way in which disturbance in the old person is viewed both by the elderly and the general community."

However, the Department of Geriatrics of the Health Department has played, and is playing, a major role in geriatric research and management, and I believe that those in Queensland's Department of Geriatrics are becoming world authorities in this demanding yet fascinating science. I feel it is no mean accomplishment that a colleague of mine, Dr. Mervyn Cheong, the Queensland Director of Geriatrics, has recently been invited overseas and is at present at Kiev, Russia, delivering a paper at a world-recognised conference on geriatric activities which has involved much research carried out by this department.

I urge continuation of this programme, and I look forward to the further development of this forward planning to provide such complexes as geriatric annexes not just as rest homes but as competent, active rehabilitation centres striving to restore the zest and zeal for living in individuals affected by the ravages of age and infirmity.

In addition, I trust that we will continue to see encouragement of geriatric day hospitals where patients will receive continuing treatment from medical and paramedical experts in an attempt to retain for individuals—again I stress that word—their right to obtain the very best from life as part of the community and the nation. It is my hope that members of this House are well informed of all the facilities available to provide optimum care for handicapped and elderly people, to the benefit of society. United

States President Johnson, looking forward to a brighter future for elderly folk, said in his 1965 message to Congress—

“Today the political community is challenged to help all our people surmount those needless barriers to the enjoyment of the promise and reality of better health.”

I am convinced, as the House will no doubt gather, that anything that detracts from the family relationship and the role of the individual in society, no matter what his station, age or health may be, has no benefits to offer to society.

I believe that medicine is a personal science, and that it involves the human life. As a result, I have become more devoted to the cessation of the breaking down of family groups and units. I urge the people of this fine State to press for the reuniting and preservation of family groups, and to encourage the so-called “get togetherness” of years gone by when men respected each other and families lived for the purpose of devotion to each other. This had widespread benefits to the community and the nation.

In passing, I may say that I am concerned at the tendency of the not-too-distant past to congregate large housing estates in particular areas. This has tended to create problems because of the type of social structures generated in such an atmosphere and environment. One doubts the wisdom of such projects. Whilst I do not speak in any way disparagingly of the people in these areas, I feel strongly that such projects and efforts have led to ill-considered neglect of human principles of life, and have tended to erode confidence and aspiration in both the young and the old. I humbly suggest that we as a Government rethink some of our policies in this regard so that a total community concept is planned in which all needs are considered in the one uniform plan.

It is obvious—and I emphasise this point—that any advocacy I make is because of my vital concern for the individual, for human life, for human values, and particularly for the rights of the private citizen to live the fullest life possible within the community. I consider that, irrespective of the administrative skills or the political philosophies of those in local government, we, as the State legislators, must think, and think well, of the basic needs over all, for all people, for the best possible future for every individual.

I do not want it thought that there is any political motive in my advocacy of these principles. What I say regarding the individual is what I sincerely believe my conscience dictates, and I firmly believe that, because of my experience in life (admittedly, I am one of the younger members of this House), because of my experience in my professional life, and, similarly, because of my experience as one who has been able to live and grow up in a community where I have been able to observe conditions in which people have been living and are living, some

of them good, some fair, and others lacking from both a physical and a moral sense, I shall—and I emphasise this—direct my attention to the lot and welfare of others in all sections of the community. I do this so that I may help to contribute to the lifting of those standards of human values and development that should be not only my aim and my desire but also the wish of all.

It has been said that government of the people for the people is government for everyone within the broad spectrum to uplift human dignity. As well as this total concept and philosophy for life in general, I am, of course, very interested in my electorate, named after the city in which I have my home.

The city of Ipswich is a large industrial and commercial centre, whose people I respect. They are a special brand of people, and in my humble opinion they are the friendliest people one could wish to meet. I consider myself honoured to be counted as an Ipswich resident, and particularly to be their representative in this Parliament. This fact has been especially emphasised to me over the past few days during the dark and tragic time of the recent mine disaster in the Ipswich district. Ipswich was a city of mourning, and every citizen, from the young children to the elderly folk, was deeply touched by the sadness of this event.

The response in the city has made me feel justly proud of Ipswich and its people, and I believe that we in Ipswich are a closer family unit because of the passing of some of our friends. Certainly we are a special people, and we are proud of that unique distinction. At this stage, I pay special tribute to the brave men who gave their lives in attempting to make the colliery concerned safe for others. I deeply respect the courage and fortitude of the families left behind by that tragic incident.

Although we in Ipswich live close to the capital city, we believe that we are completely independent. Ipswich is a city on the move, and its people will play a vital and important part in the development of the south-eastern region of Queensland. Naturally, it will be my endeavour to ensure that Ipswich receives due consideration in regional development and decentralisation. The city and my electorate have a very large employment force and, fortunately, have a high percentage of people fully employed.

Ipswich is a city of potential. Already I have been tremendously impressed by the interest shown at Government level in my electorate. In the past, unfortunately, it has often been said that Ipswich has had little to offer, and the Government has shown little concern for the city. Let me say quite clearly that that has not been my experience since my election to this Assembly. I have been greatly encouraged by the interest that has been shown by, for example, the Minister for Transport. He has been to Ipswich twice since his recent elevation to Cabinet.

On one of those occasions, which was a special visit at my invitation, he inspected at first hand the railway station, which was built late last century. I hope it will not be long before some action is taken as a matter of urgency, and a major reconstruction of this complex commenced. I trust that this consideration will include provision for the future development and installation of the rapid-transit system of transport, which would be able to provide for my people a system of transportation to and from Ipswich suited to their needs and requirements, and so increase the high level of pride and interest that we have in Ipswich.

I should also like to express my gratitude to the Minister for Health. He, too, has been to Ipswich at my request and invitation, and as a result has agreed, as announced in the local newspapers, to provide the additional beds that will be so urgently needed in the future in the maternity section of the Ipswich General Hospital.

I see my role in this House and in this Government as one who is at the grass roots of government. I see myself as a true representative of Ipswich. At times there will be conflicting views and opinions on the order of priority for certain actions, because I realise that Ipswich is just one of the 82 electorates in Queensland. Nevertheless, I look forward to a period of activity as a member of the Government team. I assure the House that on all matters I shall be guided by my conscience and by the policies of the party I represent. I trust that following this action, my presence in this Chamber will in some small way benefit Queensland and assist the rights of the individual as part of the community and the nation.

Mr. AIKEN (Warrego) (4.2 p.m.): The people of the electorate of Warrego remain particularly loyal and faithful to their Sovereign Queen, and particularly loyal and faithful to the Australian Labor Party. It is interesting to note that since 1908 Warrego has been represented exclusively by the Australian Labor Party.

Although many words have been uttered in this Chamber and the mass media have churned out millions of words particularising the poverty problems of inland Queensland, the position worsens daily, seemingly without the Government caring sufficiently. It is amazing to me that this Government should show so little concern about an industry and an area that has been described by the Premier as a disaster area and, only yesterday, by the Minister for Lands and Forestry as a national disaster area.

Typical of this Government's so-called generosity is the "lavish" action of the Premier who has now allowed the deferment of rent payments and, in some isolated cases, the abolition of rent. This morning, in answer to a question by the shadow Minister for Lands and Forestry (Mr. Bousen), the Premier tried to make a mouthful of this

fact. The fact remains that this is only minor thinking; it in no way approaches the complete solution of the problems of primary industry. If we are honest and factual about the Premier's alleged generosity we ask, "How in hell do graziers who are broken and 'busted', with many of them on unemployment relief, pay rent and back charges, anyway?" If this Government persists in its procrastination and continues to fail to appreciate the terribly serious position of the primary producer and the rural worker generally, the mass exodus from the land that must soon result will pose a very serious problem with displaced persons and will possibly create a serious shortage of essential foods.

Apparently primary industries are suffering a severe depression in the midst of what the Premier and the Treasurer tell us is a booming economy. Is it a false economy? Is it an economy based on a mining boom that could well explode in our faces? If there were a recession in mining, where would this State be? Surely it must be appreciated that primary industries, producers as they are of the essentials of life, must be considered as the most important segment of our society, even more than mining and our much-vaunted secondary industries. Surely this is factually evident.

Let us look at the enormous protections, through tariff barriers, that are built around our secondary industries. Are we confusing the substance with the shadow? As one of the favoured agricultural areas of the world, should we not be endeavouring to stabilise our various facets of production? And we have many various facets of production in a country so eminently suited in the field of agriculture. Inflation and its impact on farm costs must be apparent when we consider that in South Africa, a country where 100c make a shilling, the cost of shearing is about 3c per head. In Queensland, shearing costs can be as high as, or even higher than, 50c per head. Surely we must do something about this invidious threat of inflation which I illustrate by that very small point.

In considering inflation we must also remember—facts substantiate this—that the farming deficit is now four times greater than the income from wool. Compare this with the position in 1966-67, when farm income was 1½ times greater than rural indebtedness. Today, one-third of the estimated average net farm income is absorbed in interest charges alone, and because of this we cannot help but appreciate that farmers are indeed in trouble. And why not, under such wild, unbridled, chaotic conditions as exist in our industries today?

Primary industries have been subjected to one red herring after another as various land amendment Bills and other rural Bills have been introduced, none of which has been of any material aid in solving the ills of our ailing industries. Surely when

these Bills are introduced, or even considered, the Government must be obligated to do better for our hard-pressed rural workers.

Surely, too, it is necessary for this Government and the people to enjoy a secure relationship. Therefore, the credibility of the Government is important. But how can the credibility of this Government mean anything to the people when so consistently with its rural amendment Bills it has failed to appreciate the position as it applies today in our badly sagging rural industries? If we are to retain an inland population the Government must fix an objective of a financial structure which provides for equality in the participation of living not only for the coastal and city dweller but for the country dweller as well. Is this not reasonable?

Surely we do not expect the country employee to slave his inside out from daylight to dark for nothing. Surely no-one expects the farmer to go broke while producing the essentials of life. Surely it is only reasonable to give equal participation in living to all. This self-seeking Government has overplayed its heavy hand of arrogance far too often, and appears to be completely unaware of the word "share". Surely it must realise that the political and potential greatness of this State is possible only with the participation of the primary industries, who need their rightful share in the prosperity of this State if they, and the State, are to survive.

I ask: are the giants of mining and secondary industry able to survive alone, or do they need food and clothing as well as machinery, factories, dollars and balance sheets? It is time the truth was told about rural reconstruction. The simple truth is that this scheme is definitely not helping the non-viable farmer—the farmer who in the past has proved himself, but now, because of long drought, depressed prices, and the crushing burden of debt and a shortage of finance for restocking, is not able to operate at a viable level. The predators, the grasping Shylocks—of whom many are prepared to wait instead of forcing a realisation of values (which would have to be low, anyway)—are allowing the farmer to struggle on with completely negligible results and prospects and without benefit to anyone, least of all the unlucky forgotten farmer and his family, the industry and this State. These grasping predators who refuse to compound—and, goodness knows, I have tried plenty of them in an endeavour to help my sorely pressed people in the West—are no worse than the Government, which has been made well aware of this social problem and whose only prescription for the malady is "Get big or get out." What a policy, and what a Government!

I believe that rural reconstruction is very ill defined. I am completely sure that it is only a matter of Government convenience. In fact, it amounts to nothing else than rural destruction. Too many people are being

emptied off the land as a result of the failure of the Rural Reconstruction Board to come to their aid. The banks and brokers have been the real beneficiaries of the rural reconstruction scheme. This is noticeable from the returns of income lodged this year by these financial giants. Previously all lending houses associated with the land had shown very low figures, and these lending institutions must have been a problem to their overseas shareholders. It is horrifying, but nonetheless true, that any marked profit and high return on investment in this State is registered by those who manipulate and handle big finance. It is equally and unfortunately true that anyone who handles the essentials of life, such as the primary industries, is in strife and doomed to insolvency. That is the way all primary producers are heading today. The country people, in their greatness, have gambled their last dollars and have mortgaged even beyond that in the belief that this Government would pull its head out of the sand and act in a positive way.

After all, the Government promised to assist the industries that have made this State really great. Anything that affects or destroys our primary industries must eventually react and rub off on the general economy. All sections of the community must suffer. The Government will learn this hard fact. I only hope it learns before it is too late to resurrect the primary industries and cope with the "bounce off" that must affect all facets of industry in the State.

It is time that this State realised just what it owes to the primary industries for our present affluence, for our high standards, and for our world acceptance. It should make itself responsible for the tremendous rural debt. This State must rescue our primary industries with hard cash before we all crash in complete disorder and disharmony. If the primary industries are not rescued, their collapse will precipitate vast social, economic and political upheavals that will threaten the very survival of the State, and will certainly cause a definite withdrawal of the foreign finance that the Government so loves and now finds so necessary for its functioning. Everyone in the State owes a debt to the people of the inland who opened up this country, who proved this State's capabilities and, above all, while facing all sorts of hardships and privations, demonstrated the real productiveness of our good earth—possibly some of the best earth in the world—which must prove our eventual salvation and will always be the means of our existence. When will we be factual enough to appreciate all this? The day has arrived for the repayment of that debt. As the Premier is in the Chamber, let me tell him that, whatever the cost, it will be small compared with what it will cost if the Government allows our primary industries to head into complete oblivion.

At this time Queensland's rural debt totals about \$400,000,000, with the farmers completely unable to pay. Do we accept the

land as an absolute component of our living? Do we accept the land, its benefits and its problems as it affects all in this State, or do we follow lessons in history which show that any nation that neglects its agricultural industries eventually collapses in flames? We must follow the lessons of history and support our vital primary industries.

Success in agriculture today depends on Government backing and control, particularly of the economy, with concern for costs and high-class market promotion, a smooth flow of produce to viable markets, and the acceptance of the need to expand into new markets. Can this Government truthfully say that it has followed these guiding principles in dealing with our agricultural industries? Can it say that it has really done its best to implement these policies that have proved so solid in the past? Of course it cannot. I believe that the Country Party and the rural critics are afraid of the rural industries because of the heavy cost involved in rural reconstruction and the heavy tax charges that could be imposed to build or rebuild the economy of our necessary primary industries. They are also afraid, particularly from a Liberal point of view, that this could arouse the wrath of their biggest voters in the urban areas.

Does the Government realise that the agricultural industries are still the backbone of the national economy and that the hidden protection and subsidies given to the secondary industries cost far more than the re-establishment of these vital industries in the rural areas? Did the Government make a wrong move in forcing us from agricultural greatness to an industrial State? Let us remember the words of the Premier in the last session of the preceding Parliament when he happily told us that the secondary industries had surpassed the primary industries in earning capacity.

Have the Premier and his Government forgotten that our agricultural production is in world class? Looking at secondary industries, are Holden motor-cars as famous throughout the world as our wonderful merino wool? Has the Charles Hope refrigerator received the same recognition as our prime hard wheat? Are our washing machines and water bags of the same standard as our prime beef? Or has our pandering to foreign finance and capital investment only earned us world contempt? Is it not true that, in selling our envied assets to foreign entrepreneurs and blood-suckers, we are making ourselves poorer not only in dollars but also in national pride and world respect? In opening the back door of this State for all manner of conniving with foreign finance, we have earned world contempt.

Our overseas reserves are strong, not for the reason given by the Premier, but because of capital inflow. We have sold ourselves to the highest bidder and have dropped ourselves down the drain. Government mismanagement of our economy has bred uncertainty and uneasiness. Disenchanted

investors are keen to withdraw their funds from anything that smacks of agriculture. Is this good? Is this smart government? The smart members of the Government repeatedly tell us what they are capable of doing, but they do not tell us what they are not capable of doing, namely, resurrecting our important primary industries.

Why have we not learned from the history of defeated countries like Germany and Japan, which concentrated their energies on self-promotion for the nation's good, and scorned the promotion of individuals and insidious foreign capital? Let us see not how much money Queensland can invest in Japan or Germany but how much money Germany and Japan have invested in what should be rightfully ours. This is proved when a potentially wonderful State like Queensland walks backwards. The Government cannot claim that this is not so, because we have poverty in big doses throughout the back country.

Other scrounging countries are waxing fat at our expense. What do honourable members opposite think about that prominent advertisement "Buy Queensland Made" as they watch this State at the same time selling itself to the highest foreign bidder? Instead of international ownership, the Government should be concentrating on national ownership of our assets. I ask the Government: as we look at this State, which is still finding treasure-houses under the ground, has it not a potential for greatness far in excess of that of Germany and Japan?

Because of the knife-edge situation that now exists in primary industries, even a mild drought or a slight down-turn in the economy will put this State at an economic danger level and present an even greater incentive for foreigners to gobble up what assets they have not already obtained. The Government has always sought the easy way. It has always been ready to surrender rather than fight, and I think it should adopt the slogan, "Keep Queensland Resources for the Ownership of Queenslanders." We should own Queensland and not have, as at the moment, a huge amount of Queensland already sold to overseas interests.

Today the biggest rural debtors were previously the most efficient and ambitiously expanding producers of wool. With present wool prices, these wonderful producers are today the industry's biggest headache. The wool-producers who made this State famous constitute the biggest problem in rural industries today. It must be remembered that in wool's more affluent days the bigger the producer, the greater was his capacity to borrow—to his eternal sorrow now. The result is that the efficient, ambitious producer of yesteryear is now held by the Government in contempt because of his poverty, and in disgrace because he is in a situation that he was powerless to avert.

Surely the farmer and the wool industry should not be held responsible for the impossible rural debt. The Government should set machinery in motion to underwrite or completely wipe off the burden that it is impossible for the farmer to carry, and set this wonderful and worthy person free. Let him become productive again, and let the shearers, drovers and rural workers generally, who are the only people who want to live in the back country anyway, occupy the empty areas before some other smart nation gets a notion to do so. Believe me, this is due to happen at any time.

I wonder if Government thinking is reduced to only voting power and cotton-wool treatment of urban dwellers. Are they the only people in this State? Or are there some people living out in country areas? Again I ask: is not farming a vital method of production? Is there no reward for the hard worker? Is there no reward for initiative, and is there not a need to populate the Outback? Is coal worth more than food? Is brass worth more than gold? Is it not about time that the Government really put perspectives and priorities in their proper order? Is it not true that primary industries are efficient enough to export to virtually every country of the world? How would the Premier like to be able to say that of his much vaunted secondary industries? Can the secondary industries boast of this record? Are Holdens sold throughout the world, or have they only a limited local market?

If the present downward trend in primary industries and their return continues, it is only natural that unemployment in country towns and their over-all financial position will continue to worsen. And who in the Government will dare to deny that this same condition is gradually extending into the cities? What a problem the Government will have on its hands when the cities are in the chaotic state that the back country is in today!

When will the Government really realise that although primary producers have pruned their expenses to the minimum and increased productivity, they continue to fail and lose ground as costs and charges continue to rise and values of properties and produce continue to fall? Like an ice-cream in the sun, the poor old farmer's equity is just wasting away. Where other than from the Government is finance or help available? Despite big mouthfuls of words and promises, the fact is that the Government has let the farmers down.

Is it possible that the Government sees no farther than the end of its nose? Surely it must be apparent that, as the farmers leave the inland, our export income must dwindle and foodstuffs must eventually become short. Is that what the Government wants? Is that what it is striving for? Is that why honourable members opposite are a Country Party-dominated Government?

In return for all this, as we watch our primary industries perish and fade away, this city sees the greatest growth that Brisbane has known, with hundreds of millions of dollars required to correct its traffic problems alone. What a paradox of thinking of what is good in the national sense and for national development! What a pity it is that some urbanised Liberals opposite do not live in the rural areas, where a person works eight hours every day of the week to exist, let alone live, and watches his prospects eroded by Government indifference or watches a plague of mice eating the whole of his 12 months' work and planning. Surely it is time that the Liberals received prompting from the Education Department about the importance of the neglected inland areas and the return to the economy that stems from them. Admittedly, Brisbane has problems, but they are not as pressing as the need to strengthen the whole of the economy. Brisbane is not the economy of this State; far from it.

Surely, too, we have learnt the lesson—it has always been apparent—that no industry can stand alone and that no area can flourish at the expense of another; that primary and secondary industries, Brisbane and the bush, must walk and work hand in hand, step by step. The pessimism in the back country must be replaced by optimism and present destructive policies by constructive policies if the State and its industries are to even attempt to tackle the clouded times that so obviously lie ahead. If my boastful friends opposite think that, as a Government, the task is beyond them, they should step down, because the Australian Labor Party can handle it and has demonstrated in the past how to handle a similar situation. The present Government has no moral right to tear asunder the rural fabric of our living.

As elected representatives of the people, honourable members opposite must remember that those people are entitled to every protection, but they seem loath to extend protection to the people of the inland and to the needy pensioners. Should not a high-risk industry, such as the primary industry, be entitled to the protection given by the Government to the mining industry and secondary industries? Should not equality be extended to everyone in this State? Has a negative influence—and a wouser influence at that—and a one-eyed influence taken over the Government of this State? We have the desperate and farcial situation of all the people in the inland being held by the throat by a Country Party-dominated Government which is sworn to protect their very interests. It is no wonder that some Country Party members had a hell of a job to win their seats.

What have the greatly publicised flights of the Premier to the West really meant to the people in that area? Where is this great Premier and great leader? God only knows what it costs to try to put that image across! He is always going to do something, but does nothing. When is he

going to do something to alleviate the problems that he admits exist? Does his word count for nothing? Is he powerless? Is he nothing when he gets to a Premiers' Conference or a Loan Council meeting? More importantly, I wonder, and the people are wondering, does he really care? Is the Premier using the Federal Government as a scapegoat for his own Government's shortcomings? Is he saying, as the Minister for Lands and Forestry tried to insinuate yesterday through the columns of the Press, that the Federal Government is at fault? If so, let it be made known to the Federal Government. Let honourable gentlemen opposite raise their voices at State level and do something about it. They should not forget that the many questions that are being asked in the West will have to be answered soon if the State Government is to continue as a Government and if we are to continue as a State and not be gobbled up by some outside interest.

In view of the Treasurer's recent assertions about a satisfactory year's trading, will another \$10,000,000 or more be forthcoming to assist those in the disaster area, or does such a situation occur only in a doubtful election year? The Treasurer must have had a touch of something last year to even consider introducing \$10,000,000 when the same situation was apparent as far back as 1956. With the virtual fate of the State at stake, with rural reconstruction a proven failure for far too many people, with poverty among our rural producers, when are we going to get this positive leadership, and when are we going to get something done about the matter? After 15 years does this Government think it needs more time, or are Labor's statements all too true? As a Government it has not got what it takes. Primary industries and exports can grow only with Government encouragement. Although imports will definitely be required and become more important, to stimulate and assist the development of this State and to obtain exports, every consideration must be extended not only to mining and secondary industries but also to our primary industries, the greatest exporters of all. We must give every consideration to our exporters.

Only too late, I am afraid, farmers are now realising that the Country Party, far from being the saviour of industry, is a prime implement that with its present outdated policies, can only result in the destruction of industry. This is true and only too apparent. Farming is a profession calling for experience and practical application, with no room for the inexperienced or raw amateur, and we must preserve the very worthy people practising it. The present generation of farmers is dying out and, at all costs, our agricultural industries must be preserved not only for today but for the future.

In the 15-year regime of this backward Government, farm costs have risen by 45 per cent while prices for farm produce have

shown, in the main, no significant increase. In fact rather the reverse is the case, with some prices most drastically reduced. This applies particularly to wool. The Government, of course, blames the unions and says that wage demands are the basic cause of rising costs, but let us be truthful about this. There is a continual, running battle between wages on the one hand and costs and prices on the other, an unequal competition in which only big business can win. Surely this State's prosperity and the survival of our rural industries and the workers therein depend upon the cost of production and the movement against the erosion of our living standards. But is this a fact at the moment when men with large amounts of money invested in the land are trying their utmost to feed their families, who are almost starving.

(Time expired.)

Mr. FRAWLEY (Murrumba) (4.42 p.m.): In contributing to the Address-in-Reply debate in this, the first session of the Fortieth Parliament, I should like to affirm my loyalty and that of my constituents to Her Majesty the Queen. I should also like to congratulate Sir Colin Hannah on his appointment as Governor of Queensland and to say I feel certain that he, like his predecessors, will prove a conscientious representative of Her Majesty.

I cannot allow this occasion to pass without some reference to Sir David Nicholson, the former Speaker and my predecessor as member for Murrumba. A total of 22 years' service was the outstanding record of Sir David, a man who devoted a great deal of his time to his electorate. Parliament was indeed fortunate to have had in its ranks a man of such high calibre. To fill his shoes, I know, would be an impossibility, but I sincerely trust that I can in some small way carry on where he left off.

To you, Mr. Speaker, I should like to offer my congratulations on your election to the high office of Speaker, one of the most important and demanding positions in Parliament.

I express my thanks to the electors of Murrumba for the confidence shown in me, and also to my campaign committee, who worked many long and tiring hours to assist me.

The Police Force in certain areas of my electorate, namely, Caboolture and Redcliffe, is, I feel, understaffed. Fortunately, crime is not rampant in those areas, but for adequate protection of citizens and property I feel that we need more police in both of those centres. I realise that there is an acute shortage of police at the present time and that the limited numbers available must be used to the best advantage. However, in Redcliffe alone there is a waiting list of 10 weeks for a driving test, and I consider that this is an imposition on people who require driving licences. Only two traffic constables are available, and there is need for more.

The breathalyser has to some extent played its part in alleviating the road toll, and now I feel that the need to obtain a certificate of roadworthiness before a second-hand vehicle can be sold will also contribute to road safety. However, more police are still needed not only to curb speedsters, but also to make spot checks on vehicles not subject to the certificate of roadworthiness because they remain in the one ownership for some years. Of course, the way to overcome this is to make it a condition of renewal of registration that all vehicles must pass a Machinery Department test once a year. I trust that the Minister can see his way clear to investigate the feasibility of this suggestion and to implement the necessary machinery to make it law. No doubt it has been considered in the past, but as yet nothing has been resolved.

Roads are the very life-blood of any community, and those in Murrumba are no exception. An efficient road service is necessary, especially to the Redcliffe peninsula, where a large percentage of the work-force travel to and from Brisbane, which is their major centre of employment.

At present two major roads head north from Brisbane in the direction of Redcliffe. The one most heavily used by Redcliffe traffic is Sandgate Road, which runs north through Sandgate and Brighton and is connected to the Redcliffe peninsula by the Hornibrook viaduct. The alternative route is the Bruce Highway via Bald Hills and Petrie. This road passes to the west of Redcliffe and connects with Anzac Avenue. The distance from the city of Brisbane to the city of Redcliffe by these two routes is approximately 20 miles and 25 miles respectively. Four traffic lanes are now being constructed along Sandgate Road to Deagon just north of Cabbage Tree Creek. The Main Roads Department plans to construct the first two lanes of the Deagon deviation, which will bypass Sandgate and Brighton, by 1973. This route will connect with the southern end of the Hornibrook viaduct. However, this work is behind schedule, and there is no possibility of its completion in the period envisaged. This work must be speeded up to give some relief to the thousands of motorists who daily use this major arterial road.

The Hornibrook Highway—the gateway to the peninsula—has now become the motorists' nightmare. The viaduct has a pavement 20 feet wide on a timber superstructure supported by concrete piles. It reached saturation point in 1969, and it is hard pressed to carry the traffic that uses it on week days, let alone on week-ends. The timber beams have sagged considerably but are still relatively sound, and although the concrete piles are in poor structural condition they are by no means unsafe. Built by Sir Manuel Hornibrook, a man of great foresight and vision, the viaduct was opened on 4 October 1935. A franchise was given by title of Order in Council to run for 40 years and to end in October 1975.

Since 1955 the Crown has had the right to resume the bridge, and compensation was set down at 8 per cent per annum of the fair original cost of investment, which was \$530,420.

Because of the narrow pavement, the poor vertical alignment and the uneconomic maintenance of the substructure, new construction will be necessary to convert this bridge to four lanes. The ratio of cars owned per person in Redcliffe is higher than the Queensland average, and with approximately 14,000 vehicles crossing the bridge each day the position has now become chaotic. To resume the bridge and remove the toll, as was promised in pre-election speeches by the Australian Labor Party, will not solve the problem. The money used to take over the highway would be wasted. It would be far better to continue to use the highway and to spend the money on the provision of an alternative entrance to the Redcliffe peninsula.

A new four-lane highway should be commenced as soon as possible, starting at the western end of Duffield Road, crossing the upper reaches of Hays Inlet, travelling south to cross the Pine River, and linking up with the Deagon deviation, which is presently under construction. This alternative route should be completed to coincide with the termination of the bridge franchise in October 1975. The cost of this would be far less than the estimated cost of \$3,250,000 to construct a four-lane causeway parallel with the existing bridge. This estimate was taken out in 1968, but as costs have risen it will be considerably greater now. Although the construction of this alternative route or the reconstruction of the Hornibrook causeway will not solve the traffic problem, it will certainly alleviate it.

A further suggestion is the reconstruction of Anzac Avenue to four lanes from Elizabeth Avenue to the proposed alignment of the Bruce Highway at Fresh Water Creek. Within the next 10 years Anzac Avenue and Elizabeth Avenue, both as major arterial roads, will carry traffic to the extent of approximately 16,000 vehicles a day, and both will require duplication. The Government must use every means at its disposal to expedite the work I have mentioned, giving it priority over lesser roadworks and channelling all available funds into it.

The main Strathpine-Samford Road, with many sections unsealed, is another road that needs a great deal of attention to bring it to the standard required of a main road. In time of flood Eatons Crossing is well nigh impassable and must be replaced, as also must be the low-lying one-lane bridges on the outskirts of Samford. Surely in this day and age one-lane bridges should be things of the past.

I now wish to draw attention to a very serious matter. Many areas of the electorate of Murrumba have been subjected to the spraying of defoliants known as 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T. In many instances the results of

this spraying, from both aircraft and ground application, have been disastrous. During the past two weeks aerial spraying has been carried out quite extensively by Cropair Aviation Pty. Ltd. for Australian Paper Manufacturers Ltd. This spraying has caused much anxiety among fruit-growers, bee-keepers and small-crop farmers. Incidentally, Cropair uses the same telephone number as A.C.F.-Austral Fertilizers Pty. Ltd., which supplies most of the weedicides used by A.P.M. The latter company has promised the farmers that it will not allow aerial spraying to be done on windy days; nevertheless, no matter how much care is taken the spray will still drift as far as eight miles.

The spraying for A.P.M. is carried out to eradicate groundsel and bush undergrowth during the months of July and August, because it is at this time that the pine trees are dormant and will not be affected. But the risk to other growers' crops remains. Only two weeks ago the manager of A.C.F. was telling the farmers of Murrumba what a great bunch of chaps they were for using A.C.F.-Austral fertilisers, yet a week later Cropair Pty. Ltd. was using A.C.F.-Austral chemicals and was damaging crops from Redcliffe to Narangba and Burpengary. Now Cropair is ducking for cover and blaming some ground operator for the damage that was caused.

The Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act does not go far enough. The Government has realised the dangers in hormone spraying, but the Act gives very weak control over commercial users of hormones. When a complaint has been made by a farmer that he suspects hormone damage to his crops, the local Department of Primary Industries officer should have the power to ban aerial spraying immediately in that area while an investigation is carried out. Further, when an investigation is carried out and hormone damage to crops is the verdict, farmers then have to take legal action to get any redress. What hope do the small farmers have against big companies and their insurers? Many farms in Murrumba have been purchased by A.P.M., and Cropair—which incidentally does not care—will wipe out the remainder by indiscriminate spraying from aircraft if it is not strictly controlled.

Thousands of acres of natural timbers, vegetation and wild flowers have been destroyed to produce pine forests. These forests are referred to as sanctuaries, but if anyone who knows is asked he will say that there are no more than half a dozen birds and a few kangaroos to every thousand acres.

A.P.M. and Cropair at all times preach co-operation with the farmers, but this is only a blind. While they make out that they will co-operate, they still carry out spraying regardless, adopting the attitude, "hard luck to those who are affected." I am often asked, "Which is the greater evil, groundsel or

hormone?" We know what groundsel can do, but as yet the complete effects of hormone are unknown.

Ground spraying, especially in the Caboolture area, has caused much damage to gladiolus bulbs and blooms. This spraying is carried out by the Caboolture Shire Council. Bee-keepers also have suffered serious losses of bees as a result of aerial spraying. The use of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T for spraying from aircraft anywhere near small-crop farms, or near water, should be banned immediately. Spraying in areas well away from farms or water could still be permitted, but only under much stricter supervision than is exercised at present. In 1971, after special studies by experts in ecology, toxicology and genetics, Sweden banned the use of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T for spraying from aircraft but still allowed manual application. These two substances are used mainly as defoliants in forestry and for keeping down trees and bushes along roads. There were claims of harmful effects on humans and animals after direct exposure to spraying from aircraft, and also after consumption of wild berries and vegetation which had been recently sprayed. One incident, where a group of people reported irritation of the eyes after direct exposure to aerial spraying was a clear indication of harm to human beings. However, it is not only humans that we should be concerned about; the ecological effects of defoliation are far-reaching. Effects on game of the diminished food supply owing to the eradication of deciduous trees and bushes are known to occur. The risk of an increase in the number of insects in the bark of trees is great, since the trees killed by defoliation are left standing and are infested by numerous insects. Changes in vegetation may cause not only short-term destruction but also more serious long-term changes.

The use of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T should be strongly restricted, and the application made very carefully where they are used. If investigations prove that aerial spraying with these two substances should be banned, most of the unwanted effects on game would be eliminated and the spraying of people could not occur.

During my election campaign I promised the people of Murrumba that I would endeavour to protect their way of life, and I intend to do this. The very existence of fruit-growers, bee-keepers and small-crop farmers is being threatened by two of the biggest monopolies operating in Queensland today and we, as a Government, must see that their livelihood is protected.

The Government's decision to have, for the first time, a subportfolio of sport is welcome news for the sportsmen and women of Queensland. Having been associated with amateur athletics since 1937, and other sports during that time, I know full well what this will mean to both competitors and administrators. Since the beginning of the century, and even before, Queensland has

been the Cinderella State in Australian sport. We have had our champions in various sports from time to time, but never have we experienced depth in any sport. Many reasons have been advanced for this. My own feelings are that we have the talent in Queensland, but we lack good training facilities, equipment, and most important of all, good coaches, particularly in schools, where the bulk of the coaching falls on the physical education teacher, who is not trained to coach in all basic sports and was never intended to be trained for that purpose.

Queensland has never won the Sheffield Shield in cricket. The honourable member for Mansfield will bear me out in that statement. We rarely win in any code of football. Except for a few players, our tennis standard is below par. Our athletics—the major Commonwealth Games and Olympic Games sport—is pathetically weak. In 80 years of competition in Australia from 1893 to 1972, out of 1,440 events contested we have won 57 men's championships in athletics. In 1970 we won three, in 1971, four, and this year, one.

Speaking from experience, our failure is due to lack of an all-weather track and field comparable with those in other States, lack of modern equipment because of high prices and import duties, which should be waived on all athletic equipment and equipment used in amateur sports, and lack of coaches, who cannot afford to attend overseas classes at their own expense.

We are not unique in having a portfolio of sport. One has existed in France for many years. France has a National Sports Council to advise the Government on policy regarding sport. The State makes its contribution to the development of sport through its secretariat for youth and sport. France has 20,000 sports clubs with over 2,000,000 members.

I suggest that the Government set up an independent sports council with executive powers, responsible for grant-aiding functions subject to ministerial directives on allocating Government money available for grant aid. It should also be able to provide, to governing bodies of sports, grants for sports development, coaching and administration. Assistance to Queensland representative teams competing on a national or international basis should also be given, and assistance to bring overseas sportsmen and women to Queensland should be available. Assistance could also be given to local authorities for sport facilities which would not be provided solely for local use but for a widespread purpose.

The Government should have a technical unit for sport whose duty it would be to assist all sports throughout the State, and not only in the capital city or the large provincial cities. This technical unit could play a leading part in furthering a policy to foster the development of sport in all its aspects, stimulating the provision of sports facilities

and ensuring that all facilities were used to the fullest extent. It is little use providing facilities if their use is not fully exploited.

A survey should be made of the number of participants in each sport and trends of participants over the past 10 years or thereabouts. A library of coaching films for each major sport should be set up, including a projector-hiring service. There should also be a survey of the facilities required for each sport and the improvements needed.

The physical fitness of the population of the State should be surveyed, and in the survey correlations should be made between the physical fitness of the people grouped according to age, occupation, social status, living standard and sporting interests. This data should then be compared with similar data obtained from other countries so that the physical fitness of Queensland people may be critically evaluated. Since it has long been recognised that many people have no desire to participate in organised sport, this survey could be the starting point of a programme aimed at improving the physical fitness of these people. An education programme to inform the public of the benefits to be gained from maintaining a reasonable standard of physical fitness should also be formulated. A close liaison among the National Fitness Council, the Department of Physical Education of the university, teachers' colleges, and Ministers of sport in other countries, is very necessary.

Sports medicine is in its infancy in Queensland, and only a limited number of doctors are conversant with the treatment of sports injuries. It is a field in which doctors just do not have the time to engage in serious research. Provision must be made for a panel of doctors to engage in this work.

Finally, all amateur sports should be given assistance to acquire their own home grounds for training and competition throughout the year. Any sport that uses the same ground as another major sport is always subject to frustrations and threats of losing its tenancy. For instance, the Queensland Amateur Athletic Association, which uses Lang Park in the summer season, has never been given any consideration by the Lang Park Trust, which is controlled by people interested only in greyhound dogs and Rugby League. The Lang Park Trust was quite happy to have dogs racing at Lang Park to the detriment of athletes, whose running track would have been ruined. Fortunately the Government of the day showed good sense in putting the dogs on the south side of the river.

The latest move is by speedway interests who are trying to obtain Lang Park at any cost, regardless of the effect on the athletes' running track. They have even offered the Athletic Association from \$15,000 to \$25,000 to vacate their lease of Lang Park. But what would be the use of that unless the athletes had another home ground? The Government must not only encourage and foster amateur

sport; it must protect that sport from some of the money-hungry moguls who are interested only in lining their own coffers.

Queensland is in a unique position in that social and environmental problems that are confronting many cities throughout the world can be averted before they grow out of proportion. The obvious answer to such problems is the spreading of population evenly throughout the State. There has been much talk of the many advantages of decentralisation, and it is the responsibility of the Government to create an attractive and economic atmosphere outside cities to attract industry and population to those areas. The present industrial estate at Narangba, which is in the Murrumba electorate, is a step in the right direction, but many more industries need encouragement to establish themselves in this area. However, augmentation of the present water supply at Narangba will be necessary, and money must be made available to the Caboolture Shire Council so that it can do this work and also carry out extensive sewerage reticulation.

The decentralisation of Government departments in towns and cities is most desirable. The prison for juveniles in the course of construction at Woodford is an example of the Government's attitude to decentralisation, which is excellent. The staff to operate this institution will number approximately 70, and they will doubtless take up residence in Woodford and the surrounding districts within the next three years, when the prison is expected to be operating and catering for its full complement. Business in the area will be stimulated, and the prison staff and their families will be welcome additions to the township of Woodford. However, housing plays a very important role in decentralisation, and it is to be hoped that the prison staff will receive every encouragement from the Government by way of assistance with housing. Without adequate housing, a policy of decentralisation will not meet with a great deal of success.

Mechanisation of farming methods and small returns for farm products have caused a population drift from country towns and surrounding districts. Provincial towns need planned industry if they are to grow and not stagnate. I have requested the Minister for Development and Industrial Affairs to arrange for the department's Regional Industries Officer to visit Woodford and address the chamber of commerce on the subject of attraction of industry to the area. He has kindly consented to this, and I trust that other towns in Murrumba will avail themselves of this service.

Caboolture is another area that would be suitable for the development of a light industrial estate. Industries setting up in Caboolture would have few staff problems, as many people travel by train daily to work in Brisbane and I am quite certain that the majority of them would much prefer to work in Caboolture. The rail service in its

present form would not be adequate. Unfortunately, Caboolture is being penalised unfairly by the road permit tax, and light industry will not be attracted to the area while this tax remains. One of the most important factors working against decentralisation is the road permit tax, which has caused great hardship to road transport operators and dependent industries. It is essential that this tax be drastically reduced and eventually abolished.

Action should also be taken to provide a more uniform cost of communication services. Telephone charges impose one of the more crippling burdens on industry outside the metropolitan area.

The establishment of entertainment, sporting and cultural activities in provincial cities must be subsidised by the Government, and an expansion of the present scheme of providing leased Government-owned factory buildings and industrial land is necessary before decentralisation can be achieved on a large scale.

Another matter of interest is the fishing industry, which is greatly concerned by pollution in the Brisbane River and Moreton Bay. Recently an investigation was undertaken by a group of scientists from the C.S.I.R.O. Food Research Centre at North Ryde, New South Wales, supported by a grant, which now totals \$15,000, from the Queensland Fish Board. The purpose of that investigation, which lasted for three years, was to determine the cause and nature of the kerosene taint in Queensland's mullet. Northern New South Wales and Queensland produce 9,000,000 lb. of the Australian total of 12,000,000 lb. of mullet yearly. In recent years some mullet caught in the Brisbane River and Moreton Bay have been withdrawn from sale because of a strong kerosene-like taint. I have had experience of mullet with such a taint; no doubt other honourable members have also.

With the onset of winter, mature mullet migrate to warmer waters to spawn, and in Australian waters this migration begins about May. It is at this time that the kerosene-like taint becomes noticeable in mullet caught north of the Brisbane River. Mullet caught throughout the year in the Brisbane River possess a kerosene-like taint, and mullet and other fish caught in Corio Bay, Victoria, Cockburn Sound, Western Australia, and in Botany Bay and Sydney Harbour also have a similar taint at times. In all of these areas there are sewage and drainage outlets, docks and oil refineries. The Queensland Fish Board supplied the mullet used by the C.S.I.R.O. for its investigation, and these were caught at Luggage Point by local fishermen. The mullet were caught in the area where the Brisbane City Council sewage outlet is located, and from this outlet thousands of gallons of untreated sewage discharges daily. It is virtually impossible to distinguish fish with the kerosene taint from normal fish, with the result that much tainted mullet reaches the general public.

On investigation, the livers of the tainted fish were found to be unusually pale, and when a few drops of kerosene were added to water in which mullet were kept under experimental conditions, taint and liver changes occurred similar to those in tainted fish. Also, steam distillation of volatiles from minced mullet fillets established that tainting compounds were steam volatile, and the first few drops of distillate at atmospheric pressure had a strong kerosene-like odour. The distillate was tested further and found to be similar to a commercial brand of kerosene. Now, it is common knowledge that kerosene is used in most homes, workshops and garages for cleaning purposes, and the waste is discharged through the sewers, ultimately reaching the Brisbane River at Luggage Point and other outlets.

Oil refineries are contributing their share of the pollution that exists in the Brisbane River and Moreton Bay. Strict enforcement of the Clean Waters Act is necessary to ensure a pollution-free river and bay. The problem could be eliminated by a more efficient treatment of sewage and a relocation of the outlet so that effluent is discharged into the sea where it would rapidly disperse, thus ensuring that the Brisbane River and Moreton Bay would be free of pollution. In 1963 San Diego Bay in America was a virtual marine desert, with metropolitan wastes being dumped into it. This same result will eventually occur in Moreton Bay unless steps are taken to prevent it. San Diego Bay was cleansed of all municipal wastes in 1963 when five bayside cities and four inland communities spent \$60,000,000 to build the Metropolitan Sewerage System which now carries effluent into the Pacific Ocean. Less than a year after that was completed San Diego Bay abounded with all forms of aquatic life. The diversion of domestic wastes rescued San Diego Bay from near obliteration as a source of natural resources.

Shipping is also a great contributor to pollution in the Brisbane River and Moreton Bay. How often does one see ships in port discharging waste into the river? A study should be undertaken on the concentration of contamination around ship anchorages and on dispersion distance. How far from a ship can its sewage effects be detected? The effect of raw waste upon water should be of national concern. A compact shipboard sewage disposal system is the answer—one that combines odourless, oil-fired incineration to reduce sewage and other solid wastes into sterile ash, with electro-chemical treatment of liquid waste. However, until all ships are equipped with some such system we will still have the problem of waste discharged from ships in or near port.

Sewage dumped by foreign vessels in the Brisbane River and Moreton Bay could contain germs to which our citizens would be vulnerable. In the future laws may have to be made to provide for dockside sewer

connections for shipping, and shipboard sewage treatment plants or holding tanks for later disposal of sewage at sea.

The pollutive effects of shipping waste is still a little known field, and more information is needed for the protection of public health, fish and wild life. Unquestionably, effective pollution controls are necessary if the increasing, safe use of our waters is to continue. The Clean Waters Act gives the Government power to rigidly control pollution, so let us hope we have the courage to enforce it without fear or favour.

Since 1962, when the Brisbane City Council became the constructing authority for the North Pine Dam, landholders whose property was resumed for the dam have waged a fruitless struggle for remuneration and just consideration in their dealings with the Brisbane City Council. Changes to the Acquisition of Land Act in 1967 cured some of the problems, but there are still many loop-holes favouring the resuming authority. Changes must be made if people whose property is being resumed are to receive justice—a word which is foreign to the Brisbane City Council.

The North Pine Dam was officially announced in 1957, with the estimated completion date given as 1974. Such long drawn-out land-freezing is quite unfair. Elderly people have had their assets tied up unreasonably, and young people have been unable to plan for their future. The Government of the day, under the leadership of Sir Francis Nicklin, showed compassion by approving the acquisition of many farms at an early date, but when the Brisbane City Council became the constructing authority in 1962 it refused to help, even in many cases of need which arose as the years went by. Incidentally, since the project first commenced, seven people whose land was being resumed for the dam have died. The plans were changed after 12 years, and many thousands of acres of land not previously announced in the scheme were taken. Arrangements for negotiations regarding resumptions by the Brisbane City Council are unusual and most unsatisfactory to the landholders in the area. In typical dictatorial fashion, the Brisbane City Council appointed a private valuer, not only to carry out the valuations but also to act as a negotiator with landholders who objected.

These landholders have thus been denied access to the Brisbane City Council. The valuer, obviously acting under instructions, has grossly undervalued these farms and, as he is also the negotiator, people have to approach the court for justice. This can be long and costly and the Brisbane City Council is only too well aware of this. Approximately \$2,000 is the cost of court proceedings on even an average farm. Even when landholders accept the council's valuation, if one can call it that, the council shows a marked reluctance to pay, delaying final settlement as long as possible.

The Brisbane City Council has shown little regard or compassion for the people of North Pine. Now that mention is being made of just and equitable compensation for people whose homes will be acquired for the proposed new freeway, let us also show some consideration for the farmers in the North Pine area and see that they receive adequate and just compensation for their land.

The Government's decision to bring in a Bill for the control and supervision of tow-trucks will be hailed by all honest operators in the industry. For years now the tow-truck racket has flourished and attracted many undesirables to its ranks. Two-way radios tuned to police and ambulance broadcasts are common equipment. The thieves and robbers who drive these vehicles cruise the highways like vultures waiting for the kill. However, I will not discuss this matter any further as I will have something to say when the Bill is being debated.

Another facet of the motor trade and associated industries which would bear investigation is the oil companies' attitude to the retailing of their products. Earlier this year Esso and Mobil, too large American companies, instituted price-cutting which was aimed at destroying the independent service-station operators, who were told that they had to give 4c out of the 5c per gallon by which the companies were dropping the price, yet the companies own lessees were only asked to contribute 2c. Fortunately the then Minister for Labour and Tourism and the service-station operators proved too strong and killed this unethical practice very early.

I listened with great interest to the Leader of the Opposition in his resumé of the election results. My own low percentage of the votes cast in Murrumba—about 35 per cent—was due in no small way to the dirty, rotten, filthy campaign conducted against me on sectarian grounds by A.L.P. supporters who thought that with the retirement of Sir David Nicholson they would have Murrumba at their mercy. Fortunately the people were not taken in and exercised their franchise intelligently.

Mr. F. P. Moore interjected.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I will deal with the honourable member before the session is over.

Being a newcomer to politics, I had some high ideals about the conduct of electoral campaigns, but these were rudely shattered after the first few days when I realised the lengths to which the A.L.P. would go to win Murrumba. Some rather exaggerated claims have been made about campaigns costing in the vicinity of \$20,000, but I venture to suggest that the A.L.P. spent a great deal more than the Country and Liberal Parties on electioneering, and it still failed to make the grade.

We heard the Leader of the Opposition say that his party was solid and united. What he did not say was that they were

united in fear of the headman's axe. I would rather be a member of a party which allows its members freedom of thought and speech than of a party subject to control from an outside body such as the Q.C.E.

Debate, on motion of Mr. Davis, adjourned.

The House adjourned at 5.20 p.m.