

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

THURSDAY, 12 OCTOBER 1972

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

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account of Queensland Trustees Limited for the year 1971-1972.

Regulations under the Builders' Registration Act 1971.

Report of the Brisbane Market Trust for the year 1971-1972.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

"THE LITTLE RED SCHOOL BOOK"

Hon. Sir ALAN FLETCHER (Cunningham—Minister for Education and Cultural Activities) (11.3 a.m.): On Tuesday, 10 October, when I was not in the Chamber, the Leader of the Opposition attributed to me certain statements regarding "The Little Red School Book". This is what he said—

"What about 'The Little Red School Book'? We have been challenged about that. Let me read a statement attributed to the Minister for Education just after that publication was banned in Queensland. In the Adelaide 'Sunday Mail' of 15 April 1972 (I happened to be in Adelaide at the time) the following appeared:—

'The Queensland Education Minister, Mr. Fletcher, said the ban would probably make the State a laughing stock in the rest of Australia.

'We will probably be looked upon as a bunch of squares," Mr. Fletcher said.

"Now the Board has made its decision, I suppose we will just have to stand any ridicule."'"

This is what I am supposed to have said.

The newspaper quotation from the speech of the Leader of the Opposition continues—

"Mr. Fletcher said portions of the book he had read showed a common-sense approach to many of life's problems.

"It impressed me as having some very important things to say, and its approach to life in many cases is sound," he said."

"That statement appeared in the southern Press", the Leader of the Opposition said, "but I noticed that it did not appear in the Brisbane Press."

Mr. Sherrington: It did.

Mr. Burns: It appeared in the "Telegraph".

Sir ALAN FLETCHER: It did, in a garbled version. I am recounting what the Leader of the Opposition said, not what I said.

Mr. Houston: I have it here.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. Aikens: Children in the gallery, the interjectors are members of the A.L.P.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Sir ALAN FLETCHER: The Leader of the Opposition continued—

"The first I knew of the ban was the publication of the statement by the Minister. I do not deny the honourable gentleman the right to make any statement he sees fit to publish, but how hypocritical it is for a Country Party Minister to make such a statement when the Liberal Party propaganda suggests that it is the Australian Labor Party that is fostering these things!"

I find it difficult to believe that Mr. Houston was not aware of the true facts of this case as they were presented, which I gave in a Press statement that I issued on 17 April this year regarding the misstatements which had been attributed to me.

This is the true statement—

"The Minister for Education, Mr. Fletcher, said today that he wanted to make it quite clear that he supported the ban on 'The Little Red School Book' by the Queensland Literature Board of Review.

"He in fact had been instrumental in drawing the Board's attention to the book, he said.

"Mr. Fletcher said that some of his comments in connection with the banning of 'The Little Red School Book' had been misinterpreted and it was thought that he was against the ban.

"Mr. Fletcher said that when it had been suggested to him at the week-end that the banning would make Queensland a laughing stock in the rest of Australia, he had offered a qualified agreement with this suggestion, but had added that if this were the case Queensland would just have to become a laughing stock in order to ban an unsavoury publication.

"The book had many sordid references although, to be fair, some of its statements were sound.

However, Mr. Fletcher said, he wanted to leave nobody in any doubt that he considered the book unwholesome and he supported its banning in Queensland."

Government Members: Hear, hear!

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

RELINQUISHMENT OF LEASES BY COMALCO, WEIPA-AURUKUN DISTRICT

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

(1) Is he aware that several areas held by Comalco in the Weipa-Aurukun district have been relinquished?

(2) How many areas are involved and what is the total area in each district?

(3) What are the conditions in the Comalco Agreement which deal with relinquished areas?

(4) Has the Minister for Conservation been advised of Comalco's action and, if so, has he taken any action for the return of these areas?

(5) Will he take appropriate action to ensure that these areas of land revert to their original reserve and that no authority to prospect is granted on Aboriginal reserve land?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "Weipa—16 areas—785 square miles. Aurukun—2 areas—12.2 square miles."

(3) "The Honourable Member's attention is directed to Clauses 6 and 13 of the Agreement in The Commonwealth Aluminium Corporation Pty. Limited Agreement Act of 1957."

(4) "No, but the necessary administrative action is in train for the return of these areas and already some 482.2 square miles thereof have been so returned."

(5) "See Answer to (4). However, any future applications for Authorities to Prospect must be considered on their merits and in the light of the circumstances then existing."

GOVERNMENT NEWS AND INFORMATION SERVICES

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

(1) What is the reason for the gazettal of public relations, publicity, Press, and other officers from Government Departments to his Department?

(2) What role will the Government News and Information Services play and what is the difference to the previous arrangements regarding the duties of these officers?

Answers:—

(1) "Because it is a requirement of the Public Service Act that details of staff re-organisations of this nature be published in the *Government Gazette*."

(2) "The Government's various Public Relations Services have been re-constructed and re-organised to increase their efficiency and to co-ordinate their activities. Despite the fondly-held misconception by Members

of the Opposition that the State's Public Relations officers constitute some mysterious body fiercely dedicated to the promotion of the Government's political image, I can assure them that this is sheer fantasy. Quite apart from the fact that the Government's image needs no such fanatical underpinning the position is, as the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition well knows, that this branch of the Service performs a public duty which enhances the reputation and prestige of the State elsewhere in Australia and overseas and, at the same time, services the channels of communication between the Government and the people."

POSTAGE AND DELIVERY CHARGES, 4BH ROAD SAFETY PROGRAMME

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

What is the total cost each week of posting or delivering to homes the printed invitations for questions to 4BH Road Safety Open Line and to what fund is this cost charged?

Answer:—

"For the Honourable Member's information, he is incorrect as the Road Safety Programme is conducted on a fortnightly basis on 4BH and covers a wide section of the community irrespective of their political affiliations or beliefs. Consequently the cards are posted on a fortnightly basis and not weekly, at a cost of \$52.50 which is paid out of funds apportioned to the Queensland Road Safety Council. For the information of the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition I might add that an independent survey was undertaken approximately twelve months ago by Peter Kenny Pty. Ltd. which gave this session a high rating, particularly among persons undertaking the Defensive Driving Courses, many of whom admitted that they had learned of the Courses through this session. In addition, the session affords an excellent opportunity to publicise the Queensland Road Safety Council's activities. I would hope that the Honourable Leader of the Opposition would agree that any money spent in the promotion of road safety is a worthwhile expenditure. I am appalled at the implication of the Question that the A.L.P. does not subscribe to the Road Safety's Education Policy which is a sincere endeavour to curb accidents and deaths on our roads. Costs are not important when lives are at stake irrespective of the pinch penny attitude of the Leader of the Opposition and the A.L.P. The Government will nevertheless continue with its programme of Road Safety Education despite this opposition."

FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTS; RADIO-ACTIVE
IODINE IN ATHERTON TABLELAND MILK

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

As an article which appeared in *The Courier-Mail* of September 30 stated that radio-activity levels in milk in the southern hemisphere have increased since the French nuclear tests, has there been any evidence to support this statement and what effect have the tests had on the level of radio-activity in milk produced on the Atherton Tableland?

Answer:—

"The reports published by the Atomic Weapons Tests Safety Committee of Australia show that subsequent to nuclear tests by the French in 1966, 1967, 1968, 1970 and 1971 in Polynesia, small but measurable quantities of radio-active iodine were found in milk throughout Australia. The reports further indicate that the quantity of radio-active iodine in milk from the Atherton Tableland is higher than the levels at other milk producing centres but well within acceptable limits. In assessing the effects on human beings of this radio-active iodine, the Atomic Weapons Tests Safety Committee takes cognizance of guidelines set by the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation and the National Radiation Advisory Committee of Australia. The Atomic Weapons Tests Safety Committee concludes, from the measurements made and guidelines set out, that the radiation dose from radio-active iodine in milk does not pose a significant hazard to health. In explanation, it should be appreciated, because of the rapid decay of radio-active iodine, that no measurable quantities of radio-active iodine in milk are found after about eighty days from the date of detonation of the nuclear device. In respect to the 1972 nuclear test series by France in Polynesia, while the results of fall-out measurements made by the Atomic Weapons Tests Safety Committee have yet to be published, statements made at a Commonwealth level indicate that the level of radio-active iodine in milk is much less than reported for previous test series."

PUBLICATION, "A BETTER JOB"

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

Is he aware of the publication "A Better Job," the unemployment newspaper which sells in Brisbane each Friday and which lists alleged employment vacancies? If so, does the activity of this publication in any way negate, or does it complement, the work of recognised official agencies in the field of employment and what credence can be placed on its columns?

Answer:—

"I am aware of the publication. All private employment exchanges advertising in the publication are licensed under the Private Employment Exchange Regulations. Any publicity medium which brings together the supply and demand aspects of the labour market is serving a useful community purpose and assisting the aims of official agencies."

CRIME AND TRAFFIC STATISTICS, BLUE-
COLLAR AND WHITE-COLLAR WORKERS

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

As the New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics recently reported that "blue-collar" workers are almost seven times more likely to be gaoled, or are more frequently fined or suffer licence suspension for drink-driving offences, compared with "white-collar" workers, do Queensland statistics reveal a similar ratio of involvement?

Answer:—

"Statistics based on the occupations of offenders are not maintained by the Police Department."

FINANCING OF BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL
PURCHASE OF SITE FOR ADMINISTRATION
BUILDING

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

(1) As the Brisbane City Council has not received any tenders to date for the rebuilding and redevelopment of the site presently occupied by Lennons Hotel and the Daniell Hotel, what is the exact situation with regard to the arrangements in which the city finances are involved for \$4½ million which was paid to acquire these sites?

(2) As he carried out a rescue operation for the sake of the city at the time of the purchase of Lennons Hotel, is this rescue money still involved on loan to the council and, if so, when will it be repaid and will ratepayers' money be used in the repayment?

(3) How will the "sell-now and rent-back" idea for the redevelopment, as proposed by the council, work in this instance from a financial viewpoint?

Answers:—

(1) "The sites proposed to be utilised by the Brisbane City Council for the development of its Administration Building complex include Kelvin House and Orient House previously owned by it; the National Bank building, the I.A.C. building and the Hotel Daniell purchased at a cost in excess of \$1 million, and the Lennons Hotel site which cost \$4.55 million. These costs

are presently being borne by Council Funds—either the Loan Fund with associated interest charges, or the City Fund.”

(2) “The Lord Mayor’s basic idea behind the project was that a developer would come forward with a scheme which would recoup the Council for its capital outlay on these sites which the Council would then pay off in increased annual rentals. The rescue operation in October, 1971, was necessary because the Lord Mayor could not secure a developer to provide the Council with the capital funds to honour the Council’s contract for the purchase of the site. The Council’s loan programme had consequently to be adjusted to provide the \$4.55 million to make payment for the Lennons site—such adjustment involved deferment of certain works plus utilisation of monies provided for future works as follows—Capital works deferred on account of electricity and parks, \$1.5m.; Capital provisions on account of the North Pine River Dam, \$3m.; A total of \$4.5m. A requirement was placed on these arrangements to the effect that if funds were not forthcoming from the sale of the site to adjust such deferments by this financial year, then the monies provided for North Pine River Dam would need to be restored and further City works deferred. In other words if the Lord Mayor and the Council cannot effect a sale by June 30 next, then capital works to the value of \$4.55 million in Brisbane, which work is now planned, will not be carried out because the funds for these works will have been absorbed in the purchase of the Lennons site. I would further point out to the Honourable Member that the rescue operation as he describes it was a two part affair since the Council, even with the adjustment of its Loan programme as I have outlined, still did not have the cash in hand to settle the deal. I therefore arranged for temporary and advance funds to the extent of \$3.5 million to be made available to enable the Council to honour the deal and to preserve the credit worthiness of the City in the business world. The temporary cash provisions arranged through the Treasury have been repaid.”

(3) “The theory of a lease back arrangement as being suggested is that capital funds are preserved now for other works, but involves dearer lease rentals in subsequent years. It is a matter for the Lord Mayor and Aldermen to decide whether they are prepared to commit the ratepayers to these heavier subsequent payments in order to take up a lease back proposal. However, I would mention that there are Australian Loan Council limitations on the extent to which lease back deals can be entered into. The Lord Mayor and the Aldermen are aware of the basis of the Loan Council approval for the Administration Building complex. Should

a proposal eventually come forward that departs materially from the approved basis then the whole scheme must be resubmitted to the Loan Council for further consideration, but in the meantime Council funds are absorbed in non-productive property with heavy interest costs being borne by the ratepayers.”

SICK LEAVE AND RECREATION LEAVE, HOSPITAL STAFF

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

(1) Is he aware of the anomalous situation which has developed with regard to sick leave and recreation leave since his Department has refused to grant hospital staff a concession already given to other public servants?

(2) As this concession involves the granting of sick leave in lieu of recreation leave to hospital staff who become ill whilst on recreation leave, are personnel working in hospitals more, or less, likely to be in need of sick leave than is the general body of public servants?

(3) Why has this particular difficulty arisen, especially when one considers that high-grade hospital staff are both difficult to recruit and to replace?

(4) How rapidly can this anomalous situation be corrected so that hospital staff will receive equal treatment with other Government employees?

Answers:—

(1) “I am aware that a request by a Professional Association to allow certain employees of Hospitals Boards granted leave for one purpose to claim leave for another purpose during the currency of that leave was refused on the basis of a decision by the Public Service Board with respect to a similar request by a kindred organisation.”

(2) “While it is accepted that some Hospitals Boards employees are more susceptible to infection in a Hospital situation, there is no evidence that a similar position exists whilst those employees are on recreation leave.”

(3 and 4) “Awards covering the majority of employees of Hospitals Boards provide for a sick leave entitlement identical to that contained in the Public Service Regulations, but these employees are not subject to the Public Service Regulations. In the event of concessions granted to employees covered by the Public Service Regulations being extended to employees of Hospitals Boards, it would seem obvious that the practice would raise the cases of other employees of the Crown who were also not subject to these Regulations. The Public Service Board when considering this matter

on the occasion referred to in (1) advised there is no extended benefit it is proposed to apply to Public Hospital employees. The matter of the variation of Award conditions relating to sick leave and recreation leave is a matter for determination by the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Commission."

PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS, LOWSON HOUSE;
PSYCHIATRIC BED ACCOMMODATION,
METROPOLITAN AREA

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

(1) Why has the accommodation situation at Lowson House become much more difficult in recent weeks?

(2) Is there an increase in the number of psychiatric patients being treated and (a) what are the official bed numbers available in Lowson House and (b) what were the daily averages of inpatients, preferably counted at midnight, 12 months ago, six months ago and at the current date?

(3) Irrespective of beds occupied by some psychiatric patients attached to usual medical wards, is the metropolitan area short of acute psychiatric beds and, if so, by how many?

Answers:—

(1) "I am informed that the incidence of severe mental illness requiring in-patient treatment has been shown to have a seasonal variation."

(2) "Treated morbidity rates, particularly related to in-patient bed usage, do not reflect the incidence of illness. Admissions to Lowson House in recent months reflect the seasonal variation referred to in (1). The nominal bed capacity of Lowson House is 132, but extra beds are installed to meet temporary demands for additional beds. The number of patients in occupancy at midnight on October 10, 1971, was 131, at midnight on April 10, 1972, it was 107, and at midnight on October 10, 1972, it was 156. The daily average occupancy of Lowson House for the year 1971-72 was 110.2."

(3) "A comprehensive review of the psychiatric services for the metropolitan area is presently under active consideration by departmental officers. In addition to the psychiatric beds at Lowson House and the Neuro-psychiatric Unit at Chermide Hospital, a comprehensive psychiatric service including 80 beds is presently being planned for the Princess Alexandra Hospital, and I am informed that the number of private psychiatric beds in the Brisbane metropolitan area is likely to be increased by about 100 in the near future."

ROYAL COMMISSIONS ON GREAT BARRIER
REEF PETROLEUM DRILLING

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

(1) What has been the cost to date to (a) the Commonwealth and (b) the State of the Royal Commissions on Great Barrier Reef Petroleum Drilling?

(2) Have the Commissions completed their inquiry and, if not, when is it anticipated that it will be finished and the findings published?

Answers:—

(1) "The overall costs of the Royal Commissions are not readily available."

(2) "The question as to when the Royal Commissions will complete their inquiry and submit their report is, of course, a matter entirely for the Commissioners themselves."

STEAMING COAL, CENTRAL QUEENSLAND
MINES

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

(1) Under agreements with the Government, what amounts of steaming coal are presently in stockpile at the Moura, Blackwater, Goonyella and Peak Downs mines?

(2) Is this coal still the property of the companies and has the Government been paid royalty on it? If so, what is the amount?

Answers:—

(1) Concerning Moura, the agreement made under "The Thiess Peabody Mitsui Coal Pty. Ltd. Agreements Acts, 1962 to 1965," makes no distinction between steaming coal and coking coal. It provides for the issue of Special Coal Mining Leases for mining for coal. About 10,000 tons of steaming coal are at Moura awaiting rail transport to the Gladstone alumina plant. At Blackwater, Utah Development Company is mining under a Special Coal Mining Lease which provides that the lessee may mine coking coal and associated steaming coal. Should the Minister for Mines require, the lessee must deliver the steaming coal to the Minister as a source of cheap coal for State power stations. The lessee is mining in an area where there is a minimum of steaming coal associated with the coking coal. The full seam is sent to the washery for production of coking coal for export. At Goonyella and Peak Downs, The Central Queensland Coal Associates Agreement Act applies. To date the full seam has been mined and sent to the washing plant for production of coking coal for export. Similarly, any steaming coal is available to the Minister on demand. Furthermore, when required,

the company must mine and supply coal to specified consumers in Queensland. Except for Moura, the only stockpiles consist of export type coal and raw coal. The latter would have to be retreated for satisfactory steaming coal, which could constitute only a small percentage."

(2) "To date, only Moura has sold steaming coal and royalty has been paid. In the other cases the payment of royalty has not arisen. Until disposed of the mined coal remains the property of the companies."

CHIEF TROTTERING STEWARD AT GOLD COAST AND TWEED HEADS MEETINGS

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

(1) How many times has the Chief Steward, Mr. Jack Gregg, attended the trotting meetings at Tweed Heads and the Gold Coast over the past 12 months?

(2) Does he attend these meetings for the purpose of acquiring knowledge to enable him to judge the form of the horses racing both in Queensland and in New South Wales?

(3) Does he at any time officiate as a steward at Tweed Heads meetings?

Answers:—

(1) "During the last twelve months, Mr. Gregg attended 24 meetings at Tweed Heads on Friday nights out of a total of 26, and 6 Saturdays out of 7 daytime meetings. He attended 8 meetings at the Gold Coast."

(2) "I understand he attends by arrangement between the Queensland Trotting Board and the New South Wales Board."

(3) "Yes, as Chairman of Stewards. I would add that I was not aware until this morning that Mr. Gregg held such a position."

LOCATION OF PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION CENTRES

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

(1) What criteria were used to determine the locations of the 37 primary pre-schools as announced in *The Courier-Mail* of September 30?

(2) How many centres were considered for the initial scheme, what were the centres which were not included in the final choice and for what reasons were they not chosen?

(3) When will the scheme be extended beyond the present 37 areas?

Answers:—

(1) "In selecting locations for pre-school centres a number of criteria has been used. These include: (a) the needs of various areas in terms of educational priority; (b) the accessibility of existing kindergarten facilities; (c) the availability of excess classroom accommodation in schools; (d) the availability of suitable sites on school grounds; (e) the provision of practising schools for trainee teachers; (f) the practicability of providing a facility in a relatively short period of time; (g) the provision of a reasonable spread of facilities throughout the State."

(2) "The 37 centres mentioned constitute only the first phase of the implementation of the State pre-school program. The needs of all areas of the State are being carefully considered and the provision of pre-school facilities in some 500 further areas will be progressively undertaken as quickly as is practicable."

(3) "As indicated above, the scheme will be extended as soon as practicable, certainly within the next financial year."

DEVELOPMENT OF CROWN LAND, NOOSA RIVER AREA

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

(1) Relative to Crown land north of the Noosa River, has any company made application for Portions 14, 26 and R 967, Parish of Laguna, or any one of these parcels of land, for developmental purposes? If so, in which country is the company based?

(2) Has the Government planned to declare Crown land on the north shore of the Noosa River as an area to be preserved in its natural state as a habitat reserve?

Answers:—

(1) "My Department is unable to locate any specific application by a company for the lands mentioned. The Noosa Shire Council has raised the possibility of residential development on lands north of the Noosa River, but no proposals are under consideration."

(2) "As it would appear the Honourable Member refers to Habitat Reserves under the Fisheries Acts, he should direct this part of the question to the Honourable the Minister for Primary Industries."

EVANS DEAKIN SHIPYARDS

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

(1) Does the Evans Deakin shipbuilding yards in Brisbane have the capacity, in relation to size of dry-dock and other

necessary facilities, to construct vessels of a suitable size for current and future shipping requirements?

(2) Is there room for expansion of the yards on their existing site and, if not, are there plans to move the shipyards to a more suitable site to allow for expansion?

(3) If the shipyards are to remain where they are, is it likely that the demand for smaller ships will be sufficient to keep the yards in business?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) "The Frank Nicklin Dock at the Kangaroo Point shipyards of Evans Deakin Industries Ltd. is 805 feet long, 115 feet wide and 31 feet deep. It has the capacity to construct vessels up to 65,000 tons deadweight. A State Government Interdepartmental Committee has investigated the matter of the relocation of the Kangaroo Point shipyards. The report of the Committee is being considered by the Government."

DUTY POLICE, PARLIAMENT HOUSE

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

(1) What was the number of police normally on duty each day whilst Parliament was in Session in each of the years 1969, 1970 and 1971?

(2) As the police guard at Parliament House in Canberra has been increased to give maximum security, to the extent that three policemen with walkie-talkie radios patrol outside and seven policemen are inside the building, for what reason and on whose authority was the strength reduced drastically to one policeman at present in this House, when the duties and responsibilities apparently are the same as those in previous years?

Answers:—

(1) "Police on duty average four."

(2) "As Ministerial Head of the Police Department, I approved of a recommendation by the Commissioner of Police that the reduction be made to assist in achieving the most efficient deployment of police manpower to meet police requirements generally."

S.G.I.O. INVESTMENT IN BANK OF QUEENSLAND LTD.

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

Does the Treasury or the State Government Insurance Office have money invested in, or on loan to, the Bank of Queensland Ltd. and, if so, how much and on what terms?

Answer:—

"It is customary not to divulge details of State Government Insurance Office individual investments with clients. However, reference to the respective registers of shareholders would disclose that the Office has a share holding in a number of Australian banks including the Bank of Queensland Ltd. It is the practice of the Office and the Treasury to make Interest Bearing Deposits with banks from time to time. These are lodged with the bank offering the most attractive rate of interest at the time of deposit."

INCLUSION OF LIVINGSTONE, FITZROY AND BANANA SHIRES WITHIN TICK LINE

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

As there has been an increased number of properties in the shires of Livingstone, Fitzroy and Banana on which his departmental officers have discovered resistant ticks and as the policing of stock movements from these properties is both costly and inconvenient to landholders and his officers, will he consider altering the tick line to include these shires in order to allow freer movement of cattle in the affected areas?

Answer:—

"The policy of the Department is to restrict the spread of resistant strains of ticks from infested to non-infested properties by insisting on supervised clean treatments from infested properties. Where there is evidence that a large proportion of properties within an area are infested with resistant ticks, the emphasis on containment is shifted to restraining them within the area, although this does increase the chance of infestation of other properties within the area. It is not considered that the proportion of properties within the shires of Livingstone, Fitzroy and Banana is sufficiently high to think in terms of moving the tick line. The number of affected properties in them can still be handled effectively."

MAYFIELD STATE SCHOOL

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

What progress has been made in the planning and provision of a library block and additional permanent classroom accommodation at the Mayfield State School?

Answer:—

"Planning has been completed. Consideration will be given to approval of this work in the light of funds available when essential classroom requirements requested by the Department of Education for commencement of 1973 School year have been provided."

PRESERVATIVE IN MINCED MEAT

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

Has he been approached recently by the Meat and Allied Trades Federation seeking permission under the Food and Drug Regulations to use up to a prescribed quantity of preservative in minced meat? If so, what was the result of this approach and what were the reasons for any decision made?

Answer:—

"Yes. I have received a circular entitled 'Notes in support of the addition of Preservative to Minced Meat' and in 1969 the Queensland Division of the Meat and Allied Trades Federation of Australia waited on me in deputation. The Queensland regulation which prohibits the use of preservative in minced meat follows the recommendation of the National Health and Medical Research Council which, at its 62nd Session in May, 1966, made the following recommendations:—(i) The addition of sulphur dioxide to chopped fresh meat should not be permitted. (ii) States should give consideration to proper refrigeration as an alternative to the use of sulphur dioxide as a preservative in meat. Minced meat is an important item in the diet of invalids and young children and it is desirable that it be made from the freshest of meat. It is realised that high temperatures have an adverse effect on the keeping quality of minced meat but Departmental officers advise that samples quite free from preservative have been obtained from all parts of the State. This indicates that it is possible to produce good minced meat without preservative in Queensland's hot climate. Whilst it is agreed that bacterial growth is slowed by sulphur dioxide it is also pointed out that similar effects can be obtained by refrigeration and proper storage. The Federation was advised that if it felt its case warranted it, an approach should be made to the National Health and Medical Research Council. I would also draw the Honourable Member's attention to an article entitled 'Preservation of Minced Meat with Sulphur Dioxide' published by the Division of Food Preservation of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation in which it is pointed out that sulphur dioxide (which is the usual preservative desired by the trade) inactivates the vitamin thiamin, thus reducing the nutritional value of the product. I would add that the British Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, which recently reported on food additives, supports the opinion expressed by the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council."

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT LAND FOR POLICE-CITIZENS YOUTH WELFARE ASSOCIATION, TOOWOOMBA

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

Has an area of Railway Department land near the State Wheat Board siding at Toowoomba been made available to the Police-Citizens Youth Welfare Association for the erection of a building for their activities and, if so, what is the period of the lease and what is the annual rental?

Answer:—

"This matter is at present the subject of representations to me by the Honourable Sir Gordon Chalk, Member for Lockyer, on behalf of the Toowoomba Branch of the Police-Citizens Youth Welfare Association. An area of approximately three roods has been offered for lease. The period of lease and rental has not been determined, pending receipt of an indication from the Association that the area is acceptable."

UNUSED SICK LEAVE, RETIRED RAILWAY DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES

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

What amount of sick leave was left unused by Railway Department employees retiring from the service in 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971 and 1972?

Answer:—

"The extraction of the information sought by the Honourable Member would involve considerable clerical work, the expenditure of which is not considered justified."

DISPENSING OF PRESCRIPTIONS, PRINCESS ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

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

(1) For the four weeks ended September 29, (a) what was the average number of week-day prescriptions dispensed for patients and outpatients at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, (b) what was the highest and lowest daily number dispensed and (c) what was the average daily number of pharmacists employed at the dispensary and actually engaged in dispensing prescriptions?

(2) What is the longest period of time which patients are required to wait for prescriptions to be dispensed?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "The information sought by the Honourable Member is being obtained and I will advise him in due course."

HOSPITAL BED OCCUPANCY

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

(1) What was the daily number of occupied beds at June 30 in public intermediate and private wards in Government hospitals within a 50-mile radius of the cities of Brisbane, Southport, Toowoomba, Maryborough, Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville and Cairns?

(2) What was the number of beds available in these categories at these hospitals?

(3) What was the total number of occupied beds in public, intermediate and private wards in Queensland at June 30?

Answers:—

(1) "The dissected detail requested is available only at each Board Office of the various hospitals. The total number of occupied beds in Government hospitals in the areas mentioned at June 30, 1972, was 6,120, compared with a bed availability of 8,519."

(2) "A comparison of the total number of beds available, including approved Nursing Home Annexe beds controlled by Hospitals Boards, for the areas involved, with occupancy at June 30, 1972, is as follows:—

City	Total Beds	Occupied Beds June 30, 1972
Brisbane	4,569	3,486
Southport	285	185
Toowoomba	938	663
Maryborough	665	422
Mackay	205	152
Rockhampton	605	419
Townsville	534	365
Cairns	718	428
	8,519	6,120

Southport figures include Boonah and Beaudesert, which are within an approximate fifty-mile radius."

(3) "The total number of occupied beds in public, intermediate, and private wards, controlled by Hospitals Boards in Queensland, at June 30, 1972, was—General, 7,122; Maternity, 833; Total, 7,955."

NEW LIBRARY BLOCK, NORTH ROCKHAMPTON HIGH SCHOOL

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

Further to his Answer to my Question on October 11 regarding the cessation of construction on the new library building at North Rockhampton High School—

(1) What was the name of the firm which was to supply aluminium doors and window frames?

(2) What was the date of the commencement and the date of the settlement of the dispute?

(3) When were supplies of the required materials again available?

(4) Will sufficient labour be made available to ensure that the library is functional at the commencement of the 1973 school year?

Answers:—

(1) "Pillar Naco Pty. Limited."

(2) "This information is not available in Departments within the ambit of my control."

(3) "Progressive deliveries commenced on September 6, 1972."

(4) "The project is programmed for completion in June 1973, having regard to priorities of other projects on the Department's overall Works Programme in the Rockhampton area. It will not be functional for commencement of 1973 School Year."

PRESERVATION OF PIONEER TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

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

Concerning the allocation of \$50,000 in the Estimates for the preservation of pioneer tourist attractions, what projects are involved and what expenditure is planned on each?

Answer:—

"The amount of \$50,000 has been provided by the Treasury to cope with the recently announced decision of the Commonwealth to provide amounts of money on a dollar for dollar matching basis with the States for the development of Australian, preservation of historical sites, fauna reserves, etc. Total clarity has not been reached and the subject is now being negotiated with the Commonwealth."

GRANTS AND STAFF, CULTURAL ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT

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

(1) For the current year, what is the total amount to be made available by the Cultural Activities Department to organisations based in Brisbane and those based in North Queensland?

(2) What annual salary and other emoluments are paid to the Director of Cultural Activities, how many people are on his staff and what is the total amount of annual salaries and other emoluments paid to them?

(3) Where does the Director live?

Answers:—

(1) "Grants announced to date to cultural organisations based in Brisbane for services to both Brisbane and country areas total \$414,000. Grants down to the figure of \$1,500 were announced on October 4, 1972. In addition, an amount of \$122,000 has been set aside for Miscellaneous Grants and Allocations to assist New Ventures in areas including North Queensland. Grants from this allocation have not yet been announced, but the Honourable Member will be advised in due course."

(2) "The annual salary of the Director of Cultural Activities at the beginning of the financial year was \$14,277. As from July 24, 1972 his annual salary is \$14,991. No emoluments are paid to the Director or his staff. He is entitled to allowances as provided under the Public Service Regulations, as are all public servants. His staff presently consists of one clerk and two stenographers. Provision has been made for the appointment of one additional clerk who has not been yet appointed. A total amount of \$27,959 has been allocated for salaries of the staff of the Cultural Activities Section during the 1972-73 financial year."

(3) "The Director lives in Brisbane."

DECISION OF AIR POLLUTION COUNCIL;
HEIGHT OF BABINDA SUGAR MILL
CHIMNEY

Mr. K. J. Hooper, pursuant to notice, asked The Treasurer,—

(1) Did he make a statement to *The Courier-Mail* that the Cabinet decision to override the Air Pollution Council's recommendation in relation to the fuel to be used by Metals Ex. at Greenvale was not to be taken as a precedent?

(2) Was the Executive Council's decision of September 30 to allow a 30 ft. chimney instead of a 125 ft. chimney at the Babinda Sugar Mill in conflict with his earlier statement?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "No."

WAX-COATING OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

Mr. K. J. Hooper, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Primary Industries—

(1) What types of fruit and vegetables are sold with a wax coating?

(2) Have any tests been made to ensure that the waxes used are not dangerous to health?

(3) Is waxed fruit more prone to rotting than unwaxed fruit?

Answers:—

(1) "The main fruits and vegetables which are waxed are citrus, bananas, cucumbers and tomatoes."

(2) "The main waxes used are vegetable waxes, principally carnauba, related to waxes naturally occurring on fruit, and some paraffin. These are widely used throughout the world and are not considered to be dangerous to health."

(3) "Waxed fruit are rather more prone to rotting, but much less prone to shrivelling than unwaxed fruit."

NEW RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION,
BUNDABERG AND MARYBOROUGH

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

What was the value of houses and other dwellings erected in (a) Bundaberg and (b) Maryborough for the three financial years from July 1, 1969 to June 30, 1972?

Answer:—

"I suggest that the Honourable Member seek this information from the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics."

POPULATION INCREASES, BUNDABERG
AND MARYBOROUGH

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

What was the population increase for (a) the city of Bundaberg and (b) the city of Maryborough over the past three years?

Answer:—

"The Bureau of Census and Statistics advises that at June 30, 1968, the population of Bundaberg was 26,260 and at June 30, 1971, 27,394. The Maryborough figures for the same dates were 19,510 and 19,304. The figures for June 30, 1971, are the latest available in both cases."

RAILWAY REVENUE, BUNDABERG AND
MARYBOROUGH

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

What amount of revenue was received from both freight and passenger traffic in the period July, 1969 to June, 1972 for (a) Bundaberg railway station and (b) Maryborough railway station?

Answer:—

"The revenue accruing from passenger and freight traffic forwarded from and received at Bundaberg and Maryborough for the period July 1, 1969, to June 30, 1972, was—Bundaberg, \$3,339,679; Maryborough, \$4,096,671."

LATE LODGMENT BY SOLICITORS OF
AUDIT REPORTS ON TRUST ACCOUNTS

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

(1) Is he aware that the media have recently widely publicised comments attributed to him regarding prosecutions launched by the Justice Department against a number of solicitors in Queensland concerning the late lodgment of statutory audit reports on the operation of trust accounts?

(2) Is it a fact that this matter is no different from the mere late lodgment of a tax return and that it is not in any sense suggestive of defalcation of trust funds on the part of a solicitor responsible for late lodgment of a report?

(3) Is the statutory requirement to enable his Department to police the administration of trust accounts by solicitors and others?

(4) Is his Department empowered, in circumstances surrounding a report which gives rise to suspicion of maladministration, to order an investigation into the trust account and to cause action to be taken against the solicitor or other person if the investigation so warrants?

(5) Are audits required to be carried out by accountants who are registered as auditors and who are independent of the legal practitioners or other persons in relation to whom such auditors furnish the reports?

(6) Is his Department entitled to take action against auditors who fail to carry out their duty in a professional manner, particularly if the circumstances suggest knowledge on the part of the auditor of maladministration on the part of the legal practitioner or other person to whom the report relates?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "There is no suggestion of defalcations. It is merely prosecution for late lodgment of audit reports."

(3) "These audits are necessary for the protection of the public."

(4) "In appropriate cases police investigation is requested so that criminal proceedings may be instituted if the necessary evidence is available."

(5) "The audits are performed by Certificated Accountants as defined by Regulation 1 (i) under the Trust Accounts Acts."

(6) "Section 33 of the Queensland Law Society Act empowers the Council of the Society to request the Minister to take the action therein indicated."

AUDIT REPORTS ON TRUST ACCOUNT OF
CONVICTED SOLICITOR, J. M. HOGG

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

(1) With reference to the Ipswich solicitor, John Malcolm Hogg, who was recently gaoled for five years on a criminal charge arising from the defalcation of trust funds, prior to his arrest, which did not result from any action of his Department, did a number of audit reports which were lodged indicate that the trust account was being mal-administered and were grossly deficient from an auditing point of view?

(2) Were the reports the standard six-monthly reports lodged with his Department in accordance with the statutory requirement imposed by the Trust Accounts Acts and will he table the reports?

(3) What investigation did his Department carry out upon receipt of these reports or any of them as a result of their unsatisfactory nature?

(4) Who was the auditor and what action was taken by his Department against him?

(5) Is the auditor still in practice and registered as an auditor and is the Department still accepting or still prepared to accept and rely upon reports from him in relation to trust accounts furnished by him in his capacity as a registered auditor?

Answers:—

(1) "No."

(2) "(a) Yes. (b) No."

(3) "The reports did not indicate a need for any investigation."

(4) "Hubert James Dancer and Dennis Victor Beecham. No action has been taken by this Department. If disciplinary action is required it would be taken by the Public Accountants Registration Board of Queensland."

(5) "While the names of these Accountants continue to be retained in the Register of Public Accountants of Queensland, there is no reason why their reports on Solicitors' Trust Accounts should not be accepted. However, Section 33 of the Queensland Law Society Act provides that the Council of the Society may, if it becomes aware of irregularities in the trust accounts of a practitioner, request the Minister no longer to accept the reports of the practitioner's trust account auditor as the report of a certificated accountant for the audit of trust accounts of a practitioner."

REGULATIONS UNDER CLEAN WATERS
ACT; REPORT OF WATER QUALITY
COUNCIL

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

(1) Further to his Answer to my Question on October 10, when will the regulations under the Clean Waters Act, which was assented to in December, 1971, be tabled in the House?

(2) When will a report from the Water Quality Council for 1971-1972 be tabled?

Answers:—

(1) "Draft regulations under the *Clean Waters Act* 1971 have been prepared and I expect to submit them for the consideration of the Governor in Council in the near future. I am unable to indicate at this stage when they will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly pursuant to the Act."

(2) "The Water Quality Council of Queensland met for the first time on May 25, 1972. The first annual report of the Council will cover the period ending on June 30, 1973, and it will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly as soon as possible after it is made to me."

SURVEY BY INSTITUTE OF URBAN STUDIES

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

With reference to a report in *The Courier-Mail* of October 2 which referred to the survey being carried out by the Institute of Urban Studies—

(1) Is the Institute of Urban Studies a unit of the University of Queensland involved in a study for the Government Department of Local Authorities in Queensland?

(2) When did the study commence?

(3) Is it nearing completion?

(4) What amount has been spent on this project to date?

(5) Who are the personnel carrying out the survey?

(6) Have any members of the original team resigned and, if so, for what reasons?

Answer:—

(1 to 6) "I advise the Honourable Member to direct his question to the Honourable the Treasurer."

INTAKE OF APPRENTICES

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

(1) How many apprentices were admitted to apprenticeships without having the desired minimum qualifications in 1969, 1970 and 1971, respectively?

(2) How many of these were admitted to (a) brick-laying, (b) carpentry, (c) fitting and turning, (d) electrical fitting, (e) electrical reticulation and wiring and (f) radio and television repair and construction, in each year?

(3) What was the intake of apprentices for the current year?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) "Statistics regarding these matters are not kept and can only be obtained by examining thousands of files. The time and cost involved in so doing is not warranted."

(3) "During the year ended June 30, 1972, a total of 5,293 apprentices were allotted to employers. The number of apprentices in training in Queensland including probationers as at the end of the year was 17,840."

SEPTIC SYSTEM, STRATVELL STATE
SCHOOL

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

In view of the discovery of a suitable water supply with sufficient pressure at the Stratvell State School in my electorate, will his Department now expedite the installation of a septic system at the school, as I have been told by the local health authorities that the present toilets are definitely detrimental to the health of all who attend the school?

Answer:—

"My Department's investigations into the matter have revealed that the only water supply available for a septic system at this School for at least the next three years would be from a spring-fed creek which, due to its meagre flow, would require excavating to form a sump to ensure a reservoir from which to pump. Grant of easement over private property and approval of the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission would be involved. My Department's District Officer has no knowledge of the local health authorities' advice to the Honourable Member. Nevertheless, an early inspection is being arranged to check on this matter."

SCHOLARSHIPS TO PRE-SCHOOL STUDENT TEACHERS

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

(1) How many scholarships will be offered in 1973 to students who intend to teach in the Department's pre-school centres?

(2) For how long will the scholarships be in force and at what teacher-education colleges will they apply?

(3) What number of scholarships will apply to each of the teachers' colleges?

Answers:—

(1) "100 bonded scholarships will be offered to the Kindergarten Teachers College. Also 200 primary scholarships will be offered in addition to the original numbers estimated for the primary branch."

(2) "All scholarships will be of three years' duration."

(3) "The additional 200 primary scholarships will be distributed over the four teachers' colleges and the two Institutes of Advanced Education. This will allow all institutions to offer options in Early Childhood Education in the second and/or the third years of the course to more students than previously has been the case."

TEACHER SCHOLARSHIPS

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

(1) How many teachers' scholarships, in all categories, were made available for new students at the beginning of 1972?

(2) How many scholarships were accepted and what are the details, in each category, of teacher training?

Answers:—

(1) "2,365."

(2) "2,364—made up as follows:—Primary Three Year, 1,082; Primary Graduate, 7; Physical Education Three Year, 58; Music Four Year (Conservatorium), 7; Art Three Year, 41; Commercial Three Year, 66; Homecraft Three Year, 83; Manual Arts Three Year, 39; Manual Arts One Year, 23; Maths/Science Three Year, 96; Music Three Year, 13; Secondary One Year, 147; Secondary Two Year, 237; Secondary Four Year (University), 241; Secondary Four Year (Institute), 83; College of Art (Four Year), 7; To second and third years of four-year courses, 51; Secondary Graduate, 83; Total, 2,364."

PRIMARY-SCHOOL LIBRARY SCHEME

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

With reference to the supplementary scheme to build up primary-school libraries—

(1) When will the scheme come into force?

(2) Does the acceptable level for library books of five books per pupil refer to all books held in the school? If not, on what basis is the basic stock of five books per pupil to be determined?

Answers:—

(1) "Administrative arrangements are being prepared now so that the scheme may be put into action following the necessary formal approvals for the expenditure."

(2) "No. The acceptable level of approximately five books per child refers to the number of books held in the central library collection. A survey of book stocks held in all primary school libraries has recently been conducted. This survey will provide the basis for the implementation of the supplementary scheme."

APPLICATIONS FOR TAXI-CAB LICENCES

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

(1) How many applications for licences to drive taxi-cabs in the metropolitan area were (a) lodged with his Department and (b) refused, in 1970-1971 and 1971-1972?

(2) What were the reasons for the refusal of applications?

Answers:—

(1) "(a) 1970-71, 1,819; 1971-72, 1,842; (b) 1970-71, 183; 1971-72, 329."

(2) "I would draw the attention of the Honourable Member to the provisions of Regulation 17 of the State Transport Regulations where the fitness of an applicant may be determined by any inquiry, test or examination to determine whether he is a fit and proper person to be issued with a licence and to determine whether any circumstances exist which would make it undesirable that such a licence should be issued. Applications have been refused where applicants have failed three consecutive location tests, have failed driving tests, have not met licensing requirements, or where, in the opinion of the Commissioner, such applicants were not fit and proper persons to be issued with licences, or where he has determined circumstances exist which would make it undesirable that a licence be issued."

SCHOOL RESERVE, CRIBB AND CHESSOM
STREETS, OXFORD PARK

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

Does his Department intend to construct a school on the reserve situated between Cribb Street and Chessom Street, Oxford Park? If so, when?

Answer:—

“No provision is made in the current Loan Works Programme for this project. The timing for provision of a new School on this site is one for initial determination by the Department of Education.”

DEMOUNTABLE CLASSROOMS

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

(1) How many demountable temporary classrooms have been erected in (a) Queensland and (b) the metropolitan area?

(2) At which schools in the metropolitan area are these classrooms located?

(3) How many children are housed in demountables in the Brisbane area?

Answers:—

(1) “(a) In Queensland there are 356 demountable buildings housing 712 classrooms. (b) In the metropolitan area there are 118 demountable buildings housing 236 classrooms.”

(2) “I table the information sought by the Honourable Member.”

(3) “It is estimated that approximately 7,000 children are accommodated in demountable classrooms in the Brisbane area.”

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

SOCIAL SERVICE PAYMENTS, CHILDREN'S
SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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

Further to my Question on October 10, what is the number of recipients who have had reductions made in respect of supplementary payments from the Children's Services Department since the 1972 Commonwealth Budget and why were the reductions made?

Answer:—

“Recipients who have had reductions in respect of supplementary payments but not necessarily reductions in income from the Department of Children's Services number 637. 288 received reductions in income,

184 of which were for 75 cents. As to the reasons why these reductions were made I would refer the Honourable Member to the Answers given in this House by my colleague, the Minister for Health, on October 29, 1968, October 29, 1969, and October 20, 1971 and October 22, 1971. Supplementary payments have been cut out in all the other States in Australia for some considerable time.”

ABSENTEE FARM-OWNERS ENGAGING IN
PRIMARY INDUSTRY FOR TAXATION
BENEFITS

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

(1) Has his Government made any survey of the emergence of a distinct new class of farmers, namely the high income-earning business and professional people and the big companies, who have made huge investments in Queensland's rural land?

(2) As these interested people wish to sink excess profits in the purchase and development of virgin land so that they can gain from primary industry taxation benefits and subsidies to attain a tax-free capital gain on a property resale, why has some discriminatory action not been suggested at Commonwealth level by his Government to guard the genuine disadvantaged farmer?

(3) As the primary industry benefits are available to absentee farm-owners, as the State and Commonwealth Governments continually implore production restraints and because land prices in selected areas are beyond the reach of genuine farmers, why has his Government not urged some protective control over this tragic situation which is so vitally affecting Queensland's basic industry earner, the genuine farmer?

Answers:—

(1) “No.”

(2 and 3) “As a general statement, it can be said that Government assistance is primarily directed to the farmer or grazier in working occupation of his own property. Company and such-like investments, on the other hand, tend to be in the less-developed areas where it is necessary to have substantial amounts of capital at command. Whilst taxation concessions provide encouragement initially to development, at the same time providing a benefit to the investor, recognition must also be given to the economic benefits at both State and Commonwealth levels from improved or increased productivity. In the longer term, instances of unduly inflated land values will be tempered by earning capacity.”

INTEREST SUBSIDY ON BANK LOANS TO RURAL INDUSTRIES

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

(1) Has the reported easing of monetary restrictions in the banking system had any effect on unfreezing the lending guidelines which have hampered the primary industries for the past few years or has the priority of the primary industry boom-day lending been surpassed in favour of short-term hire-purchase loans?

(2) Will his Government, in the light of the selective lending that excludes the primary industries, consider making bank lending to the rural industries an attractive feature by subsidising interest rates and underwriting loans away from the Rural Reconstruction Board's activities as a stimulant to the sensitive rural economy?

Answers:—

(1) "The easing of monetary restrictions reflects the fluctuation in total rural debt, the availability of funds and improved prospects of repayment rather than any fundamental changes in lending policies."

(2) "No, as it is not seen to be practicable."

OVERSEAS RECRUITMENT OF VETERINARY OFFICERS

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

(1) Is Queensland suffering from a shortage of veterinary officers and stock inspectors and what effect has the compulsory testing for T.B. had on Government staff?

(2) Is there evidence of cattle sales being negated because of the unavailability of certified testers, with a general slowing-down of interstate trade and a lowering of values because of insufficient testers to cope with the T.B. campaign?

(3) Is there any possibility of recruiting veterinary officers from, perhaps, overseas and what possibility exists for recruiting cadets and preparing them for a crash course in T.B. and brucellosis testing?

Answers:—

(1) "Queensland has a full complement of Stock Inspectors. There are a few vacancies for Government Veterinary Officers but this is the usual position as they are difficult to recruit. This has no real effect on tuberculin testing under the national scheme because most of the testing is done by private veterinary practitioners. A list of veterinarians available for tuberculin testing was published in *Queensland Country Life* newspaper on August 3."

(2) "No."

(3) "Veterinary officers with suitable qualifications are recruited from overseas when they are available. Interpretation of tuberculin tests requires skill and experience and it is considered that crash courses would not provide the necessary training and expertise."

INCIDENCE OF VENEREAL DISEASE

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

(1) How many venereal disease cases were reported in Queensland during 1969-1970, 1970-1971 and 1971-1972?

(2) Have any prosecutions been launched against members of the medical profession for failure to report cases of venereal disease?

(3) Have any new steps been taken in recent years by his Department to control this disease and what facilities are presently available on a prophylactic basis?

(4) Of the people contracting the disease, what are the figures for each sex, in age groups, for the years mentioned?

Answers:—

(1) "Notifications of venereal disease in Queensland for the years in question were: 1969-70, 1,950; 1970-71, 1,880; 1971-72, 2,120."

(2) "No."

(3) "New antibiotics proven to be an improvement in the treatment of venereal diseases were supplied immediately they were available. The State Health Laboratory has adopted new diagnostic techniques in examining specimens in both gonorrhoea and syphilis. A recent survey to arrive at a more exact assessment of the incidence of the disease has been undertaken by requesting information from every registered medical practitioner in Queensland. The results of the survey are at present being examined. At the instigation of Queensland, a conference was held recently in Sydney to which were invited experts in the disease from all States. At the conference it was recommended that the present course of instruction given to Queensland medical students be adopted in other States. Also at Queensland's instigation, the disease is being considered by the Public Health Advisory Committee of the National Health and Medical Research Council at a meeting to be held in Sydney on October 18-19. I am advised that most of the former prophylactic measures used are not now universally recommended as venereologists consider them ineffectual. However, individual patients may still report to clinics for advice."

(4) "Age groups and sex of notified cases for the years mentioned are:

Age Group	Males	Females	Total
1969-70—			
1-14 years	4	19	23
15-19 years	289	204	493
20-24 years	506	140	646
25-29 years	250	58	308
30-34 years	125	45	170
35 years and over ..	229	81	310
Totals	1,403	547	1,950
1970-71—			
1-14 years	4	12	16
15-19 years	337	161	498
20-24 years	505	112	617
25-29 years	281	55	336
30-34 years	110	38	148
35 years and over ..	204	61	265
Totals	1,441	439	1,880
1971-72—			
1-14 years	4	16	20
15-19 years	308	197	505
20-24 years	572	178	750
25-29 years	324	58	382
30-34 years	146	25	171
35 years and over ..	221	71	292
Totals	1,575	545	2,120"

STUDENT FEES, CAPRICORNIA INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED EDUCATION

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

With reference to the fiscal allocation to the Capricornia Institute of Advanced Education for 1972-73—

(1) Will more than \$80,000 have to be raised by the C.I.A.E., in student fees during the 1973 academic year and, as some \$35,000 was collected in fees last academic year, will a considerable increase in fees be made?

(2) What will be the estimated yearly fee per student for the 1973 academic year?

(3) As approximately 40 per cent. of C.I.A.E. students have primary teacher scholarships and as his Department does not reimburse the C.I.A.E. for the fees which would normally be chargeable, is he aware that any increase in fees will therefore be carried by only 60 per cent. of the student body?

(4) Will he consider adopting a policy whereby the C.I.A.E. is reimbursed by his Department for such fees as would normally be collected if students holding primary scholarships were fee-paying students?

(5) If such payment was made, would it attract the Commonwealth subsidy of \$1.00 per \$1.85 expended by the State?

(6) Will he explain why the fiscal allocation to the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education greatly exceeds that for the C.I.A.E.?

(7) What were the estimated requirements for (a) capital works and (b) recurrent expenditure which were submitted by the C.I.A.E. Council for 1973?

Answers:—

(1) "In order to attract the maximum Commonwealth grant, student fees at the Capricornia Institute of Advanced Education will need to total some \$80,000 during the 1973 academic year. As the increase in fee income will not be achieved by increased student enrolments, the College Council will need to give consideration to seeking approval for an increase in student fees."

(2) "I can give no estimate at this time. Any increase in student fees will be based on the recommendation of the Board of Advanced Education following a request from the College Council. I would point out that the present annual student fee in Queensland Colleges of Advanced Education of \$96 is the lowest in Australia. The Honourable Member will have noted that in his recent Budget Speech, the New South Wales Treasurer stated that student fees in Colleges of Advanced Education, incidentally already more than double those in Queensland, would be increased."

(3) "Yes, accepting the figures quoted as approximate and rounded."

(4) "The State endowment to the Capricornia Institute of Advanced Education includes provision for fees of teachers scholarship holders. The Honourable Member's proposal would not therefore increase the funds available to the college."

(5) "The State endowment and student fees together attract Commonwealth support."

(6) "The Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education enrolments are approximately half as much again as those of Capricornia as are the funds made available in 1973."

7. "(a) and (b). The recurrent allocation for 1973 represents an increase of 23 per cent over that for 1972. However, as seems to be the invariable and predictable position with triennial submissions from tertiary institutions everywhere, the amounts requested both for recurrent and capital expenditure exceeded the amounts that could be made available."

COMMONWEALTH EXTENSION SERVICES GRANT PROGRAMMES

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

Have any changes been proposed to the Commonwealth Department of Primary Industries in the expenditure of funds from the Commonwealth Extension Services

Grant to the State in response to the Commonwealth Minister's call at the last meeting of the Australian Agricultural Council for further co-operation in a general review of C.E.S.G.C. programmes? If so, what changes have been proposed and is the review to continue?

Answer:—

"No. Our review has not been completed. Any changes will be reflected in due course in our submissions in relation to future programmes. However, no substantive changes are seen to be necessary."

CONTROLS ON EGG PRODUCTION

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

In view of the recent decision at the Australian Agricultural Council meeting, when is it proposed that controls on egg production will come into effect in Queensland?

Answer:—

"Details concerning the introduction of a demand/supply management scheme into the egg industry are currently the subject of discussions between the Commonwealth and all States. It is not yet possible to nominate a specific date for the introduction of the scheme, but I hope that the scheme will be in full operation by the middle of next year."

COMMONWEALTH FUNDS FOR AGE-PENSIONER DWELLINGS

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

(1) What allocation of funds has been made available to Queensland for aged-pensioner dwellings?

(2) What proportion of the finance made available by the Commonwealth Government has been utilised since the Act came into force?

Answers:—

(1) "Commonwealth allocation \$3,350,000; State allocation \$1,800,000."

(2) "In respect of the Commonwealth allocation, projects costing \$1,605,770 have been submitted by Queensland to, and approved by, the Commonwealth. Building contracts have been let for all these projects and cash payments of \$966,747 have been received."

TRAFFIC APPRECIATION SQUAD RECOMMENDATIONS, GYMPIE ROAD INTERSECTION, STRATHPINE

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

With reference to his Answer to my Question on September 21 regarding the fatal accident of a seventeen-year-old

motor-cyclist at Gympie Road, Strathpine, have the investigations by the Traffic Appreciation Squad now been finalised and, if so, what were the findings and recommendations?

Answer:—

"Investigations into the accident have not been finalised."

LEASING OF CROWN LAND, DAINTREE RIVER AREA

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

(1) What areas of land adjacent to the mouth of the Daintree River are controlled by his Department?

(2) Has any land in this vicinity been leased, or considered for lease or other development, to the C.S.R. Company or other company or person for purposes associated with primary production? If so, what area is involved?

(3) Before any leases in this or other areas involving reclamation are considered, what studies are carried out on the possible effect on the ecology?

(4) What estimate is given of the value per acre of mangroves when considering their worth in the breeding of fish?

Answers:—

(1) "Adjoining the mouth of the Daintree River to the north is Town Reserve R.52 with an area of about 1,640 acres. To the south is Public Purposes Reserve R.54 of about 2,800 acres."

(2) "Following a ballot among 58 applicants, a Special Lease for 20 years from February 1, 1972 was granted to Vittorio Guiseppe Scomazzon over portion 348, parish of Whyanbeel, area 720 acres, adjoining the southern boundary of Reserve R.54, with conditions requiring the development of the area for grazing purposes."

(3) "All lease applications involving reclamation or other development are thoroughly examined from all aspects and the views of other interested Departments are sought."

(4) "This Question can only be answered in general terms, having regard to the Answer given in (3) above. Regard would be had to the value of the land for the purpose of the development envisaged. Whether such development would be permitted would depend on official investigation into the desirability of such development balanced against the advantage of retaining the land in its natural state."

MAGAZINE SALES BY GLOBAL READERS
SERVICES LTD.

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

(1) Is he aware that certain salesmen who claim that they are foreign students are travelling around this State selling subscriptions to various magazines on behalf of a firm known as Global Readers Services Ltd., P.O. Box 588, Darlinghurst, New South Wales and endeavouring to elicit the sympathy of people by stating that each sale represents points for a trip to Japan?

(2) Are people, who initially allowed their hearts to rule their heads, able to repudiate the order for the magazines and, if so, how would this be done with a firm registered interstate?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes. This matter was brought to my attention by the Honourable Member for Townsville South some months ago and advice has been sent to people concerned in Townsville as to the course of action they should take."

(2) "Magazines are goods within the meaning of *The Door to Door (Sales) Act of 1966* and if the whole of the subscription is not paid at the time when the agreement is made, the purchaser would be entitled to terminate the agreement by serving notice on the vendor in the manner provided in the *Door to Door (Sales) Act*."

SAFETY GLASS USED IN MOTOR VEHICLES

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

(1) What is the definition applied to safety glass as approved by Australian design rule No. 8 for motor vehicle safety?

(2) What type of safety glass, e.g. Triplex, armour plate or laminated, does the amendment to Queensland's Traffic Regulations define for vehicles manufactured on or after July 1, 1971?

(3) What type of safety glass is presently being used in (a) windscreens and (b) windows of new cars being retailed in Queensland?

(4) How are these provisions checked in each make and model of motor vehicles being sold in Queensland at this time?

Answers:—

(1) "Australian Design Rule No. 8, Definition of Safety Glass, is that of the Standards Association of Australia, namely Australian Standard RI-1968—Safety Glass for Land Transport. This defines safety glass as—'A glass which, if fractured, is less likely to cause severe cuts or serious physical injury than ordinary glass'."

(2) "The Traffic Regulations provide that all motor vehicles except motor cycles, manufactured on and after July 1, 1971, wherever in such vehicles glass is used for windscreens, windows or interior partitions, must be fitted with safety glass complying with the provisions of Australian Design Rule No. 8. All glass used bears the mark of the manufacturer which can be checked with the Register of Approved Marks held by the Registering Authorities."

(3) "I am advised that all new cars being retailed in Queensland at present are fitted with safety glass which complies with Australian Design Rule No. 8."

(4) "All motor vehicle manufacturers must apply to the Australian Motor Vehicle Certification Board for approval to affix a certification plate to vehicles manufactured by them indicating that they comply with the Australian Design Rules. The Board ensures that each manufacturer is using the glass which complies with the S.A.A. Standard and the Design Rule. As provided by the Traffic Regulations every motor vehicle manufactured after January 1, 1972, must be fitted with a compliance plate approved by the Board in a conspicuous position and the plate cannot be altered or removed without the prior approval of the Commissioner of Main Roads."

COMMONWEALTH RAILWAY AND ROAD
GRANTS

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

What financial grants has Queensland received from the Commonwealth in the past five years for (a) railway permanent-way improvement and/or rolling stock, (b) construction of new highways or for highway improvements or maintenance and (c) special grants to the Railway Department to offset interest on capital loans?

Answer:—

"This is a question which could more appropriately be directed to the Honourable the Treasurer."

APPOINTMENT OF PRINCIPAL, HAMILTON
HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL, SOUTHPORT

Mr. D'Arcy, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Education,—

Will he ensure that a principal be immediately appointed to the new high school at Hamilton Heights, Southport, so that the problems of opening a new high school in such a fast-growing area can be tackled at the academic level?

Answer:—

"It is not practicable to accede to this request since Parliament has not yet approved the Budget. In anticipation of

this, however, applications have been invited for the position of Principal, Keebra Park High School, Southport. They will be considered in the near future and an appointment will be made."

RELOCATION OF LOGANHOLME STATE SCHOOL

Mr. D'Arcy, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Works,—

When will work commence on the relocation of the Loganholme State School now that his Department has acquired the land for this purpose?

Answer:—

"No indication of date of commencement of work can be given at this stage. Completion of planning of this project is contingent on receipt of information, expected at an early date, from the local authority in relation to drainage works proposed in this area which vitally affect this Department's planning."

NON-PAYMENT OF SUB-CONTRACTORS BY HUB CONSTRUCTIONS, MOLENDINAR INDUSTRIAL ESTATE PROJECT

Mr. D'Arcy, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Development,—

(1) Is he aware that the firm Hub Constructions, which won his Department's contract to build the Sunshine Vinyl complex on the Molendinar Industrial Estate, Southport, has evidently been paid out to the extent of 90 per cent by his Department, is now bankrupt and has failed to pay the sub-contractors?

(2) What protection does his Department give to sub-contractors and their employees on State Government jobs?

(3) What does he plan to do about this case?

Answers:—

(1) "The position is generally as stated by the Honourable Member."

(2 and 3) "Progress payments during the course of the contract were only made to the Company on the receipt of declarations from the Contractor that all sub-contractors' claims had been paid at the respective dates concerned. For the Honourable Member's information I would add that the project was completed by the Department using existing sub-contractors as far as practicable."

NEW MAJOR POWER STATION, IPSWICH AREA

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to an article appearing in *The Queensland Times* of May 24, three days before the last State

General Election, headed "Huge Power Station for the Ipswich Area", in which it was reported that he had stated that a huge power station was programmed for construction in the Ipswich area?

(2) What progress has been made with respect to planning since he made this reported statement?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "I am aware of the Press item to which the Honourable Member refers. However the printed text of my speech released to the Press on that occasion did not faithfully record my remarks when speaking in support of Dr. Edwards and Alderman Whybird at several daytime street meetings in Ipswich during the election campaign. In fact I emphasised that the demand for power in the State required the construction of a new major generating station and this could well be located in the Ipswich area. My remarks were fortified by discussions I had with Ipswich coal mine owners who indicated they could compete with coal produced elsewhere in the State. I hope that the Honourable Member shares the optimism of the mining interests in this regard."

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The time allocated to questions has now expired.

Mr. R. JONES: I rise to a point of order. I would like your ruling, Mr. Speaker, on whether or not ministerial statements are included in the hour allocated to question time or whether question time commences after the tabling of papers and ministerial statements.

Mr. SPEAKER: Question time commences with the first question.

SUPPLY

COMMITTEE—FINANCIAL STATEMENT—RESUMPTION OF DEBATE

(The Acting Chairman of Committees, Mr. W. D. Hewitt, Chatsworth, in the chair)

Debate resumed from 10 October (see p. 885) on Sir Gordon Chalk's motion—

"That there be granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1972-73, a sum not exceeding \$62,748 to defray Salaries—His Excellency the Governor."

Mr. BALDWIN (Redlands) (12.8 p.m.): I rise to give what assistance I can in this debate on the Treasurer's Financial Statement. In judging the worth of this Budget, all honourable members should continually keep in their minds as a basic consideration the aim of any Budget. As has been illustrated in this Chamber on many occasions, honourable members hold widely different philosophies and opinions as to what a Budget should do. As a member of the Labor Party, which represents 78 per cent of

the wage and salary-earners, the small businessmen and the small farmers in this State, I have no doubt that the first aim of a Budget should be to bring health and happiness, security, and education to the people of Queensland. We must look at a Budget on the basis of those three areas of Government activity being *primus*. We should also look at the contributing areas of Government activity to see how far money raised and allocated from Consolidated Revenue and/or loan funds goes to achieve these aims, which should be those of any Budget brought down in a modern democratic society that claims Christian ethics as the basis of its philosophy. We should ask ourselves: Does this Budget achieve these aims? It is my contention that, on these criteria, the Budget answers the question very poorly indeed.

When the Treasurer, in introducing the Budget, called it an "achievement" Budget, he was, as usual, speaking the truth as a good representative of the Government and the small section of the people whose profit and prosperity he has in mind. He was speaking with a double tongue. He called it an "achievement" Budget based on the values so often expressed by him and other coalition party members, that is, that profit is the chief aim and purpose of our being here on earth. I could agree with him on that basis, but our leader, in his reply, said the Treasurer had presented a "budgerigar" Budget, and rightly so, because those chattering creatures are notorious for wasting the grain and wealth of the State.

My leader also sounded a note of warning to the public when he made the accusation that increased allocations in many departments are aimed more at creating the illusion that something is being done to solve the fast-growing problems of the working masses of this State than at really solving them.

The growing drink and drug menaces, the increasing number of road deaths, robberies, and rapes, and the problems associated with gambling, bashing, prostitution, V.D., and so on, indicate that this is a profit Budget, not a people's Budget. History proves that whenever profit has deserted the good of the people, society disintegrates under an avalanche of social and other diseases. Of course, that is what is happening here.

It is all very well to direct finance towards empire-building in State Public Service departments. The men in charge of them are not responsible to the people every three years, as are members of Parliament. If they are given a free leg through the ignorance, short-sightedness or sectional approach of Cabinet members, they have no alternative but to carry out the job as they have to in such circumstances. They cannot direct Ministers to allocate more money for this or that aspect of a given undertaking. They can move only within the framework set by a Cabinet that is notoriously and continuously admitting that

it has every right to feather its own nest and those of its friends, in preference to looking after the real long-term needs of the people of the State as a whole.

There is no need to remind honourable members on either side of the Chamber of the frequent, forthright statements Ministers have used to justify their part in diverting money from all avenues in the State towards profit avenues from which they themselves benefit as individuals. That is their philosophy; they really believe in it. Therein lies the danger. They do not look on it as wrong. But we on this side of the Chamber, with our philosophy based on the good of the people, assuming our responsibility as working people and having to do a job in conjunction with the rest of the people in the State, reject this poisonous, fragmenting philosophy. We say that it cannot continue for much longer, that this Government's days are numbered, till perhaps, we hope and believe, the end of this term.

Sir Gordon Chalk: Hallelujah!

Mr. BALDWIN: The Treasurer, of course, is notorious for that type of interjection, which is more mischievous than profitable. I hope he may prove me wrong when he replies. I know what he will do. I have been here long enough to know that, with all the paraphernalia of propaganda at his command, he will pass off anything that is said on this side of the Chamber as piffle and as having no meaning or basis.

Sir Gordon Chalk: That is what it usually is—piffle.

Mr. BALDWIN: The Treasurer has done that ever since I entered Parliament. Fortunately for the people of this State, he will not be doing it for much longer.

I did not have an opportunity to speak in the Address-in-Reply debate following His Excellency's Opening Speech, in which he outlined the Government's legislative programme, so I shall take this opportunity to make some comment on the effect that such proposals must have on the Budget. On behalf of the people of the new electorate of Redlands, I congratulate Sir Colin Hannah on his appointment to the high office of Governor and on his Opening Speech.

Sir Gordon Chalk: I thought you were going to do away with the office of Governor. Don't be a hypocrite.

Mr. BALDWIN: I am not a down-to-earth muck-raker like the Treasurer. I have previously said in this Chamber that, while the structure remains as it is, I will work within it. When I get the chance, I shall alter the structure. I have also said that the present structure is outmoded and unnecessary. It is part of our heritage of the days of the colonies, when men like the Treasurer were incapable of guiding the nation. That is why we still have a Governor. But a Labor Government, with the ability it has at its command, would not need the services of a

Governor. He will become redundant, just as the Treasurer has made many of our workers redundant.

I am proud to have been elected as the first member to represent Redlands. I assure those who had faith in me as a good Labor candidate that I shall work to their benefit and earn my pay by giving the best service I can give. I forgive the error of those wage and salary earners—owners, farmers, family businessmen, etc.—who were persuaded to vote against Labor by the tens of thousands of dollars worth of propaganda circulated in the Redlands electorate—it was even written in the skies—and I assure them that I shall work for them just as hard as I will for every other wage and salary earner or conscientious worker who voted in another way. I promise them value for the taxes they pay to finance the undertakings of this State. And we would like to have more than the Budget gives to the section of people Labor represents—78 per cent of the people of this State.

The first three pages of the Financial Statement place great emphasis on cost inflation caused by wage and salary increases. The Treasurer said this was his major concern or fear. In fact, on five occasions in those three pages he mentioned wage and salary increases and rises in costs. But nowhere at all in the Financial Statement is there mention of the escalating profit margins that are being taken out of Queensland by the southern and overseas companies in which he has very deep vested interests. To him personally, this is of course an "achievement" Budget.

In the folio of fears held by the Treasurer, rising wages and salaries have replaced drought as the main detractors from a satisfying situation. It is difficult to free the Treasurer of the accusation that he, together with all the other Liberal and Country Party leaders, fails to realise that he is caught in a snare of his own setting. It is the Treasurer's Government that appoints the arbitration commissioners, the judges, and the advisers. It is his Government that engages the economists and others who decide what the country can stand in wage and salary increases. What is missing, of course, is the piece of machinery that will retain more profit for more use, to the lasting benefit of the people of this State. By that, I mean restriction on all kinds of foreign and home investment, especially in speculative areas such as mining and land subdivision.

I agree with the Deputy Leader of the Opposition when he brands the Financial Statement as a short-term Budget, and makes the accusation that it can do nothing but accelerate the inflationary movement. In fact, it is a "bubble" Budget, blown up to contain the economy of the State for a short time longer. The piece of mechanism missing from the Government's store is investment cost control. How often do we hear mentioned in this Chamber, by men who are supposed to be the designers of

our destiny, the hackneyed and overworked phrases "cost of debt servicing" and "cost of repayment"? Yet this problem is being increased, with no escape from it, all the time. Missing from the Government's store is the machinery which, if put into operation, would hurt Government members in their notoriously large investments and speculation in minerals and land. They would have to answer to their masters if they implemented investment cost control.

The Treasurer accepts inflation. This is an inflation Budget, symptomatic of the whole disease that will bring the Government to its doom. It is illustrative of the philosophy of Mammon that guides Cabinet members in giving the State the illusion of wealth by spending more on glorifying their own departments, whilst most of them rake off the profits from their various private businesses.

In time, it boils down to a numbers game, as do the tottering politics of the coalition parties. If more money is spent on public security, health and education, the appearance given is that everything must be right. That is the philosophy of the Government—it costs a lot, therefore it must be good. Its judgment cannot be questioned; it could not stand if it was wrong.

I disagree strongly with the almost 100 per cent "money" approach that the Government has to the problems of the State. Despite the amount of money spent on all types of public security, departmental reports and Commonwealth and State statistics show that violent crime is on the increase. Incidentally, I hope that the annual reports for 1971-72 will be available before the Budget debate finishes. I do not believe that their non-availability before the conclusion of previous Budget debates has been accidental. The Government has taught me to think this way. The fact is that the wrecking of human beings by hard and soft drugs, as well as alcohol, is advancing in a way that makes good fathers and mothers in this State tremble with fear for the future of their families.

Mr. Frawley: What rubbish!

Mr. BALDWIN: The honourable member for Murrumba lives in a fool's paradise. Let him read the newspapers published over the past few days. Nearly a quarter of the news in the Press deals with matters of this nature. Let him look at the appropriate figures, too. The honourable member would do better to consult all the figures that are available, not just the ones he wants to see.

The questions that I and other members on this side of the Chamber have asked over the last few months give ample proof of our concern over this matter, and our hope that the Government will give the direction, and that the Budget will provide the means, to halt the processes of fragmentation of family and society that are advancing

in our nation. I say that even if the Budget allocations were twice as large as they are, as long as they are oriented to profit as the main motive, all our problems will be twice as difficult. The history of the last decade and a half, which the Treasurer has presented as a period in which the Government has led Queensland from the dark ages, shows a State bowed down by an incubus of debt on workers, families, farmers, businessmen, and local authorities.

The State Public Debt has increased by almost 6 per cent in one year and now weighs down every man, woman and child in Queensland to the extent of almost \$700 a head. The cost of servicing the debt is almost \$35 a head per annum, or more than 60c for each man, woman and child in the community. If anyone boils these figures down and adds to them the total local authority debt and the Commonwealth debt, he finds that of the average income of wage earners, based on the figures given in the 1970 Queensland Year Book, \$7.30 goes towards servicing all forms of public debt before he buys anything for himself. The situation is becoming unbearable. It is almost enough to make one hark back to the dire forecast in the Old Testament "They shall be burdened down with taxes and debts", when one knows that the end is near.

Mr. Houghton interjected.

Mr. BALDWIN: The honourable member for Redcliffe took his plate round long ago, and everyone knows that he is now sitting pretty in Redcliffe, in his profitable undertaking. I take my plate round for the people, not for myself.

Honourable Members interjected.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. BALDWIN: Soon it will pay the ordinary person in this State not to own anything but what he stands up in, so that he will not be vulnerable to the miscarriages of law that are taking place at an ever-increasing rate.

Mr. Houghton interjected.

Mr. BALDWIN: It is happening in America, and I invite the honourable member who is interjecting continually to pursue further these avenues of analysis to which, obviously, he has not yet been introduced. If he does, he will find that my comments are not mere figments of Labor Party philosophy but are based on records and figures compiled by Government departments. As I said earlier, things of this sort are happening in America and in other States that precede us on the path to fragmentation. People will own nothing but what they stand up in. Women cannot walk on the street without being raped, and no-one lifts a hand to help them for fear of being sliced to pieces.

Let us look, Mr. Hewitt, at the figures given by the Treasurer. He said that the average male wage had increased by 10.8 per cent in one year. However, he did not tell the Committee the percentage rise in average income per head, which is a far better guide. My own calculations, using figures that I found scattered through the books that I mentioned earlier, show that the real increase is not 10.8 per cent but between 6 and 7 per cent, and that is borne out by recent Press publications on the subject.

Further, when the Treasurer said on page 1 of the Financial Statement that "prices have risen at only a little more than half this rate"—a little more than 5.4 per cent—he did not say what prices. If his remarks are confined to food, clothing, electrical goods and motor-cars only, they are almost "spot on"; but if he includes rentals, the cost of housing generally, health services, and education, the figure would be just over 7 per cent, which is almost equal to the rise in the total indebtedness year by year, less export profit increase.

Of course, in a capitalist economy that is dominated by overseas financial interests, that is a much more believable figure. In fact, in the nature of monopolistic-capitalistic enterprises such as those with which we have to work, it is a very necessary figure—that is, if the country is not to go into bankruptcy. While we work within this framework, we have to try to achieve that equilibrium of figures; but that does not mean, as the Treasurer has said, that because I accept the reality of the situation, I believe in it. I do not believe in this system. It is out-moded, and it is hanging on only at grave cost to the people of this country. I hope that during the Estimates debate I will have an opportunity to refer to more of these figures.

Other figures put forward by the Treasurer give much food for thought, and some of those will be referred to by me and other honourable members on this side. For the moment I should like to look at some in respect of departments whose Estimates will not be debated this year. At this juncture I hark back to my speech during the Budget debate last year. Many agreed with me when I stated that all departmental Estimates should be debated annually. I said that we should be allowed more than an hour in this debate. When I sat down before my hour had expired, the first to pick me up, as sharp as a needle, was the Treasurer. He suggested that I could not use the hour. What he did not realise was that honourable members on this side sacrifice a little of their time to give others a chance to take part in the debate. After we heard member after member on the Government side playing the same record over and over again, we decided that we would not do that again. It will be different this year: we will speak for our full hour if we want to.

Mr. Houghton: You want a new needle.

Mr. BALDWIN: The honourable member had better put something on record in his own interests.

We know that honourable members are due for an almost 9.6 per cent increase in salaries, but the over-all increased cost to run the Legislative Assembly appears to be nearer 17 per cent on the Treasurer's figures. Whether or not we have done as well as the workers, who he says have received an increase of 10.8 per cent, depends on his juggling of figures. The important thing is the consideration of what that extra 17 per cent is going to be spent on. Is it going to be spent on extra staff for assistance to members? We hope so. If more staff are appointed, where will they be accommodated? I am casting no reflection on Mr. Speaker; I know he is doing as much as he can about this pressing problem. What about the important matter of service to our electorates? This affects most of us on this side more than it does honourable members opposite who have other sources of income. Salary rises and conditions of work are of major concern to Opposition members.

I refer honourable members to the very first speech I made in this Chamber in 1969, when I stated openly my amazement at the lack of working facilities for members to service their electorates. Those sentiments have been echoed by new members on this side recently. I and other members who came from unions realise the vast disparity between the facilities available to members and those available to officers of unions. I could go so far as to say that there is a great disparity between the facilities provided by the owner of a two-truck transport company for himself and his staff and those provided for members. With his two-way radio, office accommodation and everything else, he would leave us for dead.

Sir Gordon Chalk: You could use a two-way radio.

Mr. BALDWIN: If I get one while the Treasurer is here, it will be out of my own pocket.

Mr. R. E. Moore: Why not?

Mr. BALDWIN: The honourable member would not know.

Previously, if I wanted 10,000 circulars to be sent to members of my union, they would be on my desk the next morning ready to be posted. If I want 10,000 circulars here, I do them myself.

Sir Gordon Chalk interjected.

Mr. BALDWIN: The answer to the Treasurer lies in the votes and the support I received, which brought his Government quivering to its knees before the Industrial Commission. My members knew very well what service they got from me. If I had stood again for election as President of the Queensland Teachers' Union, instead of

having an absolute majority of 30 per cent or 40 per cent, I would have obtained 60 per cent or 70 per cent.

Government Members interjected.

Mr. BALDWIN: I agree: "Red Ted for Redlands", and Redlands knows it.

In that earlier speech I said that it was my ambition to equip myself to service my electorate, and at great cost to my own bank account I have done so. I have better equipment in my office at home than I have in this House.

Mr. Frawley: Give us a look at it.

Mr. BALDWIN: The honourable member would not know. I will give him a word picture if his brain can follow it. I have an electric typewriter, a wet and dry copier, an electric duplicator, a filing system and an electronic stencil cutter, and I paid for them all out of my own pocket.

Mr. Frawley interjected.

Mr. BALDWIN: I challenge the honourable member to table his bank book tomorrow morning and I will put mine beside it. From mine he will see that in the three years I have been in this superseded, outdated place I have spent \$3,200 out of my life's savings to service my electors because this Government specialises in making the Opposition ineffectual. That underlies the whole situation, and the Government goes about it calmly and deliberately. That is why I am prepared to spend \$3,200. And I will spend another \$3,000 if I have to, because I will not let a lot of time-constricted individuals like honourable members opposite denigrate democracy to prove their personal points, nor will anyone else on this side let them beat us.

It is very little use spending an hour or two driving through traffic to this House when I can dictate into a cassette and send 12 letters to a typist paid at 25c a sheet. For the honourable member's information, last year I spent \$276 on an outside typist's payments alone, not to mention a double issue of cassettes. I need one for the typist and one for myself. That is another \$200 or \$300.

Mr. R. E. Moore: You are not forced to do it.

Mr. BALDWIN: I do this because I want to. This is my answer to the honourable member's challenge. I should have passed it by because I think I have wasted my time on him, anyway.

In this particular part of the debate, when I am trying to expose what goes on in this Parliament and analyse the real meaning behind the Estimates for the Premier's Department, it is relevant to say that the electoral redistribution was also done to render ineffectual the efforts of Opposition members. The electors in certain sections of Redlands electorate are virtually denied

access to their representative—they spend hours each day travelling to work—unless I set up some kind of communication centre handy to them. For me it would be financially impossible to rent an office in each of the five large centres in my electorate. Anyone who reads the “Redland Times” or the Wynnum and Redlands “Herald” will know that between now and the end of the year I will be setting up an umbrella office on the footpath in each of the various centres. Of course, this is only a forerunner to my next step, when I can afford it, of buying an office-mobile which I can put in any centre and thus beat the Government on any fantastic redistribution it cares to think up.

Mr. R. E. Moore: You couldn't knock a maggot off a chop.

Mr. BALDWIN: The honourable member fell pretty heavily on the floor, I noticed.

This Government, by restricting the rights of Opposition members, thereby denigrates the totality of Parliament, and one of its prime desires is to deny us time to study legislation. In this Chamber members spend up to 70 per cent of their time patching up the loopholes in faulty legislation—legislation that is faulty in that it is either outdated, incomplete, wrongly directed or perhaps even maladministered and executed. A large proportion of our time is spent, quite necessarily, in maintaining social and personal contact with our electors, but the least proportion of our time is spent on the most important aspect of a parliamentarian's duties, that is, the study of legislation. Last year in the final two days of the parliamentary session this House debated 23 Bills on the Business Sheet. The Government adopts these tactics purposely to negate effective opposition. In doing so it negates the whole concept of democratic parliamentary functions. To put it briefly, the Government negates democracy.

To some extent the provision of better facilities in Parliament House is a matter for the Department of Works. Although that department's Estimates will not be debated this year, I shall take this opportunity to comment, firstly, on the proposal to erect a new Parliament House and provide better facilities than those existing at present. The Government has said that approximately \$7,000,000 will be spent on the new building. However, there is a tag to it, namely, the installation of a bomb-proof shelter.

A Government Member: What rot!

Mr. BALDWIN: The honourable member does not read the newspapers. The provision of such a shelter was widely reported in the Press and confirmed by the Premier. The honourable member should open his eyes and close his mouth. It is necessary to point out that there seems to be no provision in the Estimates of the Department of Works for a new building, let alone the shelter.

Several aspects of the rumours that are circulating as to the provision of the shelter concern me. The most important is the devastating defeatism illustrated by such a proposal. Since August 1945, when the holocausts occurred at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Australia has wasted an estimated two American-billion dollars on the assumption that an atomic war is inevitable. This assumption is bad enough when built into a super-profit, super-waste defence junta, but I am appalled by the extent of the Government's hypocrisy and ego as seen in its proposal to embody this purposeless, idiotic and inbuilt expensive exclusiveness into public buildings.

I have been telephoned by scores of sensible electors in various moods of disbelief, rage and derision. Almost as many have rung me as contacted me about the Government's mad voting system. To cap it all, each person who called on me is more worthy of survival in the remote possibility of an atomic war than any of those who suggested the construction of the bomb shelter. Government members wail mournfully about an average wage increase of 6 per cent, but at the same time they extol the virtues of their own useless survival. They reveal their utter greed and selfishness, not to mention their total lack of appreciation or imagination of the conditions that would follow an atomic war.

If, following the annihilation of almost 90 per cent of the population in an atomic war, any members of the community are necessary, they are certainly not the politicians, particularly those who put forward the suggestion to provide such a shelter. If atomic shelters should be provided anywhere, they should be constructed under the homes of mothers with children, under the factories, under the farmhouses and under the hospitals. The mothers, the workers, the doctors, chemists and nurses—not the politicians—are the people who would be most valuable in the aftermath of an atomic war.

I totally reject, as does every sane-thinking, peace-loving man, the inevitability of an atomic war, and I will oppose any proposal to provide bomb-proof shelters, which will do nothing more than add billions of dollars to the cost structure of buildings.

Speaking of building, I call to mind the building of schools, on which I should like to raise a couple of points of interest. I was highly entertained and stimulated by the beautiful colour film that the Minister for Works and Housing was kind enough to invite me to view on Thursday last. There is no doubt that this film, entitled “Building for Education”, of about an hour's duration, is an outstanding technical success. It is a credit to the film unit that compiled it. It even presents the emotional side of the necessity to educate the deaf, the blind and the not-so-bright. The New Farm Spastic School did not figure in it, but no doubt time was a controlling factor. It is so well presented that unless he had some inside knowledge,

no-one would ever guess that it represented only about 3 per cent of our primary schools, 2 per cent of our secondary schools and none of our kindergartens. Although the standard it depicted is nice to aim at, in brief, it is a stupendous piece of expensive propaganda. I should say that it would have cost at least \$5,000 to prepare.

A Government Member interjected.

Mr. BALDWIN: I think it is excellent, and I intend to apply for a copy of it although I do not think I will get one. If I do, I will show it to the people of Cleveland in the 75-year-old Cleveland Primary School building. They will love it. At the present rate of construction, we should have 70 per cent of our school population in such schools at the end of another 50 years. At the moment, more than 70 per cent of our children are accommodated in outdated primary and secondary schools.

My second response to the film was one of nostalgia. I became nostalgic about the little dog-boxes and dungeons of the 1950's and 1960's, none of which appeared in the film. Perhaps that is where it was weakest—it lacked contrast. The modular trolleys, the trapezoidal desks, the tubular metal chairs, with audio-visual equipment and other types of equipment within arm's reach, carried me back to the display classroom that was constructed and carted all around the State for some weeks, at the expense of the Queensland Teachers' Union.

That project cost approximately \$24,000. The classroom contained the same layout, design, furniture and equipment as those now being built into our schools. That is excellent, but I only hope that their construction can be hastened. It is interesting to note that, at that time, the union's display classroom and its furniture were scoffed at and rejected as being expensive, airy-fairy dreams of a bunch of mad radicals at the head of a once docile union gone berserk.

The pigeon-holes of Government departments are large and long-lasting. After rejecting our ideas, the Government sent the Minister and his retinue on a \$30,000 world cruise to come back with the same ideas, as well as others that he dare not put into practice at the moment. The Queensland Teachers' Union would have been delighted to give all the plans and specifications to the Government and save the taxpayers the difference in cost.

Till May, 1969, when I left the Queensland Teachers' Union to stand for Logan in the general election, it is my conservative estimate that the total cost of the union's publicity campaign would have been about \$50,000. It centred on five main points. I will give them in order of priority as established at 34 different meetings in 1968, attended by almost 2,000 members. These meetings were held over an area that extended from Coolangatta to Cairns on the coast, and west to Charleville. This was the order,

according to the votes given, of the five problems confronting the members: teacher recruitment, first; in-service training, second; establishment of an Education Commission, third; teachers' on-the-job conditions—that is, buildings, furnishings and equipment—fourth; and salary increases a bad fifth. The same result could not be gained today unless the order was almost reversed. I narrated this matter to direct attention to the wages wall commenced in solo by the Treasurer and continued in monotonous chorus by his well-trained retinue.

To beat the Queensland Teachers' Union campaign on the first issue, the Government recruited madly. It inducted persons who were not only academically unsuited to be teachers but were also personally and temperamentally unsuited. As president of the union, I received many complaints from both the Director of Primary Education and the Director of Secondary Education. The classic complaint concerned this group of unselected persons who were brought in to stand before classes. Some of them, prior to transfer, had farewell barbecues in the yard. If it rained, some of them brought the barbecues upstairs and burnt holes in both the floor and the ceiling. And the department had the cheek to run to the union asking what disciplinary action it would take against these people. I said, "None. Not until you give us the right to select and recruit them will we discipline them. It is you who are responsible for having such people in the service."

I could tell even worse stories than that, but I have not the time. I am illustrating the point that to beat the union, the Government introduced a new kind of person into the service and now, through the Press, the Treasurer wails about wage increases, complains that the teachers are not doing their job, and complains about their holidays and so on.

Mr. HINZE: Who said that?

Mr. BALDWIN: The honourable member should read the newspapers. There was an article on this point only the other day.

In addition, I have received many complaints from parents and their associations over the phone. I have told them that, if they feel there is any justification in their complaints, they should take them to the Government, which is responsible for having that kind of teacher.

I say quite conscientiously that the teaching profession has a higher percentage of misfits than any other calling with which I have been associated. This is the fault, not of the individuals themselves, but of the Government, which does not have a proper method of selection.

Education is the most important process of democracy. It is the process which ensures our continuity as a nation, as a society, and even as a race. Yet the Government scratches the bottom of the old oak

chest and decides that somebody who earns 16 points in the Senior Examination and does not have to pass any other test is a fit and proper person to stand in front of a class.

I direct the attention of derisive Government members to the 1950-onwards Carnegie Institute survey of thousands of teachers on these very matters. I do not intend to be the research officer for those honourable members, but I point out that that survey disclosed that three main concerns were baulking the employment of suitable teachers. The prime concern was economics, that is, the better the person, the better the job he could command, and he could not find it in teaching.

Mr. Lane: Are you the Opposition spokesman on education?

Mr. BALDWIN: I am speaking on a very important aspect of State expenditure which the Treasurer dealt with in the Financial Statement. He rightly said, half a dozen times, that education heads the list of State expenditure, but in the next breath he wailed about wage increases. What can I do? I have to answer this charge. I have to put it back in the laps of those people who created the problem. That is what I am doing, and that is what any thinking member would expect me to do. Since I was 17 I have had experience in unions, including the Queensland Teachers' Union, and I can look at the problem from the inside, which is more than the Treasurer can do.

Any person who thinks that teaching is an easy job is grossly mistaken. Anyone who looks only at teachers' salaries and holidays is holding up a golden tapestry of no real material value. I would say that it takes more to be a successful teacher than it takes to be a success in any other calling, the one possible exception to that statement being nursing.

Good teachers are 90 per cent born. The old saying that you cannot make a silk purse out of a sow's ear is more applicable to teaching than to any other calling that I know of. Many enter teaching, but if, after two or three years at college and two or three years of compulsory service—a total of four to six years after the age of 17—they find as young adults that they are unsuited to it, they are trapped. They find that they have to serve out a life sentence because they cannot do anything else that would provide the same security or salary.

Another thing that is adding to the burden of costs, as well as the burden borne by teachers, is the over-hasty implementation of the recommendations of the Radford Report. I draw to the attention of the Committee the report in this morning's "Courier-Mail" of an address delivered by Dr. Rupert Goodman at the Speech Night of the Mt. Gravatt High School. I know that this matter will be well covered by the shadow Minister for Education; I merely point to it as the most recent evidence corroborating what I have said in the Chamber today.

My main reason for making an excursion into these realms was to prove, as I said at the outset, that money alone does not solve problems. There must be, in addition, an understanding, and a good Christian philosophy beneficial to the whole of the State, before anything can be achieved by the Government. This is the thing that is most lacking in Government policy in this State.

I have said all of that before, and I do not wish to go over it again. All that I shall say is that my accusations have been borne out by the increasing number of problems that the Government brings to the House day after day, year after year. They are ever on the increase. No real effort has been made by the Government to prevent the causes; all it tries to do is cure the symptoms. All that it proposes are bigger and better prisons; a larger Police Force; larger hospitals, bigger and better V.D. clinics; bigger and better lashes and canes for teachers. These things do not provide the answer to the problems facing the Government. Time and time again, history has shown that the mere imposition of heavier penalties does not solve any problem; it merely suppresses it. At the next crisis, it bursts out again.

When amendments to some of the Acts dealing with education were brought down at the end of 1970, and again at the end of 1971, I said they were fragmentary in their whole approach, and that their main purpose was to break down the strength of the teachers and the State system of education. Just as out of the conflict that I outlined previously non-State areas of education benefited far more than did the children at State schools and their parents, so out of the latest incursion into the development of education will come further fragmentation of the State system and a reduction in standards from year to year.

Recent articles in "The Australian" and other dailies bear out these points. The way in which the Federal Government entered the field of education, especially in the key years of 1965, 1968 and 1971, presents a further threat of fragmentation to the State system. I sum up the position by saying that it is paid, stimulated, and encouraged fragmentation.

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

Mr. BALDWIN: Before the break for lunch, I was making a plea, so as to avoid great and costly waste, for more humanity on the part of Government departments when selecting teachers. In rounding off on that point, I make a plea not only for better selection on the most modern terms that are available in other countries but also for abolition of the bond that condemns teachers at present, and for a trial period, to conclude, perhaps, in the first semester.

The pre-school policies of the Government are by no means new. I should like to refer the Committee to the fact that in

1958, when I was first president and later secretary of a union branch, I suggested the provision of pre-school education facilities in conjunction with every primary school. The matter has been pigeon-holed ever since. Pre-school education should have been started years ago. It is a move in the right direction, but it is not enough. It is another instance of too little, too late.

Before leaving the field of education, I must mention one other important matter that has frequently come before this Chamber. Again it is related to the terrible misapprehension about the true role of teachers in education that has carried the field of education into such confusion during the last decade under Country-Liberal Governments. I refer to the role of the university.

I do not intend to waste time telling honourable members what the role of the university is. I simply refer them to a speech by Dr. Zelman Cowen, which was published in the Press last year when the university conflict occurred. It set the position out very well. It is rather appalling to hear honourable members in this Chamber talk about intellectual scum, and so on, and then have that rub off onto what should be the most important centre for the collection, dissemination and diffusing of knowledge that will enable society to survive; to hear them criticise so unthinkingly, without attempting to lay the blame in the proper place.

Again it is a matter of selection. The Government has the power. It makes no selection; it has no consciousness of the role of selecting. If the men selected are such as honourable members opposite have described, it is the Government's fault, and it amounts to a waste of the taxpayers' money. That is the main concern that I have this afternoon—indeed, it should be the main concern of all honourable members, when the Budget is under discussion.

The boards that the Government is setting up to create bulwarks against public criticism of Government policies are a further waste of money. The Government has rejected entirely the idea of an Education Commission, so it can only go on to further confusion and, finally, its doom.

What I have said in principle about education can be said about the seven departments that I have examined in the estimates so far. I chose education because, as honourable members know, it is the field with which I was most closely connected and I know it backwards. I shall say much the same about the Departments of Health, Works, Police, Main Roads, and the one on which I am embarking now, Local Government and Electricity. The Estimates for this department will come before the Committee later in the session, so I do not intend at this stage to go into detail but only to mention some general ideas.

The Consolidated Revenue account shows about \$3,000,000 for the whole of this department. This is approximately 11 per cent more than was expended and 16 per cent more than was allocated last year. The overspending is significant. The greatest percentage increase goes to the Department of the Valuer-General, which is understandable.

With a total of \$22,000,000 to be spent, that leaves \$19,000,000, most of which will come from loan funds of various kinds, and it is obvious that this will go to the reticulation of electric power. Again, no doubt, most of it will assist to promote the enterprises of overseas industrialists. In any case, the proportion of the \$19,000,000 that goes to local authorities will be by way of loan at high rates of interest, and it is nothing to skite about in a Budget; it is no gift.

The total loan borrowings by local authorities this financial year will exceed \$60,000,000. The figure is rising higher and higher in proportion to rateable income. This point was mentioned by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition when he spoke about local authorities. The total indebtedness is now close to \$400,000,000. The figures are available in the Statistical Summary, Queensland Local Authority Areas, of 30 September 1971. As I said before, I have not seen the latest Year Book.

That was the main theme and concern of the Local Government Association conference at Rockhampton last month. The most significant thing about that conference was that it indicated that local government was disenchanted with the State Government because of the disgraceful treatment meted out to it, even though the Government depends chiefly on it for its political support.

The conference passed a motion that finance for local government would be given publicity in the coming Federal election campaign. That motion took the association out of the much-vaunted field of non-party politics and placed it fairly and squarely in the area where I believe it rightly belongs. I have no quarrel with that body for taking this matter into the party-political field at election time. I say, "Good luck to them. The Government has let them down." At the same time, the death-knell of State Governments is being sounded. Honourable members opposite do not see that; but it is a fact, and the sooner it comes on an organised basis, the better.

Mr. Lane: Do you want State Governments abandoned?

Mr. BALDWIN: The honourable member can put whatever interpretation he likes on my remarks. I made my stand on this matter clear long before he entered Parliament.

Government Members interjected.

Mr. BALDWIN: I will be dealing with this matter during the debate on the Estimates, so I ask honourable members opposite to save their interjections until then.

The Estimates of the Department of Harbours and Marine will not be debated this year. On previous occasions when they have been debated, I have criticised the Government for its complete rejection of a scheme that would place the whole of south-eastern Queensland and northern New South Wales on a much more economic and viable basis. Transport costs are now something like 13.3 per cent of the total cost of any product.

(Time expired.)

Mr. KAUS (Mansfield) (2.23 p.m.): It is indeed a pleasure to congratulate the Treasurer on the wonderful Budget he has produced for Queensland.

In my contribution to this debate I should like to refer particularly to education, housing and the new Department of Sport. It is very pleasing to see the Budget provision for additional staff in primary and secondary schools. I welcome this allocation because the Mansfield electorate has some problems in that regard. I am very pleased also about the extra allowances for janitors and clerk-typists. On the approaches to the department, no doubt these people will be placed in the right places according to the priorities.

The library grant and the provision for pre-school facilities are also very welcome. I am very gratified that Mansfield has been selected for one of the pilot schemes.

It is very pleasing to see also that new additions are to be made to the Macgregor Primary School. Much work is needed there and I appreciate the fact that the department is already doing some of it. I hope that in the very near future the scheme for this primary school will be completed. It is a magnificent school and the teachers and headmaster are doing a fantastic job. I also appreciate the fact that the Macgregor High School will be getting badly needed additions.

Mr. Lee: How much money is being spent there?

Mr. KAUS: I think about \$360,000 is being spent on new classrooms. In the coming year, 1972-73, about 1,600 to 1,700 students will be attending this college.

I should like to see in the near future—in next year's Budget or the Budget for 1973-74—provision for a new high school in Broadwater Road. I will be pushing for this. The land has already been acquired. Within a square mile four of the primary schools have over 1,000 students. As I said before 1,600 students attend the Macgregor High so it is obvious that within a couple of years, there will be a great need for a new high school in the area. I will not enlarge any further on the education section of the Budget because the debate on

the Estimates of that department, which will be coming on later, will give me an opportunity to do so.

I pass now to the main subject I wish to discuss today, the Department of Sport which the Government is establishing at the present time. In his Financial Statement the Treasurer said—

"In addition to the administrative requirement, a special provision of \$250,000 has been set aside in this Budget for financial assistance for sport. The purpose of grants will be to encourage initiative and reward merit within the sport itself in areas where a financial need has been clearly demonstrated."

I should like to offer a few suggestions on what I think should be the role of this department. Today we see and hear a great deal about juvenile delinquency, the permissive society and the problems many parents face in raising their children. It is apparent that much needs to be done and should be done, if not to remove entirely the causes of problems among our young people, to at least alleviate them. I believe that sport can assist greatly in controlling the spread and eventually minimising the incidence of anti-social behaviour amongst our junior citizens.

The importance of the home in the training of youth is indisputable, and I believe that we clearly need to make parents aware of the vital part they play in setting their children on the right path. Of course, it is essential to have a happy balance in both home discipline and parent responsibility. There is evidence that many parents show a deplorable lack of concern for their responsibilities, particularly that of exercising constant and vigilant supervision over their children's activities. This neglect seems to arise from the widespread modern tendency to rely upon the State or that vague abstraction "society" to perform duties and undertake responsibilities that were formerly regarded as being within the province of the individual man or woman. Whilst the churches, schools, clubs and youth organisations have a contribution to make to the proper development of our young citizens, there is no substitute for home training and discipline and the habits of obedience as well as the good conduct that they inculcate.

We must try to reawaken in many parents a sense of responsibility. Many young parents lack the knowledge and training, and, in some instances, the will, to enable them to adequately perform their duties as parents. A great deal of evidence could be produced to suggest that our moral standards are being eroded slowly but surely, so I believe it is incumbent upon members of Parliament to do everything within our power to ensure that this trend does not become dominant in our society. For this reason alone I was particularly happy to read the Treasurer's comments on the subject of sport and the provision of \$250,000 to assist sport.

If anything is to act as a bulwark against the erosion of moral standards and the increasing problems that arise among our young folk, it is sport. Anyone who speaks to persons involved will find among them a common feature, either discipline or, alternatively, a lack of discipline. At the present time a concerted effort is being made by a minority to break down our laws even though it is clear to everyone that over the years all of the lasting and beneficial standards of society have been founded on discipline.

I have already referred to the permissive society. The phrase can be summed up to mean the breaking-down of conventions that has been going on in one area or another from the beginning of the 20th Century. The most immediate recognisable influence in the elevation of the permissive society is the spread of contraception, the undermining by science of the orthodox religion, and the social upheaval of war. The present concept of the permissive society is the climax of this phase of our social history.

With one possible exception, that is, national service, I know of no better method of teaching young people discipline than participation in sport. It teaches them to take a bump, to recognise and to participate under authority, and to come back from adversity. These qualities must be developed in all of us, and the lack of them is the reason why many of our young problem children find themselves in trouble today. For these reasons I believe that the establishment of the Department of Sport is one of the most progressive steps taken by this Government in recent times. It is appropriate that this department should be linked in the first instance with the portfolio of welfare services, because, for the reasons I have outlined, the two are very closely tied.

As one who played sport for many years, and who still mixes with sportsmen almost daily, I have a few observations to make about this new step in the sporting sphere. I sincerely hope that the scope of activities of this department will extend far beyond the making of grants to various sporting bodies. In other words, I hope that the Director of Sport has not been appointed on a very high salary merely to hand out cheques. In the years to come this financial assistance will prove to be a great boon to sport, but there are numerous other ways in which sporting organisations can be assisted.

Mr. Jensen: What about country sport? Assistance should not be given only to sport in the metropolitan area.

Mr. KAUS: I am sure that the assistance will be given throughout the State. When I was a State selector for Queensland, I covered most of the State. I was the only selector to go farther north than Rockhampton, a town that I visited frequently. I also visited Mackay and towns out West to look at the country Colts. Incidentally, they are

now in Brisbane playing the metropolitan Colts. Country areas got a fair "go" when I was a selector.

When guide-lines for the types of activity to be assisted have been established, the initial step should be to rationalise the activities of the new department and those of the National Fitness Council. The Treasurer indicated that some of the new grants will be available for coaching. That is an area in which the National Fitness Council is doing a great deal. A recent Press report indicated that the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Welfare Services made donations to certain sporting bodies to aid coaching activities.

There is a crying need for assistance for the expansion of sport in schools. In some of our secondary schools it is almost non-existent because of lack of facilities and teacher interest. Years ago it was commonplace for teachers to remain after normal school hours to coach boys and girls in sport, or to supervise extra practice sessions. Due to many factors, including increased pressures and responsibilities placed on teachers, the situation has changed markedly. Only today, I read in "The Courier-Mail" this comment made last night by a Queensland University educationist, Dr. Rupert Goodman—

"We have created a generation of sports watchers and bird watchers.

The Australian image of the lean bronze Anzac, the tough physical outdoor type is no more."

Although I do not agree with his remarks, I appreciate his point, because I realise that our Queensland cricketers are being let down at secondary schools. The teams from our primary schools that go South beat all the interstate boys. In 14 years of interstate games they have won 11 times. But when they go to secondary schools they are confronted with a lack of interest in certain sports—and, unfortunately, cricket is one of them. I therefore feel that some of the new financial assistance should be handed out to sporting bodies—for facilities and coaches so that secondary school children in particular may be given greater sporting opportunity.

I stress this point because it is vital in any consideration of the delinquent problem I mentioned earlier. In this day and age, sporting organisations are fighting an uphill battle against the attractions of the motor-car and beaches. One reason is that children are not being given a chance to become completely involved in a sport while at school. In many instances they are given only a minor taste of sport not only at school but also at week-ends, with the result that they follow other pursuits after leaving school.

Another point is the lack of playing facilities in many of the newer suburbs, including those in my electorate. This problem must be tackled quickly, before it is too late.

Mr. Sherrington: Sport is not the complete answer.

Mr. KAUS: It helps tremendously. The honourable member should come out to Mansfield and see how poorly it has been treated in playing areas as a result of bad city planning and development. This also applies in the electorate of Albert. Where is the honourable member for Albert, and what is he doing about it?

Mr. Sherrington: You have only been in Mansfield for a few days.

Mr. KAUS: I know Mansfield; the honourable member does not need to worry about that.

I should like to see early planning of a huge sporting complex to cater for all Olympic sports. Many of the minor and truly amateur sports are battling to obtain facilities that will enable competitors to reach the standards attained by sportsmen in other countries. I refer to athletics, judo, wrestling, boxing, fencing, gymnastics, basketball, softball, and many more. It is not beyond the capacity of the State to provide such a complex. It could be a venture undertaken jointly by the Government and sporting organisations. It would solve the problems facing many of these bodies today. It would also be an advantage in any future application to hold the Empire Games or the Olympic Games in Brisbane.

The new Director of Sport could initiate discussions on matters such as a boxing commission in this State. Because of the grants that have been foreshadowed, it is important that the Government should be able to see the results of its financial outlay. Every application or proposal must be carefully examined to ensure that money is not wasted. I could mention one or two points in this regard, but I will not do so at this stage. It would appear that some form of inspection might be necessary, as applications will come from all over the State. I cannot envisage the new inspector having to travel to these areas to inspect plans and proposals. Perhaps it might be possible for country officers of the National Fitness Organisation to undertake this task. They are on the job in their areas and could take care of that side.

Applications should be considered on the basis of the number of participants rather than on the number of spectators. We want more participants. Sport creates healthy children and citizens. It is possible that some of my thoughts have already been canvassed in Cabinet and by the new Director, but I felt I should put them forward because policy and guide-lines are still to be determined.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Do you think that Queensland has a chance of winning the Sheffield Shield if it is raffled?

Mr. KAUS: We would have had a chance of winning it if Jones had not sacked Graveney.

I shall now refer to housing, which is of interest to people not only in Mansfield but throughout Queensland. I refer to page 2008 of volume 258 of "Hansard", where it will be seen that I put forward a proposal during the debate on the Housing Estimates last year. I suggested to the Minister for Housing that the Government consider making loans available to people who wish to add a flat to the rear of their homes to accommodate aged parents rather than place them in a convalescent home. I also refer to the "Telegraph" of 30 May 1972, but before I state what is contained in it I might mention that that suggestion of mine was included in the policy speech of my party during the last election. The matter is now being taken up by the Federal Minister for Housing, Mr. Cairns, and the Federal Government is considering making loans of this type available to families who wish to extend their houses to accommodate aged relatives. I could continue to speak on this subject, but I shall not do so. At least there has been some recognition of this need, not only by the State Government but by the Federal Government as well.

In the volume of "Hansard" that I have just mentioned, the honourable member for Belmont, who is the Opposition shadow Minister for Housing, is shown as attacking the Federal Minister for Housing, Mr. Kevin Cairns, who is a Queenslander. Putting aside the fact that that attack was made only in a rather weak attempt to support the Labor candidate who was opposing Mr. Cairns, I think it is a poor state of affairs when the honourable member for Belmont makes inaccurate comments.

In the first place, the honourable member accused the Federal Minister for Housing of selling out the interests of his own State under the new housing arrangements between the Commonwealth and States. The passage of time has revealed that it was the A.L.P. in the Federal House that sold out the people of Queensland. Doubtless, all members know about that. All the criticism about increased interest rates resulting from the new arrangements has been shown to be false. In fact, the reverse has been the case. As a Government member, I am proud to say that Queensland is leading the way, in that the reduction in interest rates charged on Housing Commission homes in Queensland is the greatest of all States. I stress that it is the reduction that is the greatest, and it is a direct result of the new arrangement negotiated by the Federal Minister for Housing. Interest charged on the sale of dwellings by the State Housing Commission has been reduced from 7.125 per cent to 5.5 per cent, which is a reduction of more than 1.5 per cent. No other State made such a large reduction. It must be remembered that there are now three State Labor Governments, and it is the Country-Liberal Government of Queensland that has led the way.

The same position applies in regard to interest charged on advances made by the State to building societies. Again as a result of the new arrangement made between the Commonwealth and the States, the interest rate has been reduced by 1.125 per cent. which makes the Queensland rate, at 5.25 per cent., along with that in New South Wales, the lowest in Australia. Yet the honourable member for Belmont in this Parliament and the Federal member for Bowman attacked the Federal Minister for selling out Queensland, and they have simply not told the truth. The Federal member for Bowman also did something similar recently.

Mr. K. W. Hooper: The Federal member for Bowman represents the A.L.P., doesn't he?

Mr. KAUS: Yes. He made an irresponsible assertion about drugs coming into Queensland from boats off Point Lookout. As a result, he has done himself quite a lot of damage.

Mr. Bromley: Don't you "rubbish" the Federal member for Bowman, or I will "rubbish" the Federal member for Griffith.

Mr. KAUS: The Federal member for Griffith can look after himself.

The truth is that both the Federal Minister for Housing, Mr. Cairns, and the State Minister for Housing should be congratulated on what they have done for the home-owners of this State. It is a very poor show when the Labor Party, as it has done, seeks to attack their efforts to assist home-owners.

It is a pity the honourable member for Belmont did not question the housing politics that have been proposed by his Federal leader, Mr. Whitlam, and his Federal shadow counterpart, Mr. Uren. These policies, including a so-called 2 per cent interest-concession policy, will discriminate against the average home-owner, such as the ones whom I have the honour to represent in this Parliament. In fact, an across-the-board policy to reduce interest rates by 2 per cent would help those people who can afford to obtain large loans much more than it helps those who seek only average home loans. It benefits the rich at the expense of the poor. It is, therefore, a totally un-Australian policy.

Let members of the Opposition stand up and defend such a policy if they so wish. If they do, it will be a unique occasion, because this very policy, which was officially adopted by the Labor Party last year, has never once, to my knowledge, been defended by them. It is no wonder they have not done so.

In regard to housing, I wish also to congratulate the Minister for Works and Housing on the announcement of the construction of additional units under the pensioners' dwellings scheme in Queensland. From my own experience of talking with the tenants in these units, I can assure the Committee that

the Commonwealth and State dwellings for the aged pensioners scheme has been very popular.

Mr. Sherrington: Have you got one in your electorate?

Mr. KAUS: No, but I had one in my former electorate. It was one of the first.

Mr. Sherrington: They aren't built where they are needed.

Mr. KAUS: The honourable member has mainly young people in his electorate. They would not need them. I had a number of old people in my former electorate.

Mr. Sherrington: You must be joking!

Mr. KAUS: In the last year or so, the construction of both single and double units has been stepped up very considerably. That is a very welcome move, and I appreciate it.

Mr. Sherrington: Where has it been stepped up?

Mr. KAUS: If the honourable member wishes to know, I will tell him later.

Recently, the Minister for Works and Housing announced that the State Government planned to spend almost \$5,000,000 on a State-wide scheme to house pensioners. The Minister was also quoted as saying that about 1,000 pensioners had approached the Housing Commission seeking accommodation similar to that which has been provided under the joint Commonwealth-State scheme. I understand that the provision of these additional funds will enable the Government to provide about 550 more units in the next 18 months or two years. This is a move that I completely support. These units are made available at very cheap rentals. Single pensioners pay about \$3.70 a week, and a married couple about \$5.70 a week. These are very low rentals for accommodation which, measured by any standards, is very good. I congratulate the Minister and the Housing Commission on the excellent work they are doing.

Both in this Parliament and in the Federal House, one hears cries from the Opposition that the Government does nothing for pensioners. Such accusations are totally false. In the recent Federal Budget—a Budget that has been very well received, as the election results later this year will show—pensions were increased for the fourth time in the last 18 months. Coupled with the increased pensions, the new pensioner housing scheme to be introduced by this Government will help in providing a new deal for many of our elderly citizens—our pioneers.

Governments have a responsibility to assist pensioners. Both this Government and its Federal counterpart are taking positive and useful measures to increase the assistance that pensioners are already given. I am certain that this Government will continue to provide assistance to pensioners to an increasing extent and in new areas as time goes on. I, for one, will support every measure that is designed to assist them.

In "The Sunday Mail" of 13 August 1972 it was reported that the Minister for Housing had announced plans to spend \$4,800,000 on a State-wide scheme to house pensioners. Evidently that figure has been increased to \$5,000,000. That report spoke of 92 units being built throughout the State. A Press statement issued by the Minister for Housing referred to the largest contract that had ever been awarded, for the building of 14 houses in Mt. Isa. It also referred to seven houses at Gladstone, three at Beaudesert and two at Redcliffe, plus two aged pensioners' units at Sandgate. What a wonderful effort!

I congratulate the local authorities on what they are doing for pensioners, but I understand that one or two of them do not reduce certain fees for toilet pedestals.

I draw attention to a newspaper article headed "To re-call project tenders", dealing with what the Brisbane City Council is doing. Referring to a recommendation to allow termination of the lease over the Lennons Hotel building, the article reads—

"It was opposed by Brisbane Civic Party aldermen because they claimed the termination of the lease to October 31 rather than March 31 next, as originally planned, would cost the city more than \$100,000.

"The rent for Lennons Hotel was \$1,000 a day, the B.C.P. leader (Alderman Rudd) said."

According to this article, Alderman Jones, the Lord Mayor, said—

"I want to see Lennons out of there as fast as I can. I am not going to stop any job just because I cannot see the end of it. I am going to go on doing this in this way as long as I am here."

Fair enough! The only thing is that over the period of time from now until March next year the city council will lose \$100,000 at the expense of pensioners, because I understand that the Brisbane City Council will not "come to the party" in relation to the cost of toilet pedestals. The Australian Labor Party talks about looking after pensioners. This is one case where it has not. One or two other councils have not yet "come to the party". I certainly hope they do. I congratulate the local authorities that have assisted pensioners in this way. This just goes to show that when the Lord Mayor decides to do something, he does it regardless of what others think. He is doing this at the expense of pensioners in Brisbane.

I appreciate having had the opportunity to make a contribution to the debate. I will enlarge on the subject of education during the debate on that department's Estimates.

Mr. NEWTON (Belmont) (3 p.m.): Most of the matters raised by the honourable member for Mansfield, if not replied to by me this afternoon, will be answered in other debates dealing with housing.

In introducing his Budget, the Treasurer used the prosperity of the building industry to indicate the healthy economy of this State. On behalf of the Opposition, let me say that we have no argument with the Treasurer's figures because the reports available to us on a quarterly and yearly basis show that there has been a steady increase in building activities over past years, and also during the present year. But when speaking about the building industry we have to look at what the future holds for it, particularly during the next 12 months, and at the present time the future of this industry in the southern part of the State does not look at all good—and within a few months a similar situation could arise in other parts of the State.

A grave crisis exists in the building industry at the present time. We have been contacted by architects and builders, who have drawn our attention to it. At present there is a shortage of bricks for all types of building, the main crisis being in the dwelling-unit section. The architects and builders who have contacted us have indicated that six months ago builders had available to them a choice of six different varieties of bricks. Today, there is a delay of four months in obtaining any type of face or common brick, and, if the position does not improve, within a month there could be a closedown of some jobs in the southern part of the State. This is a serious situation, because it will affect the livelihood not only of workers in the building industry but also of those in kindred industries.

The prosperity of the building industry will only continue if the Minister for Development and Industrial Affairs can do something immediately to overcome this crisis. Builders themselves have already moved to see what they can do about it by complaining to the suppliers about Queensland bricks being transported over the border whilst this State is faced with such a serious shortage.

Yesterday, in reply to a question by the honourable member for Wynnum, the Minister for Works and Housing indicated that home units being built in that electorate will be subject to a delay of 10 weeks because of the shortage of bricks.

Mr. HINZE: Then we will probably have a strike.

Mr. NEWTON: This is one thing the honourable member cannot pin on the A.L.P. I am pleased he made that interjection, because on this occasion he cannot blame the workers. There is no strike in the building industry. As this is a private-enterprise Government, it will be interesting to see what the Minister can do about overcoming the present serious situation brought about by the shortage of bricks.

While speaking about the prosperity of the building industry, I should also like to deal with the question of take-overs. Again in the southern part of the State, one company at

present has a complete monopoly of the supply of concrete tiles. What was the first thing it did? Because it realised that concrete tiles play an important part in the home-building industry and are used in great numbers in the southern part of the State, it increased the price by 50 per cent. When the builders protested through the Housing Industry Association and the Master Builders' Association, they were told that if they continued to protest they might have some difficulty in obtaining supplies of concrete tiles. Of course, this private-enterprise Government will not do anything about the 50 per cent price increase that was imposed.

In presenting his Financial Statement, the Treasurer referred to the Government's success in obtaining finance from the Commonwealth Grants Commission. As the Treasurer has held that office for seven years, we wonder—

Sir Gordon Chalk: You wonder how you can get rid of him, I suppose?

Mr. NEWTON: It is not a matter of getting rid of him, because at times he has indicated that, as he has been offered something better, he will resign anyway.

I was about to ask why, as the Treasurer has held that office for seven years, he did not make an approach to the Commonwealth Grants Commission three years ago, prior to the 1969 State election. After all, the position that applies today applied then also.

Sir Gordon Chalk: No, it didn't.

Mr. NEWTON: Yes, it did. The Treasurer could have used then the same weapon as he used on this occasion. He could have said to the Commonwealth Government, "If you don't listen to us, you will lose the Federal election."

Sir Gordon Chalk: How could I have used that weapon on the Grants Commission? It is not under the influence of the Commonwealth Government. If it was, I wouldn't have got the money.

Mr. NEWTON: The Grants Commission is looked upon by the Commonwealth Government—

Sir Gordon Chalk: And criticised.

Mr. NEWTON: And criticised—as not being a source of revenue for this State. Apparently the Treasurer realised that he might have some difficulty in winning this year's State election, so he took the risk of going to the Grants Commission.

Sir Gordon Chalk: There was no risk.

Mr. NEWTON: As I have indicated on previous occasions, immediately after each Premiers' Conference the Treasurer's Tory counterparts in New South Wales and Victoria say they want taxing powers returned to the States.

The following article appeared in "The Courier-Mail" of 24 June 1972:—

"States Want Tax Powers"

"New South Wales and Victoria want access to income tax, the New South Wales Premier (Sir Robert Askin) said yesterday.

"He said the two States wanted the Commonwealth to withdraw from the income tax field to the extent that the States went into it.

"This would be advantageous to New South Wales citizens," Sir Robert said.

"They would pay less tax for the simple reason that the two big States are subsidising the other States."

"Sir Robert said he was reasonably satisfied with the New South Wales allocation from the Premiers' Conference, which was about 75 per cent of what the State really required."

The New South Wales Premier adopted a much bolder approach than that of our Premier and Treasurer, and on the eve of a Federal election the Prime Minister announced that a further grant of \$15,000,000 would be made to New South Wales. He did that simply because he knew that if, in the light of the serious financial situation in that State, he did not heed the demand of his Tory colleague, his Government would not have won the election in New South Wales.

Sir Gordon Chalk: They have won it, have they?

Mr. NEWTON: It was announced that New South Wales will get the grant.

Sir Gordon Chalk: You are talking about the Federal election, of course?

Mr. NEWTON: I said that the grant was given on the eve of the Federal election.

Sir Gordon Chalk: You said that the Federal Government would not have won the election.

Mr. NEWTON: Mr. McMahon knew that if he did not grant the money requested, he would not win the Federal election in that State.

Sir Gordon Chalk: interjected.

Mr. NEWTON: If the Treasurer wants it clearer than that, I will put it in simpler terms for him.

The Treasurer referred in the Financial Statement to incremental payments for Crown employees. This is a step in the right direction but, unfortunately, like everything else the Government does, it is being introduced far too late. Queensland will be the last State in the Commonwealth to introduce such a scheme.

Sir Gordon Chalk: We are not years too late.

Mr. NEWTON: We are. Workers in all other States have been enjoying these payments for some time. In Queensland, employees of the Commonwealth Works Department have been receiving them while our employees have not. At present, the payment in New South Wales is \$12.7 a week.

Sir Gordon Chalk: What is the like-with-like wage?

Mr. NEWTON: The like-with-like wage for the Commonwealth Works Department in Queensland is \$94.5.

Sir Gordon Chalk: Stick to the one in New South Wales.

Mr. NEWTON: The Treasurer asked a question, and I am answering it just as he answers ours at question time. The advantage is mine; the Treasurer can try to prove me wrong later if he cares to.

The Treasurer asked what the New South Wales wage was. It is \$87.90, compared with \$82.93 in Queensland. In Victoria, after the first year, workers get an additional \$4.50; after the second year, \$6.75; and, after the third year, \$9. In New South Wales, Crown workers are seeking—no doubt they will get it—an increase of \$8 a week in incremental payments. The position is the same in Victoria. A similar scheme operates in Western Australia, where, after the first year, workers receive an additional \$6; after the second year, \$8; and, after the third year, \$10.

Sir Gordon Chalk: We didn't do too badly, did we?

Mr. NEWTON: I suppose we have to start somewhere.

In Tasmania, the incremental payment system was phased in. I point that out, knowing that the Treasurer will probably look for these things to "shoot me down" later. While I am on my feet, to show how honest I am when I refer to these matters, I think I should detail what is happening in the other States.

As the Treasurer has seen fit to introduce incremental payments, I hope he will give some consideration to the non-career employees who work within Parliament House—there are quite a number of them—such as the messengers and the Refreshment Rooms staff who are employed on a permanent basis. Opposition members believe that they do an excellent job, and that they should participate in any such scheme. I ask the Treasurer to consider granting incremental payments to these people.

I come now to the real juggling by the Treasurer in preparing the Budget. Firstly, I shall deal with housing. According to this year's Financial Statement, the funds allocated to the Queensland Housing Commission will allow for an expenditure on new construction of \$23,785,000, including \$1,548,603

for special pensioner housing, while the allocation to building societies will permit an expenditure of \$7,732,876. The Treasurer referred to "A quite rapid increase in the State housing programme." However, over the past three years, the total funds for housing read—

Year	Amount \$
1970-71	35,881,647
1971-72	25,769,000
1972-73	31,517,876

So that there has not been a rapid increase in the housing programme, and this at a time when there is a serious crisis in housing. For pensioner units, the waiting list as at August last was 994—according to the honourable member for Mansfield, it has since risen to 1,000—and for rental accommodation for married couples with families, migrant families and pensioner couples, the waiting list was 4,791. An answer to a question asked by the honourable member for Archerfield yesterday indicates that the latter waiting list could now be greater than that.

Over the past three years, the allocation for Housing has been \$14,000,000 below what it should have been. Yet the Treasurer claims there has been a rapid increase in the housing programme! Whenever this matter has been raised, both the Treasurer and the Minister for Works and Housing have recognised the situation. Many broad and bold statements have been made. A rapid increase is required at the present time. This Budget should contain an additional \$13,500,000 for housing, and, if the serious housing shortage is to be overcome, this should apply for the next 10 years. As I have pointed out before, it is not only the number on the waiting lists that have to be considered because, if their wives and children are taken into account, it is obvious that something like 15,000 people are without decent housing accommodation. Irrespective of what has been said on this matter, nothing has been done to overcome the problem.

Mr. Hinze: Concerning housing? You must have your head in the sand.

Mr. NEWTON: That is another wild outburst from the honourable member for South Coast. He does not study the figures and fails to realise what is going on in the rest of the State. He is concerned only with the South Coast.

The same position applies in the case of the Federal Minister for Housing. Last year he scrapped the Commonwealth-States Housing Agreement that was introduced by a State Labor Government to help States provide decent housing accommodation for pensioners and others in the low-income bracket. Because it was a socialist "tiger" for the Federal Minister, he set out to cripple a scheme that had been of great assistance to State Governments and people who required housing.

Press reports indicate the battle that raged in 1971 between the Federal and State Housing Ministers. We can well recall what took place at those conferences. "The Courier-Mail" of 28 August 1971 reported that at one stage the Ministers from Queensland, Victoria, Western Australia and Tasmania threatened to walk out because of the raw deal that had been "pulled" on them with the scrapping of the Commonwealth-States Housing Agreement. It is reported that the Queensland Housing Minister staged a walk-out. The Ministers protested that the Commonwealth had not consulted them about its housing plans. The honourable member for Mansfield said a great deal about what the Labor Party is doing. Let him look at what the Government did in the Federal sphere.

That newspaper report goes on to say—

"The Queensland Housing Minister (Mr. Hodges) told the Commonwealth Housing Minister (Mr. K. Cairns), also a Queensland, who chaired the meeting, that his State wanted more details of the proposed new scheme. . . .

"The Victorian Housing Minister (Mr. Meagher) said: 'Mr. Cairns told us we could take it or leave it. We told him we would leave it.'"

What kind of threats were hurled at the heads of the State Housing Ministers at that conference?

Again our State Housing Minister made a statement that appeared in "The Sunday Mail" of 29 August. It is headed, "Hodges is bitter on home aid". The Minister did not pull any punches here. That report reads—

"The State Housing Minister (Mr. Hodges) yesterday claimed that a scheme proposed by the Commonwealth Housing Minister (Mr. Cairns) would mean fewer Housing Commission homes for Queenslanders."

Mr. Hodges went on to say that adoption of the new scheme would mean higher Housing Commission rents and repayments. He went on to say—

"Last November the Commonwealth promised us that there would not be any change in the scheme."

He also said—

"Over the five-year period there would be a serious drop in the buying power."

He said finally—

"The scheme would mean higher rents for houses because the Commonwealth wanted to raise the interest on which money was lent."

Mr. Hodges: That was the first conference.

Mr. NEWTON: This was a series of conferences. However, I shall go further. I think this point is very important in the light of the Budget provision for home units, and the number that will be provided each year. I am pleased the honourable member for Mansfield raised these matters, because it suits my argument in this debate.

Another article in "The Sunday Mail" of 13 August 1972 is headed, "Low rent housing plan for State pensioners". It reads—

"The Works Minister (Mr. Hodges) yesterday announced plans to spend \$4,800,000 on a State-wide scheme to house pensioners.

"These plans follow the successful introduction of pensioner home units in a smaller building plan costing \$900,000.

"For this \$900,000 pensioners were housed in 92 units across the State," Mr. Hodges said.

"These moves to look after our senior citizens have met with tremendous demand", he said."

The article, which confirms what was said by the honourable member for Mansfield, continues—

"Almost 1,000 pensioners have now approached us seeking similar accommodation, and we plan to spend another \$4,800,000 on 566 units within the next 18 months or two years", Mr. Hodges said."

But the Budget does not say that; it allows only \$1.5 million.

Mr. Hodges: What period does the Budget cover?

Sir Gordon Chalk: Let him walk in. I will reply to him. He has made a fool of himself already.

Mr. NEWTON: I have not. The Treasurer has made a fool of his own Budget. The figure is here in black and white.

Sir Gordon Chalk: The Budget is all right.

Mr. NEWTON: The Budget makes an allocation of \$1,500,000 for 1972-73, but the Minister for Works and Housing says that this will be done within two years. On that basis, the allocation should have been \$2,400,000. The Government was slow in getting off the ground with the scheme. It has made such a mess of it that it has had to endeavour to tell the people in Press statements that it is going to overcome it. However, what is stated in the Budget is a complete contradiction of the Press statements that have been made.

Mr. Davis: The rate of construction of these home units is amazingly low.

Mr. NEWTON: It is. The article continues—

"One pensioner I spoke to has been paying \$14 a week for room under a house.

"Others have been on a verandah for from \$8 to \$12 a week", Mr. Hodges said."

That has been a matter of concern to the Opposition. Honourable members opposite can only blame themselves for that situation, because it was a Country-Liberal Government that lifted rent control in this State as from 1 January 1971. It did not give any

consideration at that time to the future of the poor people in the community. It therefore has a responsibility, and so has the Federal Government, which has come to its aid in an endeavour to pull it out of the mess it is now in.

Mr. Hodges: If you had the opportunity, wouldn't you give rebated rentals to people?

Mr. NEWTON: That is an utterly ridiculous comment. The Minister knows very well that the 1946-56 agreement introduced rental rebates for the very purpose of reducing rentals while a person was unemployed or ill. Who scrapped the rental rebates? The Tory parties, when they took over. Rental rebates were eliminated from every agreement from there on. The Commonwealth Government said it would give an extra 1 per cent interest to cover the situation. The Opposition could not find out what the State Government did with that 1 per cent, but eventually I was able to indicate in this Chamber what had been done with it and give the former Treasurer the greatest send-off of all times. It was not used for the purpose for which it was given.

Mr. Hodges: You must agree that you had it confined to the agreement houses, whereas we had it spread over all houses, irrespective of the year of construction.

Mr. NEWTON: Where and when? Outside the Queensland Housing Commission?

Mr. Hodges: Yes.

Mr. NEWTON: The Government does not have it for the co-operative building societies. I shall have a lot to say about that later, when dealing with that aspect.

Mr. R. E. Moore: You haven't said anything yet?

Mr. NEWTON: I have said a great deal, and it is hurting honourable members opposite. It will not only hurt them; it will also hurt the candidate for Lilley at the coming Federal election, the Federal Minister for Housing, Mr. Cairns.

Mr. R. E. Moore: He will walk in.

Mr. NEWTON: Of course he will not walk in. He is the most frightened man contesting the coming election.

Many matters could have been raised at the crucial meetings that were chaired by the Federal Minister for Housing, Mr. Cairns. Take the position under the States Grants (Dwellings for Aged Pensioners) Act of 1969. At the rate of the present allocation it will take six years or longer to house people who are now on the waiting list. That does not take into account applications that will be made while the Commission is trying to overcome the existing problem. I shall be glad if the Treasurer can explain to me his reason for including that small amount in the Budget. If he intended doing anything about

it, \$3,000,000 should have been spent on accommodation of this type over the next five years.

Mr. R. E. Moore: Where would you take the money from?

Mr. NEWTON: That is a good question in an election year. It is a funny thing that around election-time Governments have no trouble in finding money, in contrast to the years between elections when they introduce horror and fear Budgets and talk about droughts and all the rest of it.

How much are we expected to take when it comes to Queensland Housing Commission activities? The Government made a big announcement about spending \$34,000,000 to provide a new suburb. It is proposed to establish one further out than Inala. Before the Government took office, honourable members opposite were continually criticising the satellite township of Inala. The Government is now doing the very same thing, but even further out of Brisbane. It is no use the Minister for Works shaking his head. He continually criticised the A.L.P. Government for building such a big satellite town at Inala, and now he is doing the same thing himself. His view, of course, is that because he is doing it there is nothing wrong with it.

What about the problems that have arisen with the building of the new freeways? The Government expects the Queensland Housing Commission to accept the responsibility of housing people who are displaced as well as others already on the waiting list. What will happen if the Minister has to accept the Main Roads Department's responsibility for providing homes for those persons occupying rental accommodation? There is no doubt that that department intends to load that responsibility onto the Minister's shoulders, because of the noise that is being made on that side of the Chamber now that the freeway is affecting people in the electorates of Government members.

A shocking position exists in Gladstone and Townsville. The Government criticised the actions of the A.L.P. Government in converting Army accommodation to provide temporary housing. Look what it is doing at Gladstone. In some backyards there are five, 10 or 15 caravans. Caravan parks have sprung up everywhere. The Government has been unable to provide the accommodation required because of what it refers to as the great industrial progress in that city. These are all matters that have to be considered in framing a Budget.

Mr. R. E. Moore interjected.

Mr. NEWTON: We did not close down the meatworks. As the honourable member knows, it was only a seasonal occupation, anyway. Half the time the workers had to leave the town and find work elsewhere.

Mr. R. E. Moore: Look at what we have done.

Mr. NEWTON: I am not criticising anything the Government has done in Gladstone. All I am saying is that if the Government is going to have the industrial development it boasts about, it has to do something about providing the necessary accommodation. It must make sure that the companies for which the Government is providing accommodation play their part. In Gladstone the Government has constructed 400 rental homes for Queensland Alumina Limited, but it was only just recently that it got the company to agree to provide two for every one the Government builds. That should have been happening all the time.

Mr. Lee: It is a good ratio now.

Mr. NEWTON: Yes, but why was it not insisted on years ago? Why has it been left until now? We have pointed this out on other occasions and the Treasurer has agreed with our point. The same situation applied at Blackwater. The Government built 200 houses there, but the coal exporters provided none, other than \$30,000 houses for the elite of the company.

I wish to refer now to the increase in the strength of the Police Force mentioned in the Financial Statement.

Mr. R. E. Moore: You are not going to call them "pigs" again, or anything like that?

Mr. NEWTON: To the interjector, let me say that that was never said by me, and at the time I made it known to the Queensland Police Union that I was not in any way associated with that statement. Irrespective of what provision has been made in this year's Budget for increased police strength in Queensland, we claim that the Government will never get the Police Force up to the required strength.

Mr. Hodges: Why not?

Mr. NEWTON: If the Minister will listen, I will tell him. We have given the Government two years to reorganise the Police Force under the present administration, and what has been done? We have seen change after change, and we are still witnessing them after two years.

Mr. Hodges: And you will see more.

Mr. NEWTON: Some of them are very peculiar. One I recall was the transfer of one of the top men in the metropolitan C.I. Branch to the Traffic Branch. Under a new arrangement he is now back in the C.I.B. He should never have been moved from it because he is one of the best detectives in the metropolitan area. That is the stupid type of thing that is going on in the Police Force.

Mr. Hodges: Get your facts right.

Mr. NEWTON: The Minister will have an opportunity to reply later, if he wants to. The present Commissioner, irrespective of

the qualifications which gained him his appointment, has wrecked the Queensland Police Force with his policy of centralisation. This policy is making this State a criminals' paradise.

Mr. Hinz: Haven't you any time for Mr. Whitrod?

Mr. NEWTON: Let me make our position quite clear. The Minister knows that we on this side of the Committee said that, irrespective of who the new Commissioner may be, we would give him an opportunity to settle in and see if he could achieve harmony in the Queensland Police Force. It is now two years since the Commissioner's appointment and the Government has just brought back to Queensland the man who instigated the reorganisation here—Brigadier McKinna. Incidentally, he has not done too badly. He has had two weeks' free accommodation.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: What did it cost?

Mr. NEWTON: \$308. What was he here for? He was here to study his failure to upgrade the Police Force in this State.

Mr. Lee: Do you think he would have been a better commissioner?

Mr. NEWTON: I certainly do not think so, because he comes from the same branch as our present commissioner; he had a lot to do with the Commonwealth Police. But I am firmly convinced that had one of the Assistant Commissioners been appointed—of whom the whole Police Force speaks very highly—things would have been different. It is interesting to note also that an assistant commissioner recently appointed was shunted off because he was doing too good a job. This is the sort of thing that is going on.

Every day new ideas which are an infringement of the democratic rights of the people and a threat to our democratic system are being introduced or advocated. I refer particularly to the recent outburst of Commissioner Whitrod to the effect that judges and juries should convict on hearsay evidence. I am certain that members of the Police Force do not want this type of thing.

Mr. Hodges: Get your facts right and be honest.

Mr. NEWTON: It was said as the Minister well knows.

Mr. Hodges: You are getting down into the gutter now.

Mr. NEWTON: The Minister did not have anything to say at that time. This suggestion is a threat to our democratic system and that is why I have to raise it in this Chamber. We are certain that judges and juries will not be influenced by such theories of the present commissioner.

Mr. Hodges: I thought you were fair but, by God, you are in the gutter.

Mr. NEWTON: Take the other suggestion that has been made, namely, that motorists be asked to report on the behaviour of other motorists. This is a further step towards putting the law into the hands of anybody and everybody. What is the Minister trying to do with his Police Force? The answer to the problem is more traffic police.

I am amazed that the Minister does not seem to be concerned about the large number of breaking-and-entering offences, pack bashing, pack rapes, and now even pack robberies. It is no longer safe for anyone to walk along the street. He is likely to be knocked down by two or three men, even in the heart of the city. The Minister should be aware of this because frequent newspaper articles and editorials have referred to these crimes. They are committed every day.

Mr. Hodges: Only because members of the A.L.P. sit down in the street and take up the time of the police.

Mr. NEWTON: Here we go again! The only time we know there is a Police Force is when peaceful demonstrations are held. The Minister brings police from outside the metropolitan area to Brisbane at the expense of the outside police stations. However, at least we know there is still a Police Force.

The incidence of illegal use of motor vehicles has reached an all-time high.

Mr. Hodges: Look at this photograph. Look at the A.L.P. members sitting down in the street.

Mr. NEWTON: I have seen it. It doesn't include me. I know what I am doing as a member of the A.L.P.

Honourable Members interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wharton): Order! I call the Committee to order.

Mr. NEWTON: Thank you, Mr. Wharton. The majority of the crimes that are committed these days occur in areas that do not have any police stations or police protection at all. In many districts the local police stations have been closed down by this Government. When Labor is returned to office it will re-open them and, as well, provide new police stations in the fast-developing areas.

Mr. Hodges: You are criticising Mr. Whitrod's administration. He has not closed one police station since he has been Commissioner.

Mr. NEWTON: He has not done much about providing new police stations in fast-developing areas. He is in favour of a policy of centralisation, and intends to ensure that no new police stations are provided.

Another reason why many crimes remain unsolved is that police officers are transferred from suburban police stations to man the new

radio-control system that has been installed. This is being done to the detriment of other investigations that should be carried out by police officers. I shall cite an example.

On 12 July I wrote to the Minister in charge of police, and on 14 July I received his reply, in which he said "I have not got anything back yet." Subsequently I raised this same matter with the Minister's private secretary, who told me that there seemed to be something wrong. The matter that I raised should not have taken long to be attended to. It involved two neighbours who spend all their time at home. When I contacted the Minister's secretary on 2 October he advised me that the matter had been referred to the South Brisbane Police District for a report. I do not suppose the Minister has seen the report, but I believe that the Commissioner was handed a copy of it. He was not happy with the report and placed the matter in the hands of the C.I.B. I raised the matter in July, and it is now October.

How can the Minister afford to implement his plan of centralisation without having sufficient numbers in the Police Force to allow for it?

Mr. Hodges: Who said we are not getting the numbers?

Mr. NEWTON: I shall prove that the Police Force is not getting the numbers.

Recently nearly every shop in Dalby was broken into, but because the local police were required to man a radar unit, those offences are not being investigated. The inspector or the superintendent in the area then wants to know why bookings are down. While the bookings may be down, show-cause notices are being issued rather freely.

Mr. Hinze: Have you got one?

Mr. NEWTON: No, and I do not see why I should get one.

The Minister, by way of interjection, asked about police strength. In the last Budget an increase of 140 policemen was allowed for. This year an increase of 200 is proposed. According to replies to questions I have asked, and a study I have made of the position, the force at present is 290 short of the number allowed for in the previous Budget and the number now proposed. It is true that the Police Force has 12 months in which to recruit members, but it is well to remember the Commissioner's statement that he required 20 recruits a month to compensate for resignations.

I am not attacking the Police Force or its personnel, but I am attacking the set-up of the new administration. As we have had two years with a Commissioner and three Assistant Commissioners, it could be expected that, by now, the Minister would have been able to carry out many of the proposals he said he would implement, and the many suggestions he has made from time to time. But

very little improvement is being effected. Recently, the Commissioner and the newly appointed Superintendent made all sorts of apologies about a certain case. Erica Parker raised the matter prior to their doing so. I am sure that the Minister is aware of this case of a prowling sex pervert when a police call was not answered for more than an hour.

Mr. Hodges: Come back to the recruitment issue you were to tell me about.

Mr. NEWTON: I said that on the figures contained in the last Budget the police strength would have risen to 3,240, and, with a further 200 in the next 12 months, the strength should then be 3,440.

Mr. Hodges: For your information, by the end of this year we will be above our entitlement because of recruits coming in. We have 125 cadets at Oxley and 2,000 applications on hand at the moment.

Mr. NEWTON: That is very good to know, but, according to reports of what is happening at the Police Academy, the cadets will not graduate for a number of years.

Mr. Hodges: The first lot will graduate this year.

Mr. NEWTON: In that case the department has broken down its system.

Mr. Hodges: No, because they have been coming in at Senior level.

Mr. NEWTON: That is better still. At least we are getting somewhere.

Mr. Hodges: You want to get your facts right before you criticise.

Mr. NEWTON: Why does the Minister not tell us these things? The only way we can get information is by raising these issues in the Chamber. The position is serious, as the Minister well knows. I have here pages and pages of Press clippings about things that are happening every day. When we were in Government more crimes were solved and the Queensland Police Force was more efficient than it is at present.

The Minister seldom comments on action taken by the Commissioner. I have here the Commissioner's latest circular to members of the Force telling them that they will be transferred after being at one station for 10 years. Officers have to indicate three places where they would like to go. A similar circular was distributed 14 months ago. I have been reliably informed that a person who retired from the Police Force 18 months ago received one of these circulars. This latest decision will cause problems. The circular states that compassionate grounds will be considered. It will be interesting to see how that undertaking is implemented.

Mr. Hodges: Read the last sentence in the memorandum.

Mr. NEWTON: This is what the Minister is referring to—

"If there are any factors of a personal nature which you wish to have taken into account, you should mention these in a separate report."

The Minister knows as well as I do that such consideration is given in many occupations. Such requests from police officers, however, are usually looked at by somebody who says, "That doesn't matter; he will be there for 10 years and he has to go in any case." This decision will have an effect on the strength of the Queensland Police Force.

Mr. Hodges: Do you want two Police Forces in this State—one metropolitan and one country?

Mr. NEWTON: No. I have never said that. Only one of my remarks this afternoon has been confined to the metropolitan area, and that concerned the taking of personnel from nearby police stations to man the radio-control centre. In the rest of my speech I have referred to the whole of the State. On behalf of the Opposition, I travel the whole of the State to look at this problem.

Mr. Hinze: What is your title? Are you shadow something-or-other?

Mr. NEWTON: What my title is does not matter. I am here as the A.L.P. member for Belmont. I have occupied the front bench on this side of the Chamber since 1964. I have debated matters concerning the departments of Works and Housing, Main Roads, Local Government, Conservation and anything else I have been asked to speak on.

Because certain people have so much to say about unions and the way they are run, I wish to speak about the so-called Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Last year, together with the honourable member for Clayfield, I represented this State at the Eleventh Australasian Area Conference held in New Zealand. The agenda comprised items from New Zealand, the Commonwealth Parliament, and every State in Australia except Queensland. Item No. 6, which was submitted by South Australia and debated at length, dealt with ways and means of increasing the effectiveness of the work of the association in general and the Australian region in particular.

The Commonwealth Parliament, and both the Upper and Lower Houses of every other State Parliament in Australia, had met as branches at which delegates were elected. Those delegates, regardless of whether they represented the Australian Labor Party, the Liberal Party, or the Country Party, participated in the debates at the conference on the basis that was decided at their branch meetings.

Many of us have been members of this Assembly for 12 years or longer, yet we have not known of a branch meeting in

Queensland. I should like to know when a meeting was held to elect the Queensland representatives that are shown in this publication because, since my entry into Parliament, the names have been changed.

Mr. Hughes: Why don't you take this up with Mr. Speaker?

Mr. NEWTON: It is not a question of taking it up with Mr. Speaker. It is a matter that affects every member of this Parliament because we are all members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. The most peculiar thing about it is that at that conference rules were brought up to be amended. Queensland delegates had to pay a prominent part in this, because at that time it seemed that the only person who knew what was going on was the then Speaker of this House. Of course, we had in the person of the Clerk of Parliament, Mr. Cyril George, one of the best advisers that one could wish to have accompanying a parliamentary delegation. I thank him and his good wife for the excellent attention that they gave the honourable member for Clayfield and me, and our wives, whilst at that conference. Mr. George did a very good job both inside and outside the conference. He gave us very valuable assistance.

Mr. Sherrington: Mr. Lickiss is away at present, and the Opposition was not even aware that he had been chosen as a delegate.

Mr. NEWTON: That is the important point. I believe that since then the honourable member for Roma has been to another conference.

I am not raising this matter because of what has happened in the past. As this was an item on the agenda of the conference, the honourable member for Clayfield and I clearly have a responsibility to bring up the question of a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association branch working effectively for the association in each State. Irrespective of what has happened in the past, the matter is now in the hands of all members. I raised it within my party and the Leader of the Opposition by letter to Mr. Speaker has drawn his attention to my report, pointing out what is happening in the other States and asking that something be done to put Queensland on the same basis in C.P.A. matters as the other States.

This is important, because matters affecting rank-and-file members, parliamentary procedure, and conditions for all members can be placed on the agenda for discussion if there is an effective branch of the C.P.A. in the State. Other States have such branches, but not Queensland. We should see that we meet as a branch for discussion of items on the agenda. The discussions at the conference were of great value not only to members of State Parliaments but to representatives of the Commonwealth Parliament, the New Zealand Parliament, and other Parliaments.

The agenda item that interested me greatly at the conference was that dealing with select committees. Select committees could work effectively on quite a number of legislative proposals coming before this Parliament. The honourable member for Salisbury mentioned one yesterday when Sir Thomas Hiley was Treasurer. When Mr. Ken Morris was Minister for Labour and Industry, he suggested the setting up of a select committee to consider and suggest amendments to the Acts dealing with machinery and scaffolding. Mr. Morris indicated to Opposition members that, even if there were some points on which we could not agree, we would not be prevented from debating them further in the House and pursuing any line that we wished.

I raise these matters because this is the first opportunity that I have had to do so in open debate. I hope that Parliament will have a good look at establishing a full branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in Queensland and making use of the powers available under the rules and constitution of that Association. I also hope that it has a good look at the setting up of select committees on certain types of legislation.

Mr. HINZE (South Coast) (4 p.m.): It is always a pleasure to speak after the honourable member for Belmont, as he generally makes worth-while contributions in this Chamber. That shows good leadership, and the honourable member has indicated that he is travelling extensively throughout the State, obviously for a particular reason. His contribution was marred only briefly, when he indicated he has no confidence in the Commissioner of Police and his administration. However, I suppose the honourable member is entitled to do that.

Before dealing with the very wonderful Budget that has been brought down by Sir Gordon Chalk, I wish to indicate very briefly the situation in which people on the Gold Coast have been placed by the present dispute in the oil industry. The tourist capital of Australia has virtually been brought to its knees by a handful of irresponsible people. They go out on strike at the drop of a hat, and it takes them 24 hours to reassemble and decide whether they will go back to work. In South-east Queensland the life-blood of the nation—petrol—has been drained out of every bowser. As I drove up from the Gold Coast this morning, only two service stations along the highway had any fuel.

It seems strange to me that, in these troubled days, I have not heard one word of protest from the leader of the A.L.P. in the Federal Parliament, Gough Whitlam, from the leader of the A.L.P. in Queensland, Tommy Burns, or from the Leader of the Opposition in the Queensland Parliament. None of these three people holding responsible positions has lifted a finger to intervene or raised his voice to indicate the A.L.P.'s

stand on this matter. It is obvious to me that they do not care whether the strike continues. That has been made very clear to all Queenslanders.

The Premier has tried to do everything possible under the powers of the State Government. He has made representations to the Prime Minister, and has done everything else he can to get the wheels of industry turning again and make sure that petrol goes back into the bowsers. But we have not heard one word from any responsible person on the Opposition side of the Chamber. I am sure that every Queenslanders will remember this, even after the next few weeks have passed. Obviously, even if the strike ends tomorrow, it will be some weeks before the bowsers are again full and everyone has all the petrol he needs.

Mr. Lee: Honourable members opposite think it is a great joke.

Mr. HINZE: That is all they have ever done. The people in many places in my electorate have no petrol at all, and they are becoming really worried. Industry and commerce is breaking down, and the tourist capital of Australia, as I said earlier, has virtually been brought to its knees. The A.L.P. does not care; in fact, as the honourable member for Yeronga said, honourable members opposite are laughing about it.

Mr. P. Wood: Would you say that the oil companies are blameless?

Mr. HINZE: I am not saying that anybody is blameless. All I am saying is that if a dispute occurred in some other sphere, members of the Opposition would be screaming their heads off. In this instance they have not said anything. I think "quietly acquiesced" would be the best way of putting it. I very seldom see the honourable member for Redlands smiling, but he is smiling now, when the tourist capital of Australia has almost been brought to its knees by his mates.

Mr. BROMLEY: I rise to a point of order. Obviously the honourable member for South Coast, who is seldom in the Chamber, was not here yesterday—

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wharton): Order! What is the honourable member's point of order?

Mr. BROMLEY: I am stating my point of order. Yesterday a member of the Opposition dealt with this important subject in full detail, not only from the point of view of the oil companies but also from the point of view of the workers.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member has made his point. We will now hear the honourable member for South Coast.

Mr. HINZE: I hope that puts the honourable member for South Brisbane in his place. Obviously there is no valid point of order.

I begin my contribution to the Budget debate for this financial year by highly commending the Treasurer, Sir Gordon Chalk, on the presentation of his seventh Budget. Obviously, every Queenslanders with any sense of responsibility would have to give him a pat on the back for having been such a good Treasurer of this wonderful State for seven years and for now being able to bring down what he refers to as an "achievement" Budget. Unless a person was a "knocker"—and there are plenty of them about—he would have to agree that the Treasurer has done a wonderful job, because this must be the best Budget ever presented in Queensland, and possibly anywhere in Australia. I have never heard of any Federal or other State Budget being increased by over \$100,000,000 without increasing any charges. It has never been done previously.

A Government Member: Clem Jones couldn't do it.

Mr. HINZE: He would be flat on his back but for the fact that Sir Gordon Chalk has carried him ever since he has been in local government. That is why he is in a little bit of trouble now. He tried to put the skids under Sir Gordon's mate in the Yeronga seat, and he is now "copping it".

In addition to commending the Treasurer on presenting the best Budget ever presented in Queensland or Australia, I also commend Mr. Fields, the Under Treasurer, and Mr. Hielscher. We know that in every sphere of political life it is necessary to have a good team, and we must respect and admire those two gentlemen for the work they do. The highest commendation must also go to all the other officers in the Treasury Department who play their part so well.

I emphasise that the Budget contains no increases in either taxes or rail fares. It was not very long ago that Opposition members were screaming their heads off and suggesting that if we approached the Commonwealth Grants Commission we would lose the free hospital system. These woeful characters keep on trying to mislead Queenslanders into believing that if we accept the benefits from an approach to the Grants Commission we will have to forgo the free hospital system. Of course, we all realise that we would be much worse off under Gough Whitlam's health scheme.

I again emphasise that the Budget contains no increase in either taxes or rail fares. We still have the free hospital system—and we will continue to have it while there is a Country-Liberal Government in this State. As I said earlier, we are increasing expenditure by more than \$100,000,000. That is only possible as a result of wise planning. It is because we have had such wise planning by Sir Gordon Chalk that we are able to present such a wonderful Budget. It is wise planning over the years that has allowed us to reach this stage.

Year in, year out we are attacked about the sale of coal to overseas interests. We can now see the benefit resulting from those sales. For many years this wonderful State depended mainly on its primary industries. As a result of reasonable returns for our sugar, wool, dairy products and minerals, coupled with the return from the tourist industry and other activities, we are enjoying what I believe to be the most prosperous time any Queenslander can remember. Nowadays, not one word is mentioned about a recession or a depression. Over the last six to 12 months, or even longer, I have not heard one honourable member refer to a recession. There is none. Everybody in Queensland who has enough brains, muscle and guts, and wants to work, has the right to work. If he does not have a job, it is only because he does not want one. It is as simple as that. Queensland is a land of opportunity for everybody. We are living in a land of milk and honey.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. HINZE: How can we expect any reasonable opposition from the camp on the other side? As a matter of fact, there are three or four different camps. We have heard one name bandied around as the next Leader of the Opposition. We know he tried to put the skids under Jack Houston. Of course, we also have the fellow from Lytton, who always wears a badge on his lapel reading "It's time." Time for what? To put the skids under Jack? Then, of course, we have the Catholic group. Marty Hanson is trying to "get up" there.

Mr. Casey interjected.

Mr. HINZE: You got the axe. If you were still there, you might get sufficient numbers to "get up". But you are out, and I do not know that you will ever get back. That is the group that is supposed to make up the Opposition in this State. They are in three or four camps. The way I see it, I think "poor old Jack" will survive.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wharton): Order! The honourable member will refer to other members in the proper way.

Mr. HINZE: I am only indicating what the Opposition is like. I should have thought that on a Budget such as this we would hear some decent contributions, but we are not getting them for the simple reason that Opposition members are grouped in their own little camps working out whose head they will knock off next.

I now want to refer to the section of the Budget in which reference is made to a loss of \$1,200,000 on the standard-gauge railway. Of course, the reason for that is that this line is in the wrong place. It runs somewhere "behind sunset", and, as I say, with all due respect to my friend and colleague the honourable member for Fassifern, it is obviously in the wrong

place. The correct place for it would be through the Gold Coast, and I suggest to the Minister for Transport that he discuss this matter with his colleague in New South Wales. We certainly do not want to carry this loss every year. I am sure that if consideration is given to the matter and the line relocated through the Gold Coast, there would not be a loss. It would only entail building 80 miles of line. We are building a railway of 120 miles from Goonyella, so it is not an insurmountable job and should be seriously considered. I should say that nowhere else in the world would two cities the size of Brisbane and the Gold Coast not be linked by rail transport.

Mr. D'Arcy: Sir Gordon pulled the line up.

Mr. HINZE: The honourable member was only at kindergarten, in knickerbockers, at that time. If anybody in this Chamber should get on his knees and thank heaven for the Queensland Government, it is the honourable member for Albert. We have kept him going all his life, and he has done nothing but whinge and whine since he has been here. I call him "Whingeing, wailing, whining Willie." He cannot help it. I suppose he is entitled to whinge. He has only been elected to represent Albert for the time being.

The point I am making is that obviously we must get some form of public transport to Gold Coast City. This is 1972. I agree that some 10, 12 or 14 years ago the railway was not being used, just as some of the existing lines obviously are not being used. They are not profitable.

With a population of some 70,000 permanent and 30,000 transients—a total of 100,000 people—continually in the area, even if a railway line is not constructed to the Gold Coast we must have some internal transport system to move the people around. Eventually, this will be impossible on the road system. We must have some form of public transport.

I see the Minister listening very attentively. Apparently he is finding it difficult to hear me, so I will write to him so that he can get my views well and truly into his mind.

Mr. D'Arcy: Who is whingeing now?

Mr. HINZE: I have been here for 6½ years, during which time I have never failed to put up what I believe to be a telling argument on behalf of my electorate. All the things you have been saying since you came here were said years ago.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for South Coast will address the Chair.

Mr. D'Arcy: Now you are with me.

Mr. HINZE: The honourable member says I am now with him. I give credit where credit is due, but I also fight for anything

we need. I am now asking for some form of public transport on the Gold Coast.

No doubt honourable members would have seen a proposal submitted within the last week or two by the Albert Shire Council. That council brought in a firm of planning experts from Canada who indicated that there will eventually be a population of some 200,000 south of the Coomera River, in the Albert Shire. We have been told that the population of the City of Gold Coast will be approximately 300,000. This is no pie in the sky, because the Gold Coast is the fastest-developing area in Australia.

We have heard a great deal of talk about monorails. At Cabinet's invitation I visited Japan and travelled on a monorail. Although such a means of transport would be far too costly for an area like the Gold Coast, a train like the "Bullet", which covers the 375 miles between Tokyo and Kyoto in three hours, is needed there.

I turn now to the tourist industry. Insufficient funds are allocated to the promotion of tourism. The City of Gold Coast engages in magnificent tourist-promotion activities. This promotion, however, is restricted by insufficient funds. I suggest that the Commonwealth should introduce a nation-wide bed tax. I know, of course, that if I advocate the introduction of such a tax only on the Gold Coast I will have my throat cut. If it were introduced on the Gold Coast and nowhere else, tourists would go, for example, to the Sunshine Coast, or, alternatively, to another State. But a tax imposed throughout Australia would place all tourist areas on an equal footing. It could be collected by the Commonwealth, which, in turn, could reimburse the States.

I regret that Queensland is not getting a greater share of Australia's overseas visitors. Many Australians travel overseas, and we should be doing everything we can to induce them to visit Queensland and, as well, to attract overseas visitors to this State.

In his Financial Statement the Treasurer said that this year the Government expects to receive \$674,500,000 and that expenditure will total \$679,000,000. These figures reflect the tremendous growth of this wonderful State.

As to education, the Financial Statement reveals that an increase of 910 in the number of teachers has been provided for. This will bring the total number of teachers to 14,320. This year an additional \$30,000,000 will be spent on education. So much for the claims of Opposition members that the Government is not doing all it should for education!

No-one can honestly claim that this Government does not recognise its responsibility to provide education facilities.

New schools are necessary in certain areas of my electorate, but before dealing with that matter I point out that non-State schools are to benefit under this year's Budget in

that it has been recognised that the Government has some responsibility towards these schools. Instead of their having to approach the Treasurer, cap in hand, every year, he has recognised their problems and now, from year to year, the necessary adjustments will be made. We are proud that some years ago Queensland recognised that these schools have to meet increasing costs. In future, they will not have to apply for increases but will receive them on the same basis as State schools.

An opportunity school is provided in the Gold Coast area at Southport, but as honourable members know the Gold Coast area extends for 20 miles, and another opportunity school is needed. I understand that the Department of Works, as a result of an approach by the Minister for Education, is considering providing another opportunity school in the southern part of my electorate.

At present 950 students attend the Burleigh Heads State School, and there are 850 at the Currumbin State School. A new school is required at Palm Beach. Provision should also be made for a new school at the back of Burleigh Heads, where a large land development involving thousands of allotments is under way. We estimate that there will be three to four children in every house and, on that basis, it can be seen that new schools will be required in my electorate.

I have been talking for years about a new school at Coolangatta, which is the gateway to Queensland and a major tourist area. The present school is very old. It is situated on a beautiful block of land that must be retained at all times for public purposes, but we own ample land at Coolangatta for a new school and playing fields.

By providing funds, interest free for 10 years, the Budget encourages churches and charitable organisations to build hospitals. People who are so inclined will take advantage of this proposal. It is a wonderful concept. One private hospital at the back of Southport was built with high-cost money, at 12 or 15 per cent. I understand from the honourable member for Surfers Paradise that it is always fully occupied, but the proprietors have to pass their costs on to the patients. Under this proposal, our hospital system will be relieved of a heavy burden. I am sure that this money will be readily taken up by people who are interested in providing private hospitals.

It is essential that we should seriously consider providing more public hospitals on the Gold Coast. The Minister for Health has taken steps to negotiate the purchase of land adjacent to the Southport Hospital for the construction of a high-rise building. Land has also been purchased at Miami for a hospital, and a further area is about to be acquired so that ample land will be available in the southern part of the Gold Coast area for two additional hospitals. Years ago, when I made representations for

a new hospital on the Gold Coast, the honourable member for Wynnum said, "It is all right for you, but we have been after a hospital for Wynnum for years and we still haven't got one." I point out that the Gold Coast has a permanent population of 70,000 and a transient population of 30,000, making 100,000 in all. During holiday periods, the population is around 200,000.

Mr. D'Arcy: Plus the Albert Shire.

Mr. HINZE: The honourable member for Albert has made one of his very rare sensible interjections.

This morning, the Minister for Health, in answer to a question by the honourable member for Nudgee, replied—

"A comparison of the total number of beds available, including approved Nursing Home Annexe beds controlled by Hospitals Boards, for the areas involved, with occupancy at 30th June, 1972, is as follows:—

City	Population	Total Beds	Occupied Beds June 30, 1972
Brisbane	886,987	4,569	3,486
Southport	68,974	285	185
Toowoomba	57,543	938	663
Maryborough	19,962	665	422
Mackay	28,416	205	152
Rockhampton	48,188	605	419
Townsville	68,442	534	365
Cairns	32,570	718	428
		8,519	6,120

Southport figures include Boonah and Beaudesert, which are within an approximate fifty-mile radius."

I point out, firstly, that the population figures were not included in the Minister's answer and have been added by me and, secondly, that the actual number of beds in Southport is 167, the difference being represented by those in Boonah and Beaudesert.

Mr. D'Arcy: Why did he include Boonah and Beaudesert? There is no relationship between them and Southport.

Mr. Tooth: I included them because that is what the questioner asked for.

Mr. HINZE: The honourable member for Albert asked why they were included, and the Minister has given him the answer. They should be included because they are part of the Gold Coast region.

I have quoted those figures to indicate that the older-established areas, such as Rockhampton and Toowoomba, fare better on a population basis than my area. Toowoomba, with a smaller population, has 938 beds compared with 285 in Southport. I admit that the Toowoomba Hospital and some of the others would be base hospitals. But the population explosion on the Gold Coast demands urgent consideration by the department. I know that the Minister accepts what

I am saying as correct and that he is doing everything possible to expedite the completion of the Southport Hospital. No doubt he will then commence on a hospital at Miami, which is in my electorate.

Mr. D'Arcy: You have now joined my team.

Mr. HINZE: The honourable member says I am in his team. Perhaps a person gets a little bit more if he uses a little discretion rather than by continually whingeing, whining and wailing.

The Minister's answer continued—

"The total number of occupied beds in public, intermediate, and private wards, controlled by Hospitals Boards in Queensland, at 30th June, 1972, was—

General	7,122
Maternity	833
	<u>7,955</u>

I thank the Treasurer for his very generous contribution to the Surf Life Saving Association. Everybody knows what a wonderful body it is. There are more than 20 life-saving clubs in my electorate, and I suppose there are 10 in the Surfers Paradise electorate. There are none in Albert. The Government gives a 75c subsidy on every dollar collected.

This very generous contribution is also extended to the Air-Sea Rescue Organisation, which does magnificent work. Mr. Cliff Lanham was recognised last year in the Queen's Honours List for his work on behalf of the Gold Coast, which he does at no cost whatever to Queensland. Other members of that organisation also do wonderful work. They give their time, collect funds, use their own boats and, up till now, have been providing their own fuel. They are doing a wonderful job.

The Inspector of Police, Mr. Phil Barnett, is the centre of the whole machinery of the system. When a call for assistance is received, it is relayed to him through the Police Department. If assistance is required within the Broadwater, he has his own officer to attend to it. If help is needed outside the Broadwater, he contacts the Air-Sea Rescue Organisation, and within minutes its members are in the air and on the sea trying to save lives. This has also been a free service.

I must recognise, too, the allocation by the Treasurer of \$250,000 to Tourism, Sport and Welfare Services. I saw in the Press the query, "Why allocate that amount for that purpose?" I think this is one of the best provisions in the entire Budget. There are on the Gold Coast 1,000 "nippers" who will form the future nucleus of the surf life-saving movement. For many years nearly all Gold Coast life-savers have come from Brisbane. The "nipper" movement, with 1,000 members on the Gold Coast, is

doing a magnificent job. The "nippers" have even built their own club-house at Main Beach. They are having difficulty finding funds, and this is one way we can assist them.

The same remarks apply to junior Rugby League on the Gold Coast. A thousand youngsters play Rugby League there. This is the type of thing I want to see in Queensland. Let us get young people off the streets. Let us assist them to play a decent game, and to turn into better citizens. The State is indebted to the Treasurer for his allocation of \$250,000 for this purpose. It will, of course, have to be increased in the future. I know that the newly appointed Director of Sport, Mr. Ron Leahy, will make the best use of this allocation.

I shall now deal with the dairy industry, which is the one that I claim to know most about. An additional \$5,500,000 has been allocated for assistance to dairy farmers. Not one dairy farmer in Queensland could say that this State has not done everything possible to assist that industry. The latest sum of \$5,500,000 will be allocated in loans to farmers who wish, for instance, to install vats for milk production, to build a new dairy, or to build new bails. Loan funds are to be made available for such purposes over a reasonable period of time, at low rates of interest.

I believe that this assistance caps all the other things that the State Government has done for dairy farmers. Honourable members will recall the Dairy Pasture Subsidy Scheme, which has been such a great success for the State. Dairy farmers participating in it have grown tropical legumes and grasses that were not seen in this State 10 years ago. As a result of the Government's introduction of the Dairy Pasture Subsidy Scheme, there are now thousands of acres of grasses. Now, to top off that assistance, an additional \$5,500,000 has been provided, to be administered by the Lands Department, under the Minister for Lands, and that very efficient officer, Mr. Heffernan. I commend the Treasurer for this assistance to a very worth-while industry.

Some reference was made in the Budget to bovine tuberculosis. This is something that dairy farmers have to keep their eye on. It has been compulsory to have cattle tested at regular periods, but when a farmer has a clean herd a little laxity possibly creeps in. If he goes for more than two years without re-testing, he will find that T.B. has returned to his herd. It spreads quickly, and before long some who have not had tests conducted every two or three years, at the most, are surprised to find the incidence of T.B. in their herds.

Referring now to the racing industry, I support the Treasurer's proposal on amalgamations. The Oxenford Club closed down many years ago, and none of the clubs that are now screaming and whingeing about having to amalgamate were as good as the

one at Oxenford. That club accepted the direction of the then Minister in charge of racing, Sir Thomas Hiley, and amalgamated with the Southport club. Today, Southport has an excellent race club, and I recommend that those clubs that have been asked by the Treasurer to consider amalgamating take his advice.

At one time there may have been some reason for mid-week racing in country areas; obviously there is none now. The racing industry is not supporting such meetings, and, therefore, it is in the best interests of all concerned for the clubs to either amalgamate or cease operating.

Mr. Tucker: What about all the picnic racecourses in the West and in other parts of the State?

Mr. HINZE: Perhaps the honourable member for Townsville West has a point. I am sorry if I have made a mistake in that regard. I am speaking only from my knowledge of the south-eastern area of the State. If the position is different in the areas to which he referred, I do not wish to connect my remarks with them.

Mr. F. P. Moore interjected.

Mr. HINZE: I do not know what the position is in the area that the honourable member represents, and I do not intend to allow him to put one over me on that score.

I commend the Minister also for setting up the Racecourse Development and Assistance Fund. I have every reason to be proud of the fact that some of these funds have been allocated to the Gold Coast Turf Club and to the Gold Coast Trotting Club, and I can tell the Committee that any investment made in that area is a very good one. Since these funds have been made available to the Gold Coast Turf Club, there has been a very big improvement in racing in the area. I am sure the Minister will agree that the Gold Coast Turf Club is now out of its financial trouble, and it will not be long before the Gold Coast Trotting Club is in a similar position.

In my opinion, trotting needs serious consideration because there is an element in the sport that is doing everything possible to wreck it. Night trotting is possibly one of the best sports, but in the Gold Coast area some uncouth people are trying to wreck the industry with rorts and rackets. For example, a fellow named Brewer, who had been thrown out of Sydney, came to the Gold Coast about three weeks ago and drove a horse named Bold Domino at the Southport trotting track. Its price originally was 3 to 1 on; but everybody knew that it was not "going", and the price lengthened to 6 to 4 against. Brewer just about yanked its head off and strangled it and got it into a pocket that it could not get out of.

Sir Gordon Chalk: Did he fall out of the gig?

Mr. HINZE: The Treasurer knows more about racing than anybody else in Queensland. He knows as well as I do that drivers get horses into a pocket from which they cannot extricate themselves. A good horse such as Bold Domino could have gone round backwards and still won. Brewer got it into a pocket and tried to go on the inside. A good driver, of course, would have taken the horse to the outside. Only this morning I asked, "Where is that crook Brewer?" I was told that he had gone. The man I was speaking to said, "He only came up here for the one race, to yank and strangle Bold Domino"—and he made a good job of it.

I asked some questions this morning about a trotting steward named Jack Gregg. I have the highest respect for this man's ability, but for the life of me I cannot see why he should spend so much time in another State when we need stewards in Queensland. I want the Treasurer to consider strengthening the stewards ring for the protection of night trotting in Queensland. As he said, some drivers will even fall out of the gig; they will let a horse gallop; they will do everything they possibly can to prevent a horse doing its best. This is very harmful to this wonderful industry, and I am concerned about it because I have given a lot of my time free to night trotting. I do not intend to do that and, at the same time, let a few mugs from New South Wales come up here and wreck the industry. If ever I get the opportunity, I will stand on my feet in this Chamber and name anybody who I think is doing something crooked in connection with night trotting in Queensland. I hope that Mr. Brewer is never allowed back into Queensland. I am particularly concerned because those people who have been "sent out" over the last 12 months or two years have come from the Gold Coast.

I now wish to refer very briefly to the police. At present there is one police officer to every 710 members of the permanent population on the Gold Coast. And with its transient population of some 30,000 the ratio is one police officer to 1,000 persons. That is nowhere near the Queensland figure which is about 1 to 500. Obviously the Gold Coast police are very much under strength. I welcome the Budget provision for an extra 200 police and the enrolment of another 150 cadets at the Police Academy. By the following year 450 cadets will be in training there.

A definite need exists for a District Court at Southport. Because of a rape trial, five Gold Coast police, who had more than they could handle in their own area, had to be detailed to Brisbane for days. We are entitled to a greater number of police officers on the Gold Coast. If it is good enough for other areas to have a ratio of 1 to 500 or 600 persons, it is not good enough for the Gold Coast to have a ratio of 1 to 1,000. I understand that the Minister for Justice is to make provision for the appointment of more District

Court judges. I ask that he give consideration to the establishment of a District Court at Southport. It should be provided there as quickly as possible for the reasons I have outlined.

Every honourable member would agree that the time taken by police officers on thousands of little jobs is very wasteful. They should not have to perform those duties. Girls coming out of high school at 18 or 19 years could do much of the work police officers are called on to do. Some departments must accept more responsibility so that the police can do the jobs for which they are trained. They should not be required to type letters and do other fiddling tasks that should not be their responsibility. It is not fair to ask them to do that sort of work, and I do not know how some of them stand it. I am sure every member would agree with this point. The Minister agrees, the Commissioner agrees and everybody agrees, so it is time something was done about it. I should not like to say that some departments are bludging on the Police Department, but it is time they accepted more responsibilities themselves rather than expect the Police Department to do what it is doing for them now.

My purpose in speaking is to indicate what is needed on the Gold Coast and, at the same time, give a pat on the back for things that have been accomplished. I know that the honourable members for Surfers Paradise and Albert join me in thanking the Queensland Government for intimating in its submissions to the Commonwealth Government that it is prepared to carry 40 per cent of the cost of implementation of the Delft Report. That was the greatest news the Gold Coast has ever had. We know also that the Government has endorsed the case presented by the Gold Coast City Council. This very excellent contribution was prepared by Philip Shrapnel and Co. Pty. Ltd. Obviously it had to be good to be submitted to the Commonwealth Treasury in support of a request for 40 per cent of the cost of a \$14,000,000 scheme. After studying the Gold Coast City Council submission, the State Government agreed that it was a sound case. It indicated very clearly to the Commonwealth Government that it was prepared to back the Gold Coast, its council and its tourist industry by saying, "If the local authority itself weighs in with 20 per cent of the cost, we will put in 40 per cent, making 60 per cent. All we want you to do is come forward with the other 40 per cent." I know that the contenders for political honours in the Federal seat of McPherson are all getting around the electorate at this time. They back the proposal. But what about Gough Whitlam and my old cricketing mate, Tommy Veivers? I played against him only once and I knocked him clean out of the ground.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. HINZE: He is such a "mug" bowler that any time he likes to stand up I will belt hell out of him.

Anyhow, Tommy Veivers came forward with some cock-eyed idea that the cost should be shared 50 per cent by the Commonwealth and 50 per cent by the State. I am quite sure that not even one ratepayer on the Gold Coast would believe that this is necessary. We have submitted a case for something we believe we are entitled to, and we are prepared to accept a certain amount of the expense ourselves. All we can do now is hope that "Happy Pappy" McMahon will see the wisdom of it and will agree—before the election, not after. We want to know, as soon as we possibly can, that the Federal Government is prepared to accept the submission of the Gold Coast City Council and shoulder its share of the responsibility for restoring the beaches in accordance with the report of Delft Laboratories.

Honourable members will recall that the Queensland Government asked this Dutch firm to prepare a report on Gold Coast beach erosion and that it bore the whole cost. It was done at no cost at all to the local authorities. Having received the report and considered it, we want to proceed with it. It would be one of the best things that ever happened to the Gold Coast. It makes provision for a breakwater or as it is called, a "training wall" at the mouth of the Nerang River, another at Currumbin Creek, and still another at Tallebudgera Creek.

Again I give the greatest commendation to the Queensland Government for allocating \$250,000 for the Kirra experimental groyne which is 5/6ths completed. It is supposed to be 600 feet in length. On Monday when I inspected it it was a little over 500 feet. The rocks are being tipped into about 17 feet of water, and it is a screaming success. With every extra five to 10 feet of groyne, more sand builds up. We have not seen sand at Kirra or Coolangatta for years, but before long they will be fully restored and once again will be up with the best beaches in Queensland. Honourable members will remember that when the Queen was here we thought so much of the Coolangatta beaches that we held a carnival there which she attended. It was after that time that erosion occurred, and in the trying period that followed commerce and industry in the town was brought to its knees. Guest houses were empty because there was no sand on the beaches. Now, because of the action of the Queensland Government in allocating \$250,000 to construct this experimental groyne, there is a new breath of life in the area. Thank heavens the scheme is a great success. The Government deserves the highest commendation and I thank the Premier and the Treasurer for allocating these funds.

I now want to spend two or three minutes commending the Gold Coast and Albert Shire councillors on the work they are doing to develop their portions of the State of Queensland. At the beginning of my contribution this afternoon I said that we are enjoying the greatest prosperity Queensland has ever known. This is a corner of the State that is growing more rapidly than any place in Australia, and it is being done by private enterprise with the assistance of the local authorities. The councillors give their time freely and virtually for nothing. The Albert Shire is experiencing a population increase of over 1,000 every year. I do not know what the population of Gold Coast City is, but I know the population of the Albert Shire. I also know that the building industry in the area is running at the rate of some \$7,000,000 a year—\$4,000,000 in Gold Coast City and \$3,800,000 in the Albert Shire. This indicates the tremendous growth of the area as well as the enthusiasm and confidence of the people. And they are backing their confidence with hard cash. I think I heard some honourable member speaking today about the shortage of bricks. So many are being used on the Gold Coast that orders are about six months behind. Those lodged now will not be filled until after Christmas. This in itself indicates the tremendous growth of the building industry in that area.

Mr. Murray: You will be right with Eric Robinson down there.

An Opposition Member: Didn't you hear that?

Mr. HINZE: I was thinking of a reply. The honourable member should think himself lucky that he caught me unawares. I will probably think of something later.

I also wish to commend the Main Roads Department. Any person who drives to the Gold Coast will agree that the four-lane highway between Brisbane and the coast is one of the best in this State. Of course, it is the result of both good representation and the fact that the Minister has recognised the necessity of providing funds for its construction. Next month the Premier will officially open the Captain Cook Bridge. With its completion there remains only the short section between Juliette Street and Kessels Road, and the four-lane highway will then extend from the city proper to the Gold Coast. With the construction of the Currumbin Creek Bridge and the completion of the short section of roadway at Tugun, there will be a four-lane highway all the way to the border.

The Queensland Government is doing a magnificent job in the city of Brisbane. We have heard a great deal about what Clem Jones has done for this city. Every time I see the television programme "City '72", I see the freeway systems and roads that are provided by the Queensland Government under the Wilbur Smith proposals. I hope

that when the Premier opens the new bridge he will emphasise the fact that the Queensland Government has done more for the city of Brisbane than Clem Jones and his friends at the City Hall have ever done.

A new company that has been set up on the Gold Coast deserves commendation. I refer to Schuster and Sievers, at Burleigh Heads, who are descendants of pioneers on the Gold Coast. Their company has won the contract for the Currumbin Creek Bridge. I think the tender was approximately \$700,000. The fact that the company has been awarded the contract indicates that a Gold Coast business has the ability to submit a competitive tender and win a contract from 16 other tenderers. I congratulate Reg Schuster on winning the contract. He has told me that he will be able to commence construction within the next couple of weeks and that he expects to finish the job within 18 months, which is six months less than the time allocated by the department.

Many small jobs carried out by the Main Roads Department should be referred to, but I shall defer my comments on them until the Estimates for the Department of Mines and Main Roads are being debated. However, serious consideration should be given to one major project, the construction of the Gorge Road from Canungra. It is a sort of link road between the Albert and Beaudesert Shires, and will eventually connect with the Warwick roadway system. Although the road is not within my territory—it was formerly in my electorate but is now in Fassifern—I am speaking about it purely in the interests of the Gold Coast, because if it is upgraded it will allow western people to travel to the Gold Coast.

Mr. Yewdale: Your property is in the area.

Mr. HINZE: It is somewhere in the area, but I am making these comments not out of personal considerations but because I believe in the development of the whole area.

Most of our freeway systems have median strips. I should like the Main Roads Department to consider providing signs 3 feet wide by 10 feet high on the median strip at places such as Palm Beach, Burleigh Heads and Tugun so that tourists may know where they are. People who visit the Gold Coast every few weeks know the area, but tourists passing through it do not know where they have been unless someone tells them, "You have just passed through Currumbin, Palm Beach or Tugun." If appropriate, attractive signs were erected they would not detract from the area, or be a traffic hazard. This proposal was submitted to me and, believing it to be sensible, I put it to the Treasurer. A double-sided sign would indicate to tourists in the Gold Coast area just where they were.

My colleague from Surfers Paradise is doing everything possible to get the Advancetown Dam completed quickly. This dam

is essential in the light of the tremendous population build-up in the area. In his Financial Statement the Treasurer indicated that certain funds are to be made available this year for this project. It will be magnificent and will serve the district for many years. I believe the site chosen is correct. It will serve not only the City of the Gold Coast but also the Albert Shire, and, as spokesmen for the Albert Shire have indicated that 200,000 people are expected to settle there, obviously an abundant water supply will be needed. This dam will provide the water needed for this intensive development.

I repeat that I am very happy to make my contribution in this debate. In my view the Budget is the best ever presented in Queensland. I am very proud to be a member of the Government at this time. Queensland is one State that always balances its payments. It is a State to which people are migrating, sure in the belief that we have good, sound, responsible government. I am very happy and pleased to commend the Treasurer on doing a magnificent job in framing his seventh Budget.

Mr. HANLON (Baroona) (4.59 p.m.): The Treasurer's opening words in presenting the Budget were—

"This is the seventh occasion on which I have had the honour of rising in my place in this House to present the Queensland budget."

He concluded his address by referring to it as an "achievement" Budget, after looking back over the past seven years. Consequently, it is not surprising that the considerable banter of the last year or so about whether his retirement may or may not be pending has continued in this debate. Nevertheless, I know that he, with his somewhat impish sense of humour, enjoys this sort of thing. Indeed, I personally have taken part in it over the last year or so. I remind him that he will have to continue as Treasurer for two more years if he wants to equal the record term of office as Treasurer, which is held by his immediate predecessor, Sir Thomas Hiley.

That brings to mind the point that, since the last Parliament, Lady Hiley has passed away. While it is our custom and practice to pay tribute to deceased former members, we tend to overlook the woman behind the man. Lady Hiley did enjoy the admiration and respect of every honourable member who had the privilege of knowing her.

During the same period, Mrs. Pizzey, the wife of the late former Premier, also passed away. The Financial Statement places emphasis on education, and there is no doubt that Mr. Pizzey made a marked contribution to education.

Mrs. Bruce, the widow of the late Harry Bruce, has also passed away fairly recently. Until shortly before her death she was actively associated with the Playground and

Recreation Association of Queensland and was at its last annual meeting, which was attended by both the Treasurer and me.

I pay tribute to those three ladies, and I think it is time that Parliament paid respect not only to former members, but also their wives.

I shall now move from the departed to the living departed, that is, those members who retired before the last election. I did not have the opportunity to speak in the Address-in-Reply debate, so I join with the members who did speak in that debate in extending my good wishes to those members from both sides of the Chamber who retired.

It may be symptomatic of the rapid turnover of members that, although I am in my 16th year in this Parliament—and that is not a tremendous length of time—I became the longest-serving A.L.P. member here following the retirement of Mr. Eric Lloyd. I pay him a tribute for the contribution he made to both the Parliament and the Australian Labor Party for many years. Prior to entering Parliament, he was in the Premier's Department, and before that he was a member of the "Hansard" staff.

So even before my entry into Parliament I was well acquainted with Eric Lloyd. He played a prominent part in the role of Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the very difficult period that confronted the Australian Labor Party in the years immediately following August 1957, when, for the first time for almost a generation, the A.L.P. in Queensland found itself in Opposition. He served firstly with the late Mr. Les Wood, then with Mr. Jim Donald and finally with Mr. John Duggan. He played a major part in re-establishing the A.L.P. as the alternative Government.

For most of the years he was Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Eric Lloyd was recognised as the A.L.P. financial spokesman. He took part in all Budget debates. He was very far-sighted in his contributions regarding the financial agreements reached with the Commonwealth. He also advocated the protection of Aboriginal rights. In 1957, when the Comalco agreement was being discussed in this Parliament, he moved an amendment to protect Aboriginal land rights in the Weipa area.

Unfortunately, the Government of the day did not see fit to accept the submissions then made by the Opposition. It might be pertinent to remind the Committee that certain members of this Parliament in the past were perhaps not as much out of date as some people thought they were. Indeed, "Hansard" will record that they were in some respects very far-sighted.

I also wish to pay my respects to the friendship that I enjoyed with two members of the Opposition who are no longer here, not as a result of retirement but as a result of circumstances that arose at the time of the election. I say that in respect of the

period during which I served with them as a member of the A.L.P. in this Parliament. I enjoyed their friendship and my association with them as colleagues. I do not propose to go past the point where circumstances arose that led to their leaving the A.L.P.; I merely reflect on the fact that I personally enjoyed their friendship and co-operation over the years, and I wish to place that fact on record. I can say, as I think members of the Opposition generally can say, that it is possible for us to be friends with members of non-Labor parties, so it should also be possible for us to continue to be friends with those who have been members of the A.L.P. I certainly remain friendly with those two gentlemen, and the member for Mackay.

I do not intend at this stage—or "at this point of time", as the terminology has become in recent years—to enter into any discussion of the situation that developed from that time on. Already in the Address-in-Reply debate and the debate now proceeding the honourable member for Mackay put the kettle on, and the Leader of the Opposition brought it to the boil. The honourable member for Mackay replied with scalding tea yesterday in the debate on matters of public interest. I do not wish to become sandwiched in this discussion, nor do I wish to serve a side salad at this time. I want my comments to be taken as applying to the period when the gentlemen who are not now here were serving with us in this Parliament.

As I see it, the Budget is not something that is presented each year; it is a continuing document. It cannot be regarded in isolation. It is not the 1972-73 Budget, or the 1955-56 Budget. It is a continuing and vital indicator of the operations of the Government. Discussion of the Financial Statement therefore cannot be, as perhaps the Treasurer would like it to be, in the terms in which he shaped it. For example, the Treasurer said Queensland was at present in the soundest financial position of all States of the Commonwealth. All such statements are related to a particular point of time.

I want to go back to last year's Budget debate, when the Treasurer was expecting a considerable deficit—of approximately \$11,000,000. I said then, as appears at page 978 of volume 257 of "Hansard"—

"If there has been one clear division between the Government and the Opposition on Budget strategy as such, it has been the Opposition's consistent advocacy of increased spending to meet the needs of the people of this State, particularly in education, health, social welfare and police."

In my reference to Budget strategy, I was referring to the continuous approach rather than consideration of only the year in question.

I continued—

"The Treasurer has always had a propensity, whenever he has given the departmental horses a bit more rein, to look

fearfully over his shoulder at his deficit. Forward-moving departmental programmes, designed by officers in the light of needs as they saw them, became a sort of sideways shuffle as the officers, while endeavouring to carry out the programmes in accordance with the needs of their departments, were alternatively given rein and then half choked by the Treasurer as he kept doubling back to mop up his accumulated deficits."

Later, I said—

"How much 'go' is there in the 'go-ahead' document presented by the Treasurer?"

I think the Treasurer has more or less run true to form. Having started off the year, as he says himself, with an accumulated deficit of about \$4,000,000 and an expected deficit of another \$7,000,000 for the year 1971-72, and having told us that he was obliged to approach the Commonwealth Grants Commission, he was able to tell us eventually that in the space of 12 months, by virtue of the comparatively small sum, over all, of \$9,000,000 that he received from the Grants Commission and a few minor handouts from the Commonwealth under various headings, Queensland was in the soundest position of any State in Australia. He was able not only to mop up the accumulated deficit of \$4,000,000 but also to convert the deficit of \$7,000,000 that he expected last year into a surplus of \$2,700,000.

One wonders about the logic of that, in terms of the reference that I made last year, when so much is needed. That was exemplified by the honourable member for South Coast, who referred to the needs of the hospital on the South Coast, and so on, to which the honourable member for Albert had already drawn attention. We have had outlined to us the needs of law and order in terms of the shortage of police and the lack of sufficient resources to enable the police to provide adequate protection. That has been dealt with by both the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, as well as other honourable members, during this debate.

It is passing strange, therefore, to find that the Treasurer can finish the financial year with a surplus of about \$3,000,000. It is even more strange when we recall that last year he told Parliament that the position of the State was such that, contrary to the opinion that he had repeatedly expressed in earlier years in answer to questions, suggestions and urgings by yourself, Mr. Hewitt, in your capacity as the member for Chatsworth, and other honourable members on the Government side of the Chamber, he had decided to approach the Commonwealth Grants Commission, and then was able to finish up with that surplus.

As the Leader of the Opposition mentioned in the debate on the Appropriation Bill, the \$9,000,000 received in 1971-72 and

the \$10,000,000 advance grant for 1972-73 are still subject to a form of adjustment after the Grants Commission examines the actual results in its future consideration of these matters. It may be because the Treasurer did finish up with such a surplus that Queensland's advance for 1972-73, as I mentioned during the debate on the Appropriation Bill, was only \$1,000,000 more than the grant for 1971-72, whereas South Australia received an advance grant of \$13,000,000 compared with its grant for 1971-72 of \$7,000,000.

As a claimant State before the Grants Commission, Queensland has to compare itself with the modified Budget results of the standard States of New South Wales and Victoria. I wish to compare Queensland's present situation, in which it finished the year with \$9,000,000 from the Grants Commission and a surplus of almost \$3,000,000, with that of New South Wales.

On 28 September this year, when Sir Robert Askin brought down the New South Wales Budget, he informed Parliament that his Government had been faced with the prospect of a record deficit of \$35,000,000. Admittedly, New South Wales has a much larger population and a much greater service load than Queensland. However, Sir Robert then told Parliament that he had diverted to revenue purposes \$8,500,000 of Commonwealth aid that had been provided as a capital grant. In effect, he had been obliged to draw from what otherwise would have been devoted to capital expenditure about \$8,500,000 to meet revenue commitments. Following that, he said that a strong case had been made to the Commonwealth for help with the remaining Budget problems and the Commonwealth had agreed to make a further advance of \$15,000,000 to New South Wales.

That brings me to the argument that I submitted in the debate on the Appropriation Bill. The whole business of the Grants Commission, Commonwealth aid, and the Commonwealth Government acting on the advice of the Grants Commission so far as claimant States are concerned, is surely becoming just as silly as the wrangling at the Premiers' Conferences has been over the years.

On the one hand, the claimant States are going to the Grants Commission, where, according to the Treasurer, the McMahon Government's representatives bitterly oppose any additional aid to Queensland whatsoever. With a Commonwealth election pending, this is of special interest to Queensland electors. When Queensland received an advance of \$9,000,000, the Commonwealth Government quickly corrected the position by advancing \$15,000,000 to New South Wales to enable it to meet its Budget position. True, it was in the form of a loan, and not a grant. Thus, it will still leave the New South Wales Treasurer in the situation of budgeting this year for a deficit of

\$9,500,000, after a deficit of about \$5,000,000 last year. I suppose it is also true that this incorporates the load of the Metropolitan Transport Authority in Sydney and the Newcastle Transport Authority. Such a load is not borne by this Government; it is the responsibility of the Brisbane City Council.

A report in "The Sydney Morning Herald" which particularly interested me stated that senior State authorities in New South Wales had said that a direct appeal for help had been made to Mr. McMahon by Sir Robert Askin. Sir Robert had told Mr. McMahon a month earlier that the New South Wales Government was in a serious plight, despite the generous aid granted to New South Wales at the June Premiers' Conference. That was by way of increasing from \$2 to \$3.50 the per-capita basis of distribution of funds for 1972-73 from the pool. That is worth something in the nature of \$7,000,000 or \$8,000,000 to New South Wales, which is almost as much as Queensland got as an advance payment from the Grants Commission.

Sir Robert Askin had told Mr. McMahon of his difficulties, and Mr. McMahon sent a senior Commonwealth Treasury official to Sydney to consult with State Treasury officials. I do not know which way to take that. It could be argued two ways. On the one hand, Queensland has the Premier and the Treasurer going "mendicant-wise", cap in hand, to Canberra, presenting its case and, according to the Treasurer's testimony during the Appropriation Bill debate, having to bitterly contest for every dollar and cent against the strong opposition of the McMahon Government. On the other hand, when it comes to New South Wales, which of course is a vitally sensitive area for the Commonwealth Government during a Federal election—it could lose six, eight or more seats there—Mr. McMahon sends a senior Treasury official to Sydney. As I said, that can be taken two ways. Perhaps it is a compliment to our own Treasury officials in that they can prepare a case without having a Commonwealth official sent to help them do it.

I repeat what I said during the debate on the Appropriation Bill: we respect the capacity of our own Treasury officials in this State, even though we may disagree with the Government's presentation of the case they prepare. In passing, I make special reference to Mr. Hielscher, who, I understand, has been awarded a foundation award which will take him overseas for special study. In itself, that is perhaps a recognition of the capacity of our Treasury officials in this State.

As I say it could possibly be inferred that because Mr. McMahon had to send a Commonwealth Treasury official to Sydney to consult with New South Wales Treasury officials, perhaps we are better off in that we can work out our own case. On the other hand, one could draw another inference

and suggest that, in the case of New South Wales the mountain goes to Mohammed when that State calls; but when Queensland calls, Mohammed has to go to the mountain—and he goes cap-in-hand. Queensland does not get the same treatment, even as a mendicant State, that New South Wales manages to get without being a mendicant State, being one of the so-called "standard" States, whose situation, according to the Treasurer, we hope to aspire to by further completion payments—additional amounts for 1971-72 and 1972-73—from the Grants Commission, notwithstanding that he tells us we are in the soundest position of any State in Australia.

It is rather difficult to reconcile those two situations and the Treasurer's submissions before the Grants Commission on the one hand and the New South Wales' Government's situation on the other, as New South Wales is one of the two States setting the standard that we hope to prove we need assistance to reach.

The New South Wales Press reported that Mr. McMahon then notified Sir Robert Askin on 18 September that the Commonwealth would give New South Wales the extra \$15,000,000 as a loan, repayable over five years. In last year's Budget debate, I mentioned that this had been done a couple of years earlier in the case of Victoria, which received an advance of \$10,000,000 at the short-term bond rate, which I think was then 6½ per cent, repayable over five years. But already Victoria has asked twice for suspension of interest payments on the \$10,000,000 loan it was given. One presupposes that, if Victoria is granted the usual advantage that it gets from the Commonwealth Government, in 1975, when the \$10,000,000 is due for repayment, it will have a sad story to tell about why it cannot repay it or why it needs an extended loan, or some form of grant, to enable it to carry on.

If we can rely on the comments made in the South about the Commonwealth loan to New South Wales, it is on terms somewhat different from those given to Victoria in that the loan will not carry interest in the first year and repayment may be suspended in any Budget deficit year. The previous situation has been that an application could be made for suspension of repayment of the loan by Victoria. In the previous year, an amount of some \$17,500,000 was given to New South Wales on somewhat similar conditions, but it was on the understanding that the amount would be repaid at the end of the five-year period. In other words, if the repayments were suspended for the first couple of years, they had to be made up and the whole loan, together with interest, had to be redeemed at the end of five years.

As has been reported in the South, the loan to New South Wales differs to the extent that repayment may be suspended in any Budget deficit year. If this is the case,

it would surely seem unlikely that Sir Robert Askin would be in any hurry to have a surplus year, as our own Treasurer has managed so brilliantly to do in the last 12 months, after being \$11,000,000 down in his anticipations.

But that is not all that Sir Robert Askin expects from the Commonwealth. He knows, as we should know—and we should be pressing for the ultimate advantage—that this is the time to strike. The honourable member for South Coast demonstrated that very clearly when he spoke about the need to get Commonwealth assistance in preventing beach erosion by implementing the Delft report. He emphasised that it was necessary to get the Commonwealth's promise of assistance before the election, not after it.

That, of course, is what Sir Robert Askin has been doing. He does not trust Mr. McMahon either. Obviously the honourable member for South Coast does not trust him. He is not prepared to accept Mr. McMahon's word about what he will do after the election; he wants it solidly, in writing, before the election.

After having received an increase from \$2 to \$3.50 in the additional per-capita amount, \$15,000,000 last year and another \$15,000,000 this year to meet his deficit problems, Sir Robert Askin has added that he looks forward to the Premiers' Conference in February, which he says he has no doubt will result in the "States", as he euphemistically refers to them, although his interest of course is in New South Wales, getting a still more equitable deal in the distribution of taxation moneys.

I feel, therefore, that the application of this State to the Grants Commission—indeed, the whole apparatus of the Grants Commission—becomes somewhat of a farce if we are to have the situation continued whereby, as fast as the Grants Commission makes advance and completion payments to South Australia, Tasmania and Queensland, or whichever may be the claimant States, the Commonwealth is handing out money just as fast to keep the standard States, which are supposed to be ahead of us, in advance of us, and giving them special conditions that we have not sought for ourselves.

The Treasurer made great play of the fact that by the careful husbanding of funds—which, I suggest, is not good tactics—Queensland completed the 1971-72 financial year in a sounder position than any other State. During the Deputy Leader of the Opposition's contribution to this debate, the Treasurer interjected that he knew on what side his bread was buttered. In answer to the Treasurer, I suggest that all of us know that a lot of bread is not buttered at all. I have no doubt that honourable members on both sides of the Chamber will refer to those "unbuttered" areas in their own electorates, and I suggest that, if permitted, certain Ministers would be happy to do the same. I am sure they do so in Cabinet.

There is a lot of unbuttered bread in this State. The Treasurer has said that, temporarily, Queensland is enjoying a surplus. I claim that instead it should be using its funds and showing that it is more in need than the other States.

As usual, the Treasurer has taken some pride in the growth of the allocation to education. Let us compare our allocations with those in the other two States that Queensland is trying to catch up to, and, according to the Treasurer, in education has caught up with. The Treasurer has referred proudly to the Government's continuing policy of increasing the number of teachers in training, and has claimed that in the 1973 school year the number will be increased by slightly more than 1,000, from 5,079 to 6,097. In New South Wales, Sir Robert Askin aims to increase the number to 20,000. Of course, it can be argued that New South Wales has many more schools and children than Queensland, but the figures for 1968-69 reveal that New South Wales had a total of 10,268 teachers in training, whereas Queensland had 3,932. In other words, while the Queensland Government has managed to increase the number of teachers in training by just over 50 per cent, New South Wales, in the space of only three or four years, has increased its number by 100 per cent.

It is difficult to strike a comparison between amounts spent by the various States on education. All sorts of arguments are put forward as to the different ways in which accounts are presented in the various States. Arguments that used to be put forward by Ministers in former Labor Governments are now being put forward by the Treasurer and his colleagues. I suppose that this is part of the circular game of politics. However, let us examine the relationship between the quantum of financial assistance by way of a direct grant in New South Wales and the direct allocation to that State's Ministry for Education and Cultural Activities, and do the same in the case of Queensland.

In New South Wales approximately \$449,000,000 constitutes a direct allocation to the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities. Compared with that, that State received \$525,000,000 from the Commonwealth Government by way of a flat financial assistance grant. In other words, the direct allocation to the Minister amounted to approximately 86 per cent of that grant. In Queensland, whereas the financial assistance grant amounted to \$211,000,000, the sum of almost \$172,000,000, or 63 per cent of the grant received, is being allocated direct to the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities. If we use that comparison, education in this State is still lagging on the basis of the proportion of funds that we are able to devote to it in relation to what we receive from the Commonwealth by way of financial assistance.

The Treasurer indicated that he proposes, by way of legislation that will be forthcoming in due course, to grant further

concessions in the levying of probate and succession duties. There has been considerable lobbying and agitation throughout the community generally, as well as from both sides of the Chamber, that this should be done. However, the extension is comparatively marginal. The basic exemption on an estate passing to a spouse, or a child under 21, is to be increased from \$15,000 to \$20,000. Since 1968-69, when the \$15,000 exemption was established, the Treasurer's revenue has increased by eight or nine times. However, he finds that he is only able to increase the exemption for a widow or child under 21 by \$5,000. It is true that he indicated that a sliding scale is to operate up to an estate value of \$100,000, which will take the place of the present figure of \$19,000. That concession has greater significance.

This matter has been discussed by some honourable members during the present debate. During the Address-in-Reply debate it was raised by the mover of the motion, the honourable member for Townsville. In the present debate the member for Roma referred to it, as did the Leader of the Opposition during the election campaign. In this debate he commented on many of the anomalies and inequities in the present succession and probate duties legislation.

I do not believe that the complete abolition of probate and succession duties is a practical solution. I think that the continuance of some form of death duty is necessary to inhibit the snowballing of inherited wealth. That is the basic reason for such a tax. However, it has become the plaything of Treasurers. In saying that, I am not referring to any particular Treasurer or administration. It is an unfortunate by-product which, in many instances, flows from something that is introduced for a worth-while purpose or with some validity. When some major aspect of revenue attaches to these taxes, they become a continuing pump to inject revenue into State and Commonwealth coffers. That is what has happened with probate and succession duties.

I believe it is necessary to continue this tax in some form. As the Leader of the Opposition and other honourable members have pointed out, there are numerous anomalies and ambiguities in the application of death duties which create individual cases of hardship.

I favour a major review and simplification of the legislation. Exemption levels should be lifted, not to the comparatively miserly \$20,000 proposed by the Treasurer, but to a level consistent with the purpose of the continuation of such a duty, that is, the inhibiting of the snowballing of wealth over several generations, which was somewhat of a blot in the English situation in the pre-war years. If provision was made for more flexible and streamlined procedures under the Act, we could obviate most, if not all, of the cases of personal hardship,

even when a significant high level of value is involved. I must say that some of the propaganda submitted about probate and succession duties ignores that certain provisions in the Act take into account some of the hardship situations that are presented.

In formulating the Bill to ease the impact of succession and probate duties, I hope that the Treasurer will consider the possibility of completely reviewing and simplifying the system, as Sir Thomas Hiley sought to do, and gave up as a bad job shortly before he left Parliament. At one stage, he did introduce a Bill. He had a team of officers studying ways in which the impost could be reduced to a single and simple tax that would be readily understood and would place a more just impost on estates. The Treasurer's suggestion of an increase in exemption from \$15,000 to \$20,000 and a sliding scale of rebate up to \$100,000 is only a small step towards something worth while in this direction.

The honourable member for Belmont drew attention to the very difficult housing situation confronting many people in this State, and, indeed, throughout Australia. I represent an area of increasing industrialisation, which is creeping out from the inner-city area. This area contains many older homes whose long-time occupants are passing on. Those homes are being purchased by developers, and this creates a tremendous problem for tenants renting the homes. In the complete absence of rent control, they are placed in an almost impossible position because no official recognition is given by the Housing Commission to the hardship created by high rentals.

When an approach is made to either the Minister or the commission on behalf of a deserted wife or a person suffering particular hardship, the commission does what it can even though the case does not actually fit into the strict order of priorities set down by the commission for rental accommodation. The commission is faced with the problem that it simply has not enough houses to go round, and people have nowhere to go when they reach the final point of having to get out onto the street.

The record of some of these people is not always good. Their poor rental record may be the sole cause of their trouble, and may result from their inability to manage their finances. This also applies to some Aborigines of whom there is an increasing number in the inner-city area. They are not good rental prospects to a landlord, and the Housing Commission regards them in somewhat the same light. Where are they to go? This is the depressing question that confronts members of Parliament.

Very often the aid societies, such as the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Salvation Army, Life Line Centre and OPAL, have not the accommodation to meet the needs of these people. In years gone by, considerable criticism was levelled at the situation which evolved in the post-war housing camps. This

Government took some pride in closing them down not long after taking office. Of course, they were scheduled to be closed.

Whilst I do not always agree with Mrs. Vilma Ward, I strongly agree with her statement that there should be some form of public accommodation available to meet cases of urgent necessity, regardless of whether the people concerned are bad rental risks or have proved themselves bad or nuisance tenants. The public, through its housing agency, which is the Queensland Housing Commission, should accept the responsibility of housing those people, because it is becoming an increasingly unbearable load on the resources of the voluntary agencies and aid societies. In many cases, there is simply nowhere for these people to go. They sleep in parks, or move from place to place in old, high-rental accommodation that is due for demolition. They are not in such places for very long. In some cases they may not even pay rent. When the demolition authority or the agent comes along and wants to knock the building down, they are in trouble again.

The conditions under which some of these people live are, sadly, not much better than those that existed in the old housing camps. I know that the Government can attempt to flick a pass to the Brisbane City Council by saying that the premises should be condemned. That may be true, but such procedure takes time. The honourable member for Stafford would know more about this than I do. Generally speaking, the council has to serve an order not on the occupier but the owner of the premises, or a due legal process of some sort may be served on him in relation to the dwelling. But that does not help to overcome the housing problems of the people living there. If the building is condemned and they are tossed out, they still have to find somewhere else to live.

Of course, the funds available to the Minister for Housing are not sufficient for the needs as he, and everybody else, sees them. However, within the limitation of available funds, I hope that he will be able to provide, as has been done rather belatedly in the case of pensioners, some form of temporary accommodation. This should not be of the undesirable type provided by the old housing camps set up after the war, but of a reasonable standard in which people could be accommodated temporarily in the case of emergency.

I now wish to refer to the situation in New South Wales, because, unfortunately, just as what happens in America soon seems to happen in Australia, what happens in New South Wales, in crime, housing problems, and so on, seems to follow here in due course as Brisbane grows into a major city. In relation to housing, it is only a couple of months ago that there was a major confrontation in New South Wales between the officer in that State who is the counterpart of our Housing Commissioner and the

Minister for Housing. This officer said that he was virtually reduced to a nervous wreck, and that he could not continue to face up to the difficulties confronting the Housing Commission in that State. He referred in particular to the fantastic price of land in Sydney, and up to 20 and 30 miles from the city.

This is a trend that will inevitably follow in Brisbane. I do not know whether the Government is doing as much as it should to obtain sufficient land to obviate having to face the same problem. I think that to some extent the Housing Commissioner in Queensland and his officers, particularly those who are in effect the "front line troops" who work at the counter and have to deal with requests for rental accommodation, feel that theirs is a hard task. I have no doubt that members feel the same way when similar approaches are made to them. I am sure that the Minister feels this way, too, when cases are put before him and he has to allocate according to the housing that is available.

The somewhat dramatic outburst of the New South Wales Housing Commissioner, in which he publicly repudiated the Minister for Housing over the provision of rental accommodation, produced some results, as the New South Wales Budget included a special allocation of \$5,000,000, in addition to the \$40,000,000 that the Housing Commission was given for various forms of housing, for the purchase of land.

I do not know what the Minister has in mind in Queensland, or whether the Budget Estimates give any indication of a great build-up in the acquisition of land by the State. I notice that the Minister shakes his head and indicates that there is no relevant appropriation to him. I remember the legislation that went through this Parliament many years ago, in the days of Sir Thomas Hiley. I seem to be going back to Sir Thomas Hiley's day quite a bit. However, it was a very long time ago, at a stage when he held the joint portfolio of Treasury and Housing. He introduced legislation to enable the Queensland Housing Commission—the public housing agency, the agency of last resort for people who cannot obtain accommodation through private enterprise—to get sufficient land to meet its needs, to subdivide it for its own use, or even to sell it at a reasonable price.

Mr. Hodges: It is a continuing process. We are doing it all the time.

Mr. HANLON: I know, but the problem is snowballing. I do not say that the Minister does not realise it—he probably does—but he is not getting sufficient assistance by way of appropriate funds to enable him to move as quickly as is necessary in this matter. As I said, the problem has reached alarming proportions in New South Wales for the very reason that I have mentioned. Although the present Commonwealth Government has,

somewhat belatedly, come into the field and answered the pleas that Mr. Whitlam, the Leader of the Labor Party in the Federal sphere, has been making for some years about the need for the Commonwealth to assist State Governments financially to meet urban problems, implement decentralisation proposals, and so on, I do not think that the Minister for Works and Housing is receiving the funds that are needed, and the problem will quickly become twice as bad as it is at present.

He would agree with me, I think, that the present situation is not as he would wish it to be, and if the situation does get worse very quickly, as I believe it will, the State will certainly realise that it has not been active enough in the acquisition of land. That field has been left to private enterprise. Of course, private enterprise is entitled, if the field is left entirely to it, to get possession of considerable areas of available land, and it has done so, particularly in the areas surrounding Brisbane and also in areas surrounding provincial cities.

Mr. Hodges interjected.

Mr. HANLON: I know that the Minister refers to that, but I have a note here relative to the New South Wales situation which indicates just how serious it is and what provoked the Housing Commissioner in that State to tell the Government that he needed additional funds. He said on 16 July that 11,302 Housing Commission homes were approved in the year ended April, compared with 16,000 in the previous year. The reason for that, as he outlined it, was that the commission could not afford to outbid private enterprise, and he referred to the fact that so much land was tied up. In New South Wales, the State Government has quite a lot of land tied up for future residential zoning.

Because of the situation outlined by the Housing Commissioner and the Labor Leader in the New South Wales Parliament, Mr. Hills, and his colleagues, and pressure from the community generally, the Government has been forced to recognise that something drastic must be done about releasing some land, and steps have already been taken to do that. I do not know whether the Minister in Queensland has any land of this type, but when he mentions building 2,000 homes—again, I am not trying to compare Queensland with New South Wales, because it is not a fair comparison—I point out that the Housing Commission in New South Wales has found that its home-building has decreased, not because of a lack of desire to build homes but because of the unavailability of land, from 16,000 in one year to 11,000 in the next year.

This story blew up in "The Australian", and, as it were, flowed over the border. The Queensland Housing Commissioner, Mr. Campbell, apparently was asked to comment. He said that money allocated by the State

Government for housing was being absorbed by higher land prices. He said also that last year the Government granted the commission \$9,500,000 and 1,800 homes were built with the money. He went on to say, "Rising land prices are causing us considerable concern. The matter has got to improve." He said that the commission had some 5,000 people waiting and, to some extent—in more temperate terms, perhaps—he echoed the concern of his counterpart in New South Wales. He said that, of that number, more than 2,000 were considered priority cases. He continued, "We don't have an answer to the problem at this stage. We are just doing the best we can." When he was called upon to comment in the Press, he was honest enough to give that answer.

I do not want to be critical of the Queensland Housing Commission. It has been very helpful to me in the many representations I have had occasion to make. However, I want to stress on behalf of people who are seeking houses and on behalf of the officials who have to cope with the problem, both in the Queensland Housing Commission and in the Minister's department, that every effort should be made to use available land. To that end I draw the Minister's attention to what happened with land in my electorate. I realise that the present Minister for Works and Housing was not the responsible Minister at the time. Actually the Premier was the then Minister for Works and Housing. Some land was available behind the Rosalie Police Station.

Unfortunately, the Rosalie Police Station, with a number of others, was closed down by the Government. Once the Rosalie Police Station was closed, land behind it apparently reverted to the Lands Department. As I understood it, the land was to be sold at auction, as happened with other land in the area. However, the land was taken over by the Queensland Housing Commission for housing purposes. This was in the time of Sir Thomas Hiley. The land is within a hop, step and a jump of Parliament House—only eight or 10 bus stops from here. It is level land, adjacent to transport, and, to my mind, ideal for the erection of pensioner units such as the Government is moving to at the present time. The Queensland Housing Commission sat on that land for a number of years without using it.

Prior to that I had been urging the then Minister in charge of police to build some police houses on it. Neighbours had been complaining that the land was overgrown, and vandals and general pests were frequenting it at night. The usual complaints about vacant property were being received. But the police Minister was not able to do anything about it. I suggested to him that rather than leave the land in that state,

the Government would be well advised to build a couple of houses on it and let them to policemen.

Therefore I was very pleased when, instead of its being sold as was first suggested, it was passed over to the Queensland Housing Commission. But the Housing Commission did nothing with it, saying that it was too valuable for it to build on. I do not know how that was worked out. The obvious thing happened. The Government was looking around for a new driving-licence testing centre to relieve the pressure elsewhere, and the Police Department said, "The Housing Commission has had that land all this time without doing anything with it, and we need land in a similar location within reasonable access of the city for an additional driving-licence testing centre. We will ask the Government to regazette this land for that use." At the time I protested vigorously to the then Minister for Housing, but unfortunately I was not successful.

I instance that as one opportunity the Housing Commission had to acquire land. No doubt there are other pieces of Crown land lying idle. I ask the Minister to give consideration to the acquisition of land either in my electorate or in adjoining electorates. I do not care particularly whether it is in my electorate or not, but there are suitable areas in my electorate, and the electorates of Brisbane and Ithaca.

Mr. Hodges interjected.

Mr. HANLON: The Housing Commission had this area of land, but it was allowed to slide to another department because of non-use. The Minister cannot afford to let this sort of thing happen in these days when his own Housing Commissioner is telling us that the cost of land is such that he has a real problem in acquiring it.

Mr. Hughes: One of the problems arises from the conditions imposed by the City Council, which raise the cost by thousands of dollars a block.

Mr. HANLON: That is another argument which I have no time to go into at present.

In the time left to me I want to refer to the Treasurer's statement last year that the biggest problem confronting the State was the increase in costs and prices. He pointed to the difficulties of the Government in that regard. I ask honourable members to look at the history of the Government's approach to price control, and I refer them to page 51 of the Estimates, particularly the Vote for the Prices Commissioner. Provision is made there for one lonely investigator with a small allowance for incidentals, the total estimate being \$7,000-odd. The Premier's Public Relations Bureau alone has expended on it 10 or 12 times that sum. I am not going to argue the validity of that exercise, but I point out that, if the Government is sincere about

meeting the costs and prices problem, as far as it can within State jurisdiction and powers, its sincerity should be reflected in something more tangible than this pathetic gesture of providing one prices investigator to deal with the problem.

In the final minutes available to me, I want to refer to something I previously overlooked when I was outlining the manner in which the Treasurer had managed to finish the year with a surplus. He not only managed to finish the year with a surplus of \$2,700,00, but, as shown on page 17 of the Estimates, he also managed to accommodate subsidies to local government bodies totalling \$6,000,000 out of his revenue account. This, of course, is a sure sign of the affluence of Consolidated Revenue. Last year he appropriated \$5,000,000 for that purpose, thereby relieving the Loan Fund of that amount. He was able to provide that accommodation from revenue, and in the current year, again from revenue, he has appropriated \$6,000,000 for subsidies to local bodies.

In 1970-71 there was no such appropriation from revenue; because of the financial stringency in which the State was placed at that time, subsidies to local government bodies had to come from loan funds. Not only is the Treasurer in a surplus position at the end of this year when there were so many crying needs, but he has been able to use \$6,000,000 of revenue to provide loans and subsidies which normally would flow from loan funds and would be met and accommodated over the years by repayment in the usual way.

The Treasurer also managed to put aside \$750,000 for a computer-replacement account. I think the creation of equipment reserves establishes a new idea in governmental accounts. We are moving away from the traditional presentation of State government accounts more or less on a yearly cash basis.

It seems to me that this year the Treasurer, after getting his \$9,000,000 from the Grants Commission, has had a surplus much more than \$2,700,000. He has left many things undone in the past 12 months, although he has been able to put aside \$750,000 from revenue more or less as depreciation on equipment.

(Time expired.)

[Sitting suspended from 6 to 7.15 p.m.]

Mr. CHINCHEN (Mt. Gravatt) (7.15 p.m.): As I did not speak in the Address-in-Reply debate, I should like to take this opportunity to reaffirm my loyalty to Her Majesty and to extend to His Excellency, Sir Colin Hannah, my congratulations on his appointment as Governor and my best wishes for a very successful tour of duty. I compliment Sir Colin and Lady Hannah on the great work they are doing for Queensland. I say this with all sincerity because I am proud to be a loyalist.

I am not saying this with tongue in cheek, as did the honourable member for Redlands, who, when challenged, said the system is outmoded and unnecessary. I realise the significance of the monarch in our constitutional set-up, and realise that every statute that is passed by this Parliament has to be signed by either Her Majesty or her representative before it becomes law. This in itself is a great safeguard, because it prevents military take-overs and illegal Governments, such as those that exist in some countries. If such a Government were to assume power in this State its laws would not be recognised, either nationally or internationally. As I say, the monarchy constitutes a wonderful safeguard.

Members of the Australian Labor Party subscribe to a policy of eliminating the office of Governor and refusing to recognise the Crown. Instead they would have a person who was elected politically and would dance to their tune. They are setting the scene for a type of Government that could be illegal. I am very proud to be a member of Parliament under the Westminster system, which I trust will always prevail.

Before I refer to the Financial Statement in detail, I put forward the suggestion that thought should be given to what I would term "preventive" expenditure. A great deal of money is being spent at the wrong end—in other words, when something goes wrong. A typical example is expenditure on prisons. A good deal of capital expenditure is incurred in addition to that on the upkeep of prisons. I should think it would be wiser to spend money on trying to prevent people from committing crimes and, as a result, being sent to gaol.

Money spent on remedial education might help to achieve this. Without doubt, a person who hits a blank spot in his education, possibly as a result of reading difficulties, could lose all interest in education and eventually drift into a state of not being equal to his colleagues. He thereby becomes disenchanted with things in general, and possibly drifts, somewhat unknowingly, into a life of crime.

The Government's intention to pour large sums of money into sport will help enormously. It is a bad thing for a young person to have too much spare time on his hands. Involvement in sport will help occupy time during which he otherwise might form bad associations and drift into a life of crime.

One of the largest increases in expenditure as outlined in the Financial Statement is in the amount allocated for the assistance of deserted wives. This problem, too, could be tackled before it arises. If people interested in social welfare were to pool their ideas, we might get some improvement. The expense of getting a divorce may be one of the difficulties, and the problem of getting to court and the rigmarole that must be gone through—I have not experienced it myself—result in a good deal of frustration. In some

cases there is not so much a desire as a necessity for a husband to desert his wife. In other cases it is the wife who deserts. In the former case the State may have to bear an added expenditure. Maybe divorces could start at a lower level.

I know that Federal legislation is deeply involved in this matter, but we could put our minds to the problem. We have tribunals acting very effectively in the workers' compensation field, the Repatriation Department and the Taxation Committee of Review, which prevent a great deal of litigation from reaching the courts. If people who wish to be divorced were to go before a committee comprising, say, a lawyer, a social worker and a psychiatrist, their problems could be considered. More often than not they have social rather than legal problems, although legal problems arise relative to the custody of children and, perhaps, the couple's assets. However, in many cases such is not the situation. It is purely a social problem when people get to the stage where they cannot live together and have to go through a tedious and extremely costly legal process to get a divorce.

Perhaps some thought could be given to the idea of allowing people to discuss their problems before three experts, who could iron out the difficulties and make the way easier and simpler for them to approach the court to arrange the legal formalities. That might overcome some of the difficulties.

I am not an expert on health matters, but perhaps we could do more in the preventive field and save on expensive beds and accommodation that must be provided when people have to enter hospital. The home-care service is an excellent move in the right direction. However, more could be done in our schools. I am sure that if thought were given to this suggestion, more could be done to prevent hospitalisation at a later stage. In all areas of expenditure, this sort of thinking would pay dividends. Initially, it would mean that some of the end expenditure would have to be curtailed to make way for the preventative expenditure.

Remedial education is vital. It may interest honourable members to know that not more than two months ago I attended the presentation of Queen's Scout awards. Three awards were presented, but I was particularly interested in one boy when I later heard from his parents that, at the age of 14, when asked to read the prayers at a Scout ceremony he refused. The parents realised that he had a problem. On investigation it was found that, after having been trained in our State education system, he could not read. Being sensible, wise parents, they approached a child psychologist, who identified the boy's problem. They employed a teacher to correct it, and I was able to congratulate him on earning a Queen's Scout award. He is now a very fine young fellow doing an excellent job, but he could quite easily have become totally uninterested in life

because of this mental blockage, and have drifted into some undesirable area. Instead, he is now one of the leaders in the Scout Movement.

Urgent thought must be given to this field. I realise there are pressures in all areas, but we must identify the difficulties at the earliest stage possible. I am appalled at the thought that a boy can reach 14 years of age without the people in our schools being able to identify such problems as the one I have mentioned. I am well aware that teachers are leaving training colleges with some training in identifying these problems, but we must ensure, by some method or other, that early identification of this type of problem is possible. We should spend money in this area to save expenditure at the far end.

I am very proud indeed to be associated with the Government that has been responsible for the introduction of this excellent Budget. Queensland should be very proud of the way its funds are being husbanded and used. In the first paragraph of the Financial Statement, the Treasurer said—

“... the overall Queensland economy is in good shape.”

There is no doubt about that, and there are a number of reasons for this position. One is the political stability that has been evident in Queensland for so many years. The Government has created an atmosphere for people to invest their money and to prosper in this State. I pay a tribute to all those who have done this together with the Government. Governments, in themselves, can do only so much. Opposition members feel that Governments can do all, but those States or countries that have endeavoured to do this have not been very successful. Chile is a fine example. After two years of trying, that country is in such a shocking mess that something drastic will happen there at any time.

Mr. Houston: You put chillies in onions.

Mr. CHINCHEN: This is a serious matter. The Leader of the Opposition does not understand the country I mention, or what has happened there. For his information, the people in whom he seems to be interested—the Communists—did not have to take over in Chile because they were duly elected to office by the people, who are now trying to find ways and means of rectifying their error.

Mr. Houston: When were you last in Chile?

Mr. CHINCHEN: I am able to read. I do not have to visit everywhere.

In the third paragraph of the Financial Statement, the Treasurer said—

“The average weekly earnings of male employees during the final quarter of the financial year were 10.8 per cent above those of the same quarter of the previous year, a trend, which if continued, could make it very difficult for exporting industries to compete with producers in other countries.”

This is quite right. I was somewhat amazed to hear the honourable member for Isis say he was disgusted at the mention of wage-earners by Government members when inflation was mentioned. It is not wage-earners, but the people who are leading them who must bear the brunt of this.

We have heard the honourable member for Lytton, who has just entered the Chamber, and many others speak about the little man. What is happening to the little man? Is a pensioner a little man? I think so. The ordinary worker is a little man. A 10.8 per cent increase in wages in 12 months is considerable, and if production had increased by 10.8 per cent, there would be no problem. But the increase in production was less than 2 per cent, so there must be inflation. This is not a worry to the man who receives the increased income, but if he understood the problem, it would be. The carrot on the end of the stick is all he is interested in. He is getting his pockets filled at the expense of the little people, that is, those on fixed incomes such as annuities, superannuation, and pensions. The honourable member for Redlands spoke on the same theme.

The wage content of the cost of any material is not incidental. The honourable member for Isis tried to suggest this. Take for instance, this structure or a house. The cost represents so much in goods and so much in wages. Consider the manufacture of any goods. Take, for example, tiles, bricks, timber and stoves. They all have a high labour content in their production. They have to be carted, which again involves the use of labour. The use of labour starts with the raw material, and, if full investigation is made of the production of any article, it will be found that it has in the ultimate a labour content of possibly 85 to 90 per cent. When average weekly earnings increase 10.8 per cent in 12 months that is very serious indeed.

The honourable member for Isis should realise that the man on the land cannot adjust his prices to meet these rising costs, and he is one of those being hurt by the present situation. These are the people for whom we should be concerned. We are all paying for inflation, and it is not economically healthy. The people want purchasing power. It is not the amount of money that is important, but its purchasing power. Although wages are increasing, purchasing power is decreasing. We are all going round and round in a circle, getting ourselves into such a situation that ultimately this country will not be able to export anything. That is very worrying to all who have a serious approach to the economy of the country.

It is interesting to note, the Treasurer says, that although wages have risen to the extent mentioned, prices have risen at little more than half that rate. This indicates that a considerable portion of increased wage costs has been absorbed. This has been achieved by new methods and techniques,

and new machinery. I am inclined to the view that the community in general owes a great debt of gratitude to the business community for its ability to cope with a situation of this nature.

A position is developing in which members of the A.L.P. are saying, "We are not interested in a 35-hour week." But they are in fact right behind it.

Mr. Burns interjected.

Mr. CHINCHEN: The honourable member for Lytton is taking advantage of the change in occupancy of the chair, but he will not worry me in the least.

I should like to point out, Mrs. Jordan, that there are some things that should be aired in this Chamber, and one of them is the 35-hour week which, once started in one area, will drift to another and yet another, because its eventual adoption is A.L.P. policy. The timing of it is what is most important. I am not against higher wages or shorter hours, but the timing of their introduction is vital. In the current oil strike, one of the conditions being sought is a 35-hour week, and it is creating a major problem.

When honourable members opposite speak of the introduction of a 35-hour week, do they say there will also be lower wages? Of course not. Whatever they say, a 35-hour week means either lower production or higher wages. Increased costs have been estimated at a minimum of 9 per cent. Add that to what is happening now, and there must be galloping inflation. If people are interested in this State and nation, they must be against such a proposal.

Mr. Burns interjected.

Mr. CHINCHEN: The situation is very disturbing when one sees the irresponsible attitude demonstrated by the honourable member for Lytton, who will not listen to a word I am saying, to the little things, as well as to the major issues that I am discussing now.

There is another point that I should like to make concerning the attitude of the A.L.P. to things in general. It should be deplored by all thinking people. At Townsville, in December 1971, the Federal executive of the Labor Party resolved—

"Unions should be immune from actions in common law against private or civil wrongs alleged to have been committed by or on behalf of a trade union in furtherance of a trade dispute."

Do we know what that means? Do they know? Surely they do.

Mr. Burns: Give me 10 minutes and I will explain it to you.

Mr. CHINCHEN: I will explain it to the honourable member now. The Federal executive has committed a future Labor Government to placing union officers above

the law, free from civil liability for such familiar industrial actions as damage to property, assault, trespass and conspiracy, provided only that they can claim to be acting on behalf of a trade union. If that is not irresponsibility, I will go "he".

Mr. Miller: It puts the union above the law, doesn't it?

Mr. CHINCHEN: That is the whole purpose of it; the union is above the law.

Another resolution of the December meeting of the Federal Executive reads—

"We declare our total opposition to the retention of strike penalties in the (Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration) Act, and affirm that a Labor Government will remove these provisions from the Act."

Again, in my opinion, that is irresponsible. It is useless having laws unless they can be enforced.

It is interesting to know that a friend of honourable members on the opposite side of the Chamber, Mr. Egerton, an important man in trade union circles, has argued that "the trade union movement must insist on its rights to be more than merely an industrial body looking after the industrial demands of its members; unions must make it clear that they have a right to interfere in the political movement of the nation." That is where I differ from Mr. Egerton entirely. I believe that unions are a very important part of the structure and organisation of society. Their job is to improve the lot of the workers, whether in the field of hours or wages, as and when that is necessary. But to move into political fields and use their muscle in that area is, I think, against the interests of this country.

The situation now exists that the unions, because of amalgamations, are very powerful. Honourable members opposite talk about monopolies. To my mind, a monopoly of labour is the greatest monopoly in this country, and it is now being used in the political field rather than in the interests of the workers themselves. What say have the workers in this? None whatever. The A.L.P. executive passes a resolution such as this, and the poor worker must tag along and accept that type of domination. To me, that is abominable, and I hope that one day the worker will wake up to what is going on and how he is being led by the nose.

I revert to the Financial Statement. It is interesting to note that the number of wage-earners in civilian employment in Queensland increased by 3 per cent between July 1971 and June 1972, compared with an increase of only 1.1 per cent over Australia as a whole. That is quite significant, because people are moving to Queensland for work and at present this State has the lowest unemployment rate in Australia.

The Committee has heard today various comparisons—Queensland with New South Wales; Queensland with Victoria—which I do not think are fair. In my opinion, Queensland more closely approaches the States of Western Australia and South Australia. I would be happy to give honourable members a comparison of the latest figures available showing where Queensland is heading as a State against the State of South Australia.

As all honourable members know, South Australia has had a Labor Government for some time, and it could be expected, if the theories of Opposition members are correct, that there would be a boost and things would be moving in that State. Let us look at the existing situation and take first the number of persons registered for employment. The earliest figures that I have are for June 1967, when there were 13,025 people registered for employment in Queensland and 8,484 in South Australia. At that time, Queensland had 5,000 more unemployed registered than South Australia. The latest figures that I have are for July of this year, and they show that the whole position has changed. At that time Queensland had 10,352 unemployed registered, whereas South Australia had 12,822. What a disastrous picture that is! The tables have been turned. In 1967 it was 13,000 in Queensland and 8,000 in South Australia; now it is 10,000 in Queensland and 13,000 in South Australia. The number of vacancies registered in Queensland was 3,394; in South Australia it was 2,243. That is the picture. Because at present there is not a Government in South Australia that would create an atmosphere conducive to the opening of new businesses, that is just not happening.

Let us now look at the comparative weekly wage rates. As at June 1960, the figure for Queensland was \$34.47; for South Australia it was \$34.18, only 29c difference. In May of this year—the last month for which figures are available—the Queensland rate was \$64.48, compared with \$61.34 in South Australia, \$3.14 our way.

Let me now compare the average weekly earnings. In 1966-67 the Queensland rate was \$57.10 whereas in South Australia it was \$57.60. South Australia was 50c ahead. The present rate in Queensland is \$91.60 compared with South Australia's \$90, a difference of \$1.60 our way. Why is this happening? It is all very strange.

Let me now take value of building approvals. The monthly averages for 1962-63 are Queensland, \$12,206,000 and South Australia, \$10,800,000, a difference of approximately \$1,500,000. In June of this year the figure for Queensland was \$46,000,000 and, for South Australia, \$23,500,000, a difference of about \$23,000,000. That is quite striking. Building approvals are a true indicator of the economic situation in any particular State.

Let us look at the number of building approvals. In 1962-63 the Queensland figure was 869 and, for South Australia, 898, or slightly in favour of South Australia. At June 1972, the number in Queensland was 2,564 and, in South Australia, 1,261. Again a very telling story.

Let us now look at it from the point of view of savings-bank depositors' balances. In June 1967, the Queensland figure was \$700,000,000 compared with \$605,000,000 in South Australia, a difference of \$95,000,000 in our favour. At the present time the Queensland figure is \$1,024 million compared with \$848,000,000 in South Australia. We are now \$176,000,000 ahead. All the indicators are there for anyone who takes the time to look for them to realise that Queensland is on the move and that South Australia is suffering severely. There can be only one reason for that: the restrictive and difficult policies introduced by a socialist Government in South Australia.

What interests me particularly about the Budget is the amount of money that will be available in Queensland this year. Much of this is due to the excellent assistance being given to the States by the Federal Government and, in addition, by the Treasurer's husbanding of our own revenue.

I am very pleased to see so much money going to education, which is a very important field, and to health, another very important field. These are the areas in which the people want the money spent, and that is where it is being spent. I can imagine that it will be spent very wisely and well. Unfortunately, from the figures given to us we can never identify this. I feel that in this State, back-bench members are somewhat at a disadvantage in endeavouring to analyse Budget figures. All we have before us is one comparison—a comparison between the estimated receipts and expenditures for the current year and the actual receipts and expenditures for the previous year. That brings in some complications. We know that in other States, and in the Commonwealth, Public Accounts Committees are set up. This gives members an opportunity to determine whether money is wisely spent.

That type of committee is badly needed in Queensland. As the representative of a large number of people, I should be able to assure them that all the money being expended by the various departments is being used in the best possible way. However, I have no way of assuring myself on that score. In Parliaments where Public Accounts Committees are established and their reports come before Parliament, members can inform themselves on what is happening.

I should like to indicate some of the difficulties that prevent a back-bench member from really knowing what the situation is simply by looking at the figures presented to Parliament, particularly the figures in the Estimates. I will move through the Estimates

from page to page and point out the things that make it impossible for us to compare the figures. Changes are constantly being made. They may be necessary changes, but many things appear for which we should have some explanation.

On page 9 of the Estimates, Premier's Department, there is a change. The State Reporting Staff, which was previously on the Premier's Department Estimates, now comes under the Justice Department, and the Hansard Reporting Staff, which was previously on the Legislative Assembly Vote, has been transferred to the Premier's Department Vote. Why these things should take place nobody knows; no explanation is given. Why the Hansard Reporting Staff should be a charge against the Premier's Department, I do not know. Previously it was a charge against Legislative Assembly, which to me seems correct. These changes make it difficult for back-bench members to compare the figures from year to year. As I said, the State Reporting Bureau, which was previously with the Premier's Department, now comes under the Justice Department. I cannot imagine why this was done, but we must accept it as a wise and prudent move.

Mr. Murray: If we are not debating those particular Estimates, we will have to wait until next year to find the reason.

Mr. CHINCHEN: This, of course, is another problem. We debate only half the Estimates each year. All the Estimates should come under the scrutiny of Parliament every 12 months.

Mr. Murray: It is disgraceful that we only debate half the Estimates as a tradition in this Parliament.

Mr. CHINCHEN: This is how it has always been, of course, but I trust that the practice will be changed.

Again under the Premier's Department, on page 10 we find provision for the Agent-General's Office. This interests me, because recently, with a small parliamentary delegation visiting Tokyo, I found that Western Australia had an office in Tokyo, although that State is not conducting nearly the extent of business with Japan that Queensland is. We have an enormous amount of trade with Japan in coal, bauxite, wheat, mutton, sorghum, dairy products, sugar, and many other items.

Mr. Hinze: Do you say we should have our own trade commissioner there?

Mr. CHINCHEN: We should have an office there, perhaps headed by a trade commissioner. It is not necessary to have a large office; a small one would do the job.

I asked one of the Australian Embassy representatives, "How do you look after Queensland's interests here?" Being honest, he said, "We do not look after the interests

of any particular State. We are a Commonwealth body, and we can only look after the Commonwealth's interests as a whole." I wondered what would happen if somebody in Japan wanted canned fruit. It might be imported from Shepparton whereas it could well be imported from Brisbane. We do not know whether this is so, but if we had our own man in Japan he could ensure that any Queensland products that we cared to export would be pushed in that country, where the people really welcome direct contact with Queensland.

I am sure that all the other members of the delegation that visited Japan will support me in saying that all the business people we met—and we met many very important business people—were thrilled and delighted to have people from Queensland visit them. Many of them had visited this State and knew Queensland but the fact that we had gone from here to see them, I am quite sure, was a great boost for the State of Queensland. More members of this Parliament should visit countries such as Japan, where we are doing so much business, not only to show the flag but also to cement relations between them and us. This is of extreme importance.

I feel that Queensland should have its own office in Tokyo because of the enormous amount of business we are already doing with Japan and the amount of extra business we could do. As I say, Western Australia has an office there, and I understand that the cost of an office of this nature has been supplied to the Premier and the Chairman of the Public Service Board, Mr. Longland. He, too, visited Japan and was given the figures, which I believe are very moderate. Queensland representation in Japan is of extreme importance to this State.

On page 17 of the Estimates of the Probable Ways and Means and Expenditure, an amount of \$6,500,000 is shown as being required for the Treasurer's Advance Account in 1972-73. Although there may be adequate reason for this, no money was required for this account in the previous year. An explanation should be given as to why the figure shown is required for this year. If no explanation for unusual expenditure is given, how can we make a comparison between figures for the various years? We have difficulty in identifying figures of this nature.

On page 22, under "Aboriginal and Island Affairs", a Director of Pre-School Activities and 84 education assistants are referred to. I claim this is Education expenditure. Time and time again, members of the Opposition criticise our Education expenditure compared with that in other States. I admit that in Queensland the expenditure per capita is lower than in other States, but that is not the test. Rather is it: what is the end product? I know only too well that our end product will stand up against that in any other State. I have been assured of this by a wing commander who retired recently from the R.A.A.F. He was

a member of the Air Force interviewing committee. He told me, "We want to get all the people we can from Queensland at any level of education, from those of apprenticeship standard to post graduates." He added, "I assure you this does not apply only to the Air Force." Once each year the interviewing boards of the Army, Navy and Air Force meet, and all the members of those boards are anxious to obtain the product of the Queensland education system. We should be very proud of this.

The Director of Pre-school Activities and the education assistants, to whom I have referred, are educating Queenslanders, so expenditure of this nature should be included under the Education Department.

On page 25, under "Department of Industrial Affairs", the number of persons employed dropped from 119 in 1971-72 to 95 in 1972-73. No explanation for this reduction is given. Of course, there is a reason for it. There has been a change in the departments and a transfer of some members of the staff. But Parliament is not told this. To assist us in making comparisons there should be a note saying, for instance, "So many personnel have been transferred to such-and-such a department."

On page 30, under "Education and Cultural Activities", we find that the number of supervisors, teachers and clerk-typists dropped from 161 in 1971-72 to 20 in 1972-73. In this instance there is an asterisk, which shows that part-time teacher numbers are not included. Why are part-time teachers not shown? There has been no reduction in the expenditure involved. On the contrary, it rose from \$198,000 in 1971-72 to \$229,000 required for 1972-73. I presume the sum required includes that needed for part-time teachers. But we are not told this.

Mr. Houston: You are not supposed to know.

Mr. CHINCHEN: It is important that we do know.

Schools for the blind and the deaf are shown under State schools. There must be a reason for this but, again, we cannot compare the accounts because an entirely different picture is shown here.

The number of persons shown relative to pre-school education is 66. This is a very important and interesting field, and it is good to see that the Government is moving into it. However, it is included in statistics covering "State Schools". That could be a matter of convenience or it may be that the school principal will also be the principal of the pre-school centre. I do not know, and the policy may or may not have been established. I should like to think that our pre-school education is a type of kindergarten education, an entirely separate type of education. It should be divorced from our normal State school education for many reasons. I raise this matter because, again,

I am unaware of what is happening. I should like to think that this will be kindergarten education and not an earlier class of our normal State schools.

Turning now to page 32 of the Estimates for the Department of Education and Cultural Activities, I note that accounts, again, have been changed, which prevents our making the comparisons that we might care to make. The Estimates disclose that in 1971-72 there were 526 persons engaged at Brisbane technical colleges, and 431 are provided for in 1972-73. The latter figure is marked with an asterisk denoting that part-time teachers are not included. Part-time teachers are still employed because money is allocated for them. Why should we not be given two figures so that we may make a comparison? An even worse discrepancy is shown relative to country technical colleges. The figure for 1971-72 was 428, but only 157 are shown for 1972-73.

On page 33, under the heading "Colleges of Advanced Education", a number of items are shown that appeared formerly, but now, as teachers' colleges come under colleges of advanced education, the new accounts must be brought into that subdivision. That is understandable, but here again we have trouble in making a comparison.

I see some strange situations for which I cannot find any explanation under contingencies. This worries me. If we had a public accounts committee, I am quite sure that all these matters would have been vetted before they appeared. In Canberra such a committee investigates all Estimates. A great deal of work is done in this field in the Federal sphere. In the Health Estimates one contingency item is supposed to cover incidental and miscellaneous expenses, fares, freights, printing, etc. The appropriation for 1971-72 was \$337,400, but only \$317,321 was expended. Last year the full appropriation was not used, but this year \$447,650 is sought. That figure has been produced from the air; it cannot be justified. The full appropriation was not used last year, but now an extra \$130,000 is sought. On looking at general medical contingencies, I see that \$500,000 was appropriated and only \$477,000 was expended. And this year the estimated expenditure is \$645,000.

Mr. Houston: You said this was a good Budget.

Mr. CHINCHEN: It is an excellent Budget, but I see a lot of hidden amounts that could add to the total expense.

In my opinion the Division of Tuberculosis should be a fairly static division. In 1971-72 it was given an appropriation of the nice round figure of \$300,000, and used \$289,000. But this year it wants \$406,000.

Mr. Jensen: That's a guess.

Mr. CHINCHEN: It should not be a guess. Figures presented in the Budget should be an accurate estimate based on fact.

Mr. Houston: You have accepted that.

Mr. CHINCHEN: I see these figures when they are presented. I raise these queries because I believe that members of Parliament should play a greater part in the State's financial activities.

Mr. Houston: I agree with that.

Mr. CHINCHEN: I am presenting my story. The Leader of the Opposition said nothing; he simply gave a lot of empty figures and scarcely referred to the Budget. We gained nothing at all from what he said. I am making a practical approach to this problem, and I should like the Leader of the Opposition to listen to it.

On page 46 of the Estimates of Expenditure for 1972-73, under the heading "Licensing Commission", we find that for postage and incidentals \$45,725 was appropriated for 1971-72, that \$43,701 was expended in that year and that \$104,400 is required for 1972-73. On page 47, under the heading "Registrar-General" again for postage and incidentals, we find that \$18,483 was appropriated for 1971-72, that \$12,996 was expended in that year and that \$25,700 is required for this year. Many other examples can be found. In my opinion, it should be possible to estimate postage and incidentals accurately.

I am inclined to think that the contingency area is used for something that is not known and may crop up. This is not good budgeting in my opinion. This is departmental attitude to having money available in case of some unforeseen contingency.

The Public Accounts Committee in Canberra says that what must go into Estimates is what is known, and that what is not known must not appear. That is not what happens here. This is a little disturbing because possibly a couple of million dollars could be found in these different accounts that could be used on some project that is needed urgently. The question of control of staffing and expenditure is not known to us, and it should be. These matters would be looked at by a public accounts committee. For the interest of honourable members, I refer to "The Australian Public Accounts Committee—Its Past and Current Programme" written by Richard Cleaver, M.P., who was its chairman for many years.

An Opposition Member interjected.

Mr. CHINCHEN: This is a matter of interest to all honourable members.

Mr. Houston: Take it to your joint party meeting and we will back you.

Mr. CHINCHEN: A number of members have spoken about this matter for several years.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mrs. Jordan): Order! There is too much cross-firing in the Chamber.

Mr. CHINCHEN: It was interesting to hear the honourable member for Townsville West raise something that we have been advocating for a considerable period.

A Government Member: The Opposition is jumping on the band wagon.

Mr. CHINCHEN: This is the whole deal.

In this publication, the following two paragraphs appear—

"As far back as 1952, the then Auditor-General suggested that it would be helpful indeed if all Government Departments were examined by the Committee once in every three years. The records disclose that, whilst this has not yet been accomplished, general enquiries of that type have found and indeed still find a significant place in the Committee's work.

"A broad cross section of the entire Public Service is influenced by the Committee calling for the presentation of documents and detailed verbal evidence each year in connection with its enquiries."

Whenever this question has been raised, I have been told that we have the Auditor-General. We know what he does, and he does it well. He merely says that expenditure is justified or is not justified or that it has been expended or was not expended. He checks what has happened. He does not say that it is wise expenditure or that it is the best way to expend money. He cannot do that.

So we have the situation that this matter is left to executive Government or departmental heads. I am sure that these figures have been raised by the various departments in their wisdom, but I am inclined to think that we, as members, must have much more control. This can only be done through a public accounts committee. This would establish the supremacy of Parliament over executive Government. Surely this is our job. Such a committee is not a policy-making body; it operates within the Government's policy. It would be a means of allowing members to feel that they were playing their part in the expenditure of money, which is a most important area of Government. It would allow members to be satisfied in their own minds that money was being spent wisely. As it is, we have to accept that this is the case. If people whom I represent do not accept that, I cannot accept it. Many of them do not accept it, because they have seen instances in which there has been waste, lost time, and so on, and they are not happy about it. We, as back-benchers, must play a more important part in scrutinising expenditure through a public accounts committee.

Over all, the expenditure that has been decided is sound. There has been an increase of 25 per cent of last year's allocation, which was a record, for Education and Cultural Activities. That is gratifying

to me, as I am sure it is to the people. There has been an increase in the amount granted for Tourism, Sport and Welfare Services, the reason being the allocation this year for sporting activities. There has been a large increase in the allocation for Health. That is extremely important. Queensland has a free-hospital system, of which we should be proud. Mr. Hayden and other Federal A.L.P. representatives have been trying to convince the people that by an increase of 1.35 per cent in taxation some tremendous achievement will be made in the provision of health facilities. The other States may obtain free hospitalisation from such an increase, but the people of Queensland will be paying for it. We have free hospitalisation, and we do not want to have to pay any more taxation than is necessary. An increase in taxation for free hospitalisation is quite unnecessary for us.

In the few minutes in which I have left to speak I should like to refer to enlightened unionism and an enlightened unionist. I am not about to refer to Queensland, as I have yet to find here union leadership that has set a similar example. I have never seen here any instances in unionism in which the interests of the State have been paramount. That just does not happen. The constant cry for shorter hours and higher wages, at the expense of pensioners and others on fixed incomes, shows a complete lack of economic understanding.

In this evening's "Telegraph" an enlightened unionist is quoted. The heading to the short article is "Harder work, longer hours, urged". This man was thinking about his country. The article reads—

"A New Guinea union organiser wants longer hours and harder work, particularly in the Public Service.

"Yorkshire-born Mr. K. J. Bott, who is married to a Rabaul Tolai woman, made the appeal in Rabaul yesterday.

"Mr. Bott is treasurer and a foundation member of the Rabaul Workers Union.

"He said that in an emerging country like Papua New Guinea, unions had to think about national interests in addition to their own interests.

"And that means working a damn sight harder," he said.

"He said that too many apprentices in Papua New Guinea were going to work dressed as clerks, and going home at the end of the day with their clothes still spotless.

"What sort of apprentices are these?" he said.

"He described public servants as 'Protected animals, like Australian koalas.'

"They find themselves a fork in the Public Service gum tree and there they sit," he said.

"No one can sack them, and they don't have to do much.

"It's just not good enough in an emerging country, where we all have to pull our weight.'

"He urged that the Public Service working week should be stepped up from 35 to 40 hours."

Ours is a comparatively young country, and we are still struggling to establish ourselves. Fortunately we are managing fairly well at present, thanks to our primary industries and minerals. The day will come when, as a result of increasing technical education and knowledge, more people will want to work in secondary industry. This means that we will be able to produce goods, but how will we be able to sell them outside Australia?

Members of this Assembly who were in Japan recently know that there is a 44-hour week, and in some instances a 45-hour week, in that country. There is no intention of reducing those hours; they are happy with them.

Mr. Houston: How do you know?

Mr. CHINCHEN: We spoke to the workers; we spoke to the foremen; we spoke to the chiefs. They work a 44-hour week because they are interested not in their own situation but in the situation of their country. The standard of living is rising faster in Japan than it is in any other country. That is the result of hard work and industry. I admire their industriousness; I admire their courteous attention to the other people in the country.

I believe that Australians have to wake up to themselves. There is no question about that. If this country wishes to enter the field of secondary exporting, the day is not far distant when its people must work harder. What will defeat this State and defeat Australia will be the unenlightened attitude of union leadership. I am proud of what has been done; we are doing as well as we can; but the increase in wages and the reduction in working hours could be our downfall.

Mr. HANSON (Port Curtis) (8.11 p.m.): During the last few moments of the speech of the honourable member for Mount Gravatt, honourable members have listened to utterances that certainly would earn an Academy Award in a house of mirth. When he was reflecting upon the Press statement containing remarks allegedly made by a trade-union leader from New Guinea, I have no doubt that he was overcome with nostalgia and perhaps even had hallucinatory dreams of the days when he guided the destiny of the Ford motor company in this State.

Mr. Lane: Did you pay your barmaids over the award?

Mr. HANSON: Let me say in reply to the honourable gentleman opposite, whose operations at the watch-house before he

came into this place were somewhat devious, that for many years I was an employer in the hotel industry, and that I was the first person in Queensland in that industry to give employees three weeks' leave. I beat the introduction of the legislation by eight years.

In common with other members of the Opposition, I believe in an equitable distribution of the wealth of this country. That is the very foundation of the policy of the Australian Labor Party. That is why it came into being—because of oppression and the suppression of people who were trying to get a fair share of the means of production and distribution in this country. There is certainly nothing wrong with getting up and demanding—and demanding rightly—within the legislative enactments of this country a fairer share of the cake.

The Labor Party came into being as a political force because workers were at the cross-roads at the turn of the century. They had the alternatives of attaining the objectives of the working class by the overthrow of constitutional government by force or seeking representation in the various Parliaments of the country. Wisely, and advisedly, they formed a political force and entered Parliament. That is how the Labor Party was born, and it demands for the ordinary person in the community a greater share of the wealth and the natural resources of this country.

Members of the A.L.P. make no apology for that. In this enlightened day and age, with the numerous increases in company profits disclosed in the balance sheets of both private and public companies, we certainly do not endorse the ideas in the Press statement read in this Chamber tonight by the honourable member for Mount Gravatt. I have never heard such rubbish!

As I was not able to participate in the Address-in-Reply debate, I should like first to congratulate all new members of this Assembly and wish them a successful term of office. Obviously some on the Government side will not be here very long. During their one term they will merely get a sniff and a semblance of how Parliament functions. But as they are here, I offer them my felicitations and wish them well in their various submissions.

I say "Thanks very much" to the electors of Port Curtis who returned me with a large majority in the last State election. I am very grateful to the many hundreds of people who go out during the three-year term to espouse my cause and assist me no end.

Mr. Lane interjected.

Mr. HANSON: Might I say to the rather raucous, discourteous honourable member for Merthyr that there is one saying around Port Curtis that is quite true: "Never fear, Marty's here!" He certainly will be here

for a long time to come. Let me also say to him, through you, Mrs. Jordan, that I received my pre-selection under a plebiscite system, and I was elected not by tens or twenties but by hundreds of people, a great percentage of whom were militant unionists who lined the streets of Gladstone to record their support for me. They knew very well that I was in business and had a "quid", and that I did not work in the factory with them. But what they also knew, which was of paramount importance to them, was that I was "fair dinkum". That is why I am in Parliament today.

It has been indicated in the Treasurer's Financial Statement that the balance of the State's Public Debt at 30 June 1972 was \$1,347,000,628, an increase during the year of nearly \$70,000,000. The cost of servicing that debt in 1971-72 was a little over \$82,000,000. When Sir Thomas Hiley was a member of the Opposition he referred to the State's Public Debt as being absolutely scandalous and asked, "Where are we going?" It was a different story, of course, when he occupied the Treasurer's chair. When he became Treasurer he expressed horror at the criticism levelled at him by Opposition members on the score of the State Public Debt.

It is further pointed out in the Financial Statement that Public Debt charges are up \$6,155,599 on what was provided last year. The position of the State is very alarming when we compare the State Public Debt with the Commonwealth Public Debt. I know that honourable members have referred to this on numerous occasions. Even though I have referred to it repeatedly myself, I have no qualms about referring to it at every opportunity. Some day some form of sanity will prevail, I hope, so that the position will be corrected. The real spirit of federation has been lost. What could one expect with the present occupants of the Federal Treasury benches! In 1971, with the transfer of \$2,357,000,000 from the Commonwealth to the States, the Commonwealth was still able to increase its bank balance and/or make net purchases of securities to the value of \$257,000,000. At the same time the net indebtedness of the States was increased by \$783,000,000. What a ridiculous state of affairs! Certainly, it is very alarming.

It is all very well for Government members to belly-ache and froth at the mouth when they deride the Opposition for referring to the State's financial position. Mark my words, their political counterparts in Canberra are responsible for Queensland's position. In the Federation of Australia from the year 1901 until today, how many years has the Labor Party been in office? For the last 24 years the political counterparts of gentlemen opposite have been in office in Canberra and by their decisions they have acquired a vice-like, octopus grip upon the financial situation and have been responsible for a serious financial manipulation of the people's money. Over this period they have caused this unequal situation.

It is true that the Commonwealth has been repaying its debt at the rate of \$200,000,000 a year over the past 20 years and has certainly now attained the position of a net creditor. The Public Debts of the States are nearly three times those of the Commonwealth. The increased holdings of the Commonwealth in securities and its increased lending to the States is evidence of the fact that it has effected a reduction of its internal debt and has thereby been able to offset the increase in the overseas debt. The time must surely come when, for the sake of keeping the States afloat, the debt position must be transferred back to the people who can pay, that is, to the Commonwealth Government.

Commonwealth-State financial relationships, when viewed in contrast to what was originally intended, are to me indeed abortive. No political mumbo-jumbo will make up for the fact that over many years the Public Debt has been cunningly and ruthlessly transferred from the people who have the financial resources to the States who have not those resources. True it is that the system is very obscure. Admittedly, the Commonwealth has agreed to take over the existing debt at the rate of \$1,000 million in five years and to meet the debt charges on it. True it is that the Commonwealth does provide interest-free capital grants of more than \$200,000,000 a year for State works such as schools on which debt charges are not normally recoverable, but it is remarkable that for a long period State service priorities were very low indeed.

The priorities of hospitals and schools have ranked lower in the mind of the Commonwealth than the repayment of Commonwealth debts. The handing over of pay-roll tax to the States may have alleviated their problems to a small degree, but I maintain that eventually this will not be sufficient. I have advocated before that the fiscal imbalance in Australia could be solved by allowing the States to acquire a share of income tax. I am not an expert in this field, but I believe that it is necessary for the States themselves to have some form of growth revenue. Admittedly, it was explained by the Treasurer, when introducing the complementary legislation last year, that pay-roll tax would be a growth tax and should be of assistance, but I say assistance only to a small degree, and some very radical adjustment will be needed to alleviate the position of the States' debts and to correct the anomaly from which they suffer, which is in direct contrast to what was intended at the time of federation.

I believe that this would be one way in which our worry could be overcome and, at the same time, our revenue could be increased. The combined States' Public Debts are three times greater than the complete Commonwealth Public Debt. This is very wrong and against the spirit of federation. It is not the way in which a Federal

Government should flourish. In that regard we should heed an utterance of President Nixon in his State-of-the-Union message in January this year. He said, "In the Federation of the United States many of these anomalies must be corrected."

If the States tied themselves to income-tax receipts, allocations could be made in proportion to the income tax collected in the individual State, and some form of supplementary assistance could be provided by way of equalisation payments to the financially weaker States. The present formula, based on population, wages and a betterment factor, certainly is not the most desirable one. It leads only to confrontation, argument and a considerable amount of unsettlement in the country. I hope that the Australian Constitutional Convention that is to be held shortly will, in a spirit of co-operation, come up with some form of adjustment and amendment that will help to establish better financial arrangements. At the base of Government itself the financial argument is of the greatest importance and the fiscal imbalance between the States causes the most worry.

The Commonwealth was not created to be a money-maker. From 1901, of course, excess customs revenue was handed to the States, and in 1910 the Surplus Revenue Act was passed, under which, for the first time, the Commonwealth was handing money back to the States on a per-capita basis. Honourable members know the subsequent story of the Loan Councils and so forth. Today, unfortunately, in Canberra there is a political hierarchy that speaks from the isolation of the national capital in governing the lives of many persons against the spirit of federalism in Australia as drafted by its founders.

Mr. Hughes: You are speaking against your party and Whitlam.

Mr. HANSON: I am not speaking against my party. The honourable member is only beating the air. I remind him that 18 months ago the present Prime Minister, when referring to State taxation, said it should not unduly impair the ability of the Federal Government to regulate the national economy. Let the honourable member for Kurilpa reflect on that statement for a moment. On the one hand the Prime Minister, by a devious ruse, controls and manipulates the debt system throughout this country and reduces and finances capital works out of revenue, and, on the other, he abhors the fact that, in looking for money to finance some of their works, the States should enter the field of State taxation. This is what causes the worry. I say to the honourable member for Kurilpa that for 23 or 24 years his political counterparts in Canberra have guided the financial destiny of this country—and what a mess they have made of it.

Australia is faced with grave problems that require urgent solution. Many persons have argued that for the sake of solving our financial problems amendments should be made to section 128 of the Commonwealth Constitution. I hope that the Constitutional Convention closely examines that section with a view to engendering among the Commonwealth and the States some spirit of co-operation so that the present function of government in this country can be preserved. We see far too many instances of urban, regional and infrastructural needs. Later in this session I hope to be addressing myself to the particular need that has arisen at Gladstone. It is to be hoped that, without abrogating any rights in the true spirit of federalism, the Constitutional Convention will bring forward amendments designed to correct the financial imbalance that has occurred in Australia. This is essential.

Government Members interjected.

Mr. HANSON: It is all very well for Government members to interject and say this and that but, frankly, they alone are responsible for the present state of affairs. Every one of the studious back-bench Liberal members, the men with diligent dedication to the fierce idea of liberalism who are the great capitalists of the Government—although I think their politics are “on the nose”—are, after all, astute students. They all criticise the Federal Government, and they all criticised John Gorton. But John Gorton pulled the chairman of the Grants Commission into line and told him that under section 96 of the Commonwealth Constitution it was the prerogative of the Commonwealth Parliament to grant financial assistance to any State on such terms and conditions as that Parliament thought fit. That is perhaps why some of these people decided to support the idea of sinking the axe right between Gorton's shoulders.

I will deal now with certain matters relating to the education Vote as outlined by the Treasurer in his Financial Statement. It is again necessary, when considering many of the functions placed on the Department of Education by the Government, to realise that members of the Liberal Party are indeed responsible for the serious state of affairs in that department. Recently the Radford Report was implemented in Queensland. It is supposed to be very revolutionary—and no doubt it is. Members of the Opposition, when discussing the Radford Report, rightly drew attention to the fact that it may have been hastily forced on the teaching profession and the Education Department.

I maintain that certain recommendations in the Radford Report call for close attention. One only has to reflect on the moderation system as espoused in that report to realise that this is correct. Quite recently, at a meeting of school moderators under the control of district moderators, judgment

had to be passed within the time allotted for one meeting, and based on the flimsy evidence of a few samples of work, on the suggested pattern of rating for a particular school. To further complicate the problem, teachers arrived with completely different marking systems. Some had even awarded total marks for assignment work.

It is a sheer impossibility to make valid comparisons with such varied forms of reference. As I see the system at the present time, it is wide open to fabrication on the one hand and, unfortunately, a don't-care attitude on the other. I do not say, of course, that this occurs.

Mrs. Jordan: Many people say it has caused a lot of confusion.

Mr. HANSON: That was so in the initial stages. At the same time it has been proceeded with rather hastily and I dare say that if the honourable members listen to me they may learn something of benefit and agree with my submissions.

I do not say that this has been going on, but it is open to fabrication on the one hand and a certain don't-care attitude on the other hand. Yet this will unfortunately govern the matriculation prospects of thousands of children.

Can anyone understand how a board of education can endorse such nonsense unless it was saddled, at short notice, with a system that was fraught with problems and was asked to do its best? Great difficulty is being experienced in small schools and newly established schools where no reliable pattern of results has existed for a period of years to serve as a precedent.

The board's budget is very slender. But what else could one expect from a Country-Liberal Government? The vast and costly examination system has been dismantled—and it really has been very costly. A terrific impost has been placed on teachers in setting, correcting and tabulating work and in serving on syllabus committees and as district or school subject moderators, which means attending numerous meetings. The whole system is being maintained on a volunteer, part-time basis.

I have great admiration for members of the teaching profession in this State, and I agree with many of their submissions and arguments. I do not say that I completely agree with them in every submission they make, and it would be a very rare bird who did. Nevertheless, they have been left carrying the baby in this matter. If—and I repeat “if”—the system is to be retained, even on a trial basis, there will have to be finance for full-time moderators, even at district level, and proper development of the syllabus, increased in-service training of teachers, and secretarial assistance in schools for the correction of results. Unfortunately, as I said, the board's budget is very slender indeed, and this has not happened.

I shall now deal with the semester system. This is causing many parents a good deal of anxiety. It is resulting in more stringent pressures on children and teachers. In certain subjects, it is quite unrealistic. It makes no provision for revision consolidations, which are so essential in mathematics, foreign languages and other subjects. It does not suit certain subjects where the material is consequential. It makes no provision for lapses in the slow-maturing lad or girl. If he or she is average and fails in semester No. 1, that is the end of it.

While on this matter, I draw attention to the iniquitous matriculation rates from Senior to the University of Queensland. In 1970, 3,819 students, or 44 per cent of those who sat, matriculated to the university. In 1971, 4,003 students, or 43 per cent, matriculated. In 1972, 3,015 students, or 31 per cent, matriculated. Last year, roughly 10,000 students sat for the Senior Examination, so roughly 7,000 of them, who were kept at school by their parents at great cost and sacrifice, were denied matriculation and were thereby denied entry not only to the university but also to spheres of employment where matriculation standard is a requirement.

There is an urgent need for the development of vastly more first-year places at the university so that that pressure can be removed from schools. This would mean that, without for one moment lowering university standards, students who wish to go to the university may do so. In 1966 the Queensland matriculation rate was over 70 per cent. In 1967 it fell to 47 per cent and has stopped there. Such an abrupt change cannot be explained by rising enrolments and concern for standards.

Whilst I am on the subject of tertiary education and matriculation standards, I want to make reference to much of the criticism heard at times from Government members when they are deriding the Labor Party for its past performances in the field of education. I remind the Committee that it was a Labor Government that, in the period of the greatest depression ever inflicted on this country, found the money necessary to build the medical school of the Queensland University. That institution was built with State funds, without a single penny coming from the Commonwealth. Those Labor men were men of vision who ensured that young Queenslanders were given the opportunity to graduate as doctors in their own State. The medical practitioners on the other side of the Chamber would do well to remember that the money for the medical school was found by a State Labor Government in the 1935-36 era. At the same time, money was found for the provision of the university dental college in Turbot Street, the establishment of the Faculty of Veterinary Science,

and many other things. Incidentally, the university at St. Lucia was also begun in 1935.

Mr. Jensen: In the depression years.

Mr. HANSON: Yes. Today there is a shortage of places for undergraduates in the medical school. Frequently at election meetings doctors in the audience, not of my political persuasion, have come forward and asked certain questions. I have told them that they ought to be grateful that Labor men of the past had sufficient vision, in a time of great economic crisis, to build the medical school, and thus enable them to graduate. If the medical school had not been established, many would never have graduated as doctors, because the first year of the medical course had to be done in Queensland and subsequent years were completed in Sydney and other centres in the South.

Rarely am I able to speak on the Estimates of the Education Department because we have on this side of the Chamber a number of teachers who are experts in this field. They have had many years' experience in the Education Department, and naturally they like to address themselves to those Estimates. Tonight I want to take the opportunity to speak on library grants to primary schools, which is a matter of current interest in the field of education.

Library grants to primary schools are mentioned on page 7 of the Financial Statement. It is noted that these grants are to be increased, and that is very necessary indeed. However, despite all the blowing of bugles by the Treasurer, the Education Department, and those associated with the Government's cause, they have nothing to be proud of. In fact, they have everything to be ashamed of.

In the Sydney "Sunday Telegraph" of the week before last, there were some illuminating references by Dr. David Cohen, who is Senior Lecturer in Education at the Macquarie University in Sydney. He claims that 90 per cent of State primary schools in Australia do not have sufficient library books to give pupils an adequate education. He says that schools are short of 8,000,000 library books, and that more than 63 per cent of schools have no central libraries. He said that the situation in Australian primary schools could be described by a dirty four-letter word—"mess". He mentioned the shockingly low standard that has been set of 10 books to each pupil. In Canada the standard is 30, and, in the United States, 20. New South Wales primary schools have only 4.3 books for each pupil. Victoria and Tasmania have four, while South Australia has six. No figures were available for Queensland and Western Australia.

Mr. Jensen: They are just starting here.

Mr. HANSON: That is true.

Dr. Cohen also quoted other illuminating figures. He mentioned that last year the expenditure on books in the various States was as follows:—

State	Total Expenditure \$	Expenditure per Pupil \$ c
New South Wales	423,500	0.81
Victoria	315,000	0.84
South Australia	200,000	1.22
Western Australia	159,000	1.26
Tasmania	44,000	1.00

As honourable members will see, the expenditure in South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania, all of which have Labor Governments, is higher than that in States with Liberal Governments. Of course, Queensland "cracked the jackpot"—it was last of all—with 68c, or nearly one-half less than the expenditure in South Australia.

Dr. Cohen said that not one State spent enough to provide one new book for each pupil. That is in spite of all the glossy details that have been presented to us by the Treasurer, in spite of all the screamings and rantings of young, ambitious members of the Country Party desiring to become Cabinet Ministers and courting favour with members of the present Cabinet. As a matter of fact, the Minister for Lands has never had so many free drinks in his life, bought for him by members looking for his support for elevation to Cabinet.

The Committee has heard members of the Liberal Party, in true budgerigar fashion—in fact, the Budget has been referred to as a "budgerigar" Budget—talking of all the wonderful things that are occurring in the field of education. They really have nothing to be proud of when we realise that Queensland spends 68c a pupil on books, compared with the \$1.22 spent by a Labor Government in South Australia. That is a very big saving indeed.

Of course, the Committee has also heard the old argument that honourable members opposite are champions in giving money to non-State schools. They have told us what they have done and what they have not done for non-State schools. I have here a magazine published by a non-State secondary school in 1941. It takes us back to the days of the Scholarship system and the extension scholarships that were given by the Government when a student passed the Junior examination.

Incidentally, going a little further back into history, the Moore Tory Government took scholarships away from non-State schools and did not give them a "brass razoo". The honourable member for Belyando, who had many years of meritorious service in the Education Department, will confirm what I am saying.

Mr. Hughes interjected.

Mr. HANSON: In reply to the honourable member, I point out that a Labor Government was the first Government in this State to provide free school transport.

Let me get back to the figures shown in the magazine of the non-State secondary school to which I referred earlier. It should be remembered that in those days there were four quarters in the school year, and the fees were payable quarterly in advance, after receipt of an account by post, on behalf of each pupil according to classification, except that £2 10s. and £3 5s., respectively, were deducted from the tuition fees of Government scholarship and extension scholarship holders. In the sub-Junior and Junior classes the fees were £3 3s. a term. In other words, with the quarterly Government grant, the cost was \$1.30 a pupil, which represented 80 per cent assistance from the Labor Government of the day.

Mr. Rae: That was a long time ago.

Mr. HANSON: Not so long ago in the memories of many people who suffered from trying to have their children educated in the days of great economic stress during the depression.

Mr. Rae interjected.

Mr. HANSON: It is all here in black and white.

Mr. Rae: You were only a boy then. You don't know anything about it.

Mr. HANSON: I was a bright boy, too—too bright for the Minister.

At that time fees for Senior students were £4.4s. per term, of which £3.5s. was paid by the Government. In other words, it cost each student 19s. a quarter. That amounted to 75.4 per cent assistance. Honourable members opposite can throw in all the Commonwealth assistance and all the State assistance of today, but it will not add up to an equivalent percentage. Facts are facts and they cannot be refuted. This Government is really not assisting some of the schools.

Mr. Tooth: How many schools had those scholarships?

Mr. HANSON: Very few of the pupils the honourable gentleman taught would have received a scholarship. They tell me he was inadequate. If the right thing had been done, he would have been sacked.

Honourable Members interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Low): Order! I ask the honourable member to proceed with his speech.

Mr. HANSON: In my speech in the Address-in-Reply debate last year, I referred to obscene literature. At that time I said I would be failing in my duty if I did not associate myself with the protest that was

being made against the considerable amount of obscene and pornographic literature that was available to young people.

Mr. Hughes: It is getting worse, not better.

Mr. HANSON: It is all very well for Government members to be smart and try to smear.

Mr. Hughes: I am agreeing with you.

Mr. HANSON: Even tonight I have heard many Government members, by interjection, deriding the A.L.P. and making accusations against honourable members on this side. They have been in Government since 1957, and their Liberal and Country Party colleagues in Canberra have controlled the destinies in the Commonwealth sphere since 1949. All the regulations, laws and by-laws relating to obscene and pornographic literature are their responsibility. The A.L.P. has done nothing by way of legislation in this field. Nowhere in Labor Party policy or philosophy is there any semblance of a desire to promote filth in literature. The banning of filth in literature is entirely the Government's "baby".

Over a considerable period I have had correspondence with Mr. Chipp on this matter. Last year some honourable members mentioned that correspondence when they were writing to him on matters concerning his department. The Country-Liberal coalitions in the State and Federal spheres carry this responsibility. When the A.L.P. left office in the Commonwealth and State spheres, did we have such things as sex shops? Was there the pornography about then that one now sees on TV? Did we have bookstands in Queensland where, in 20 swift glances, one could see on the covers of magazines a complete exposure of the female breast? Did we have any of the permissiveness that is evident in society today? We did not. What has occurred is simply the result of the Government not having the guts to do something about it. I make no apology for saying that.

I do not back down to anyone on a matter like this. I appreciated the many hundreds of letters that were sent to me last year after what I said on the matter in this Chamber. Of course, a few half-smart ones arrived. Quite frankly, I say to those who sent them that I have nothing but the utmost contempt for them. All children have inquiring minds and are prone to look for some excitement in literature whenever it is pointed out to them. In recent years there has been an over-emphasis of sex in literature, and, very subtly and insidiously, it has been forced down the throats of our young people. A clear, concise examination of sex, advocated by genuine people at times, is fair enough; but, as I say, it has been very subtly and insidiously forced down the throats of our young people.

Mr. Hughes: What is the answer?

Mr. HANSON: I have told the honourable member; his Government has no guts.

Some people have a deep moral responsibility to their children and are extremely concerned about the insidious forces concentrating on our children, trying to indoctrinate them and guide them along paths that lead only to moral degradation.

Arthur Quiller Couch, the prominent English literary man, says that a precious book is the life-blood of the master spirit. How true that is. Denis Saurat, the French critic, says that a sex story does not make a novel; it mars it. The old worn-out cliché that is advanced by many of the avant garde is that these books are of considerable literary merit. This is utter rubbish and arrant nonsense. That is my view of what is said about books that are offensive and obscene.

I am not some form of crank on this matter, but I have reared six children and I feel for them, their future and the future of others. I am also one who, incidentally, in true Labor Party fashion, has a true love of his country. I want to see the children of this State read plenty of good, healthy literature, not the 68c-per-pupil literature that I mentioned a while ago. I believe that the so-called freedom that is at times demanded by the purveyors of filth has very little to do with the preserving of real literary values—and the same goes for media values. I maintain that the "dirty men" of Hollywood have much to answer for.

I believe that the words of wisdom recently expressed by Professor James McAulay, when he said that the attempt to bring the material which formerly belonged to pornography into serious literature has been a failure. Unfortunately, we sometimes find people who put forward a story, such as was done recently in the English Teachers' Association "News Letter". They were defenders of "The Tin Drum", a novel hanging around the ridges, "Lady Chatterley's Lover", and a few other books, and they mentioned that those who defend these books are like soldiers dressed in armour ready to do battle to defend their choice of novels for recommended reading. What rubbish! Many persons in the community are concerned with the "square off" sometimes advanced that these books are of great literary merit. I maintain that McAulay is quite correct when he says that anyone who wants to abandon the public regulation of decency should not pretend he is doing literature any favours; he is, in fact, making it harder for artistic integrity to survive.

Mr. Jensen: The Education Minister ought to read that.

Mr. HANSON: Of course he should. I have mentioned a book called "The Tin Drum". Recently the Minister wrote to a certain person in this city about this book and mentioned that he did not think

many teachers would be recommending it. Unfortunately, it has been recommended for reading, and it is causing a great deal of concern among people who have a genuine affection not only for their own children but also for the children of others, and want them to proceed along the paths of virtue and become good citizens of this country.

Last year some reflections were cast upon certain statements I made in this Chamber and a number of quotations I read from the books to which I have referred. In Gladstone I spoke to many persons from all walks of life—the good old working people who have lived there for a considerable time, young married couples, and so on—and I showed them the different passages that I had quoted. I asked them quite frankly and openly, “Is this the type of stuff you would like to see forced down the throats of young people in this town?” The reply from every single one of them was, “Not on your life!”

I have mentioned the book entitled “The Tin Drum”. I hope I do not start a rush for it.

Mr. Rae interjected.

Mr. HANSON: The Q.C.E. would do all in its power to ensure that moral integrity is preserved in this country. As I have said before, there is not one ounce of truth in the suggestion that the Labor Party's policy advocates pornography and filth. Members of the Australian Labor Party are good and decent people, who are proud to be Australians.

Mr. Hughes: I agree with you in principle, but don't you think that the Literature Board of Review does a good job in trying to stop this?

Mr. HANSON: Under a Labor administration, which created it, it did. However, this Government has not had the guts to face up to its responsibilities.

Mr. Hughes: What about “The Little Red School Book”?

Mr. HANSON: The Government acted only in a half-hearted manner in that instance, too; it did not have the guts to get stuck into the problem.

I was about to refer to “The Tin Drum”. Of that publication the English “Daily Telegraph” said—

“Funny, macabre, disgusting, blasphemous, pathetic, horrifying, emetic, erotic, it is an endless delirium, an outrageous phantasmagoria in which dust from Goethe, Hans Andersen, Swift, Rabelais, Joyce, Aristophanes and Rochester dances on the point of a needle in the flame of a candle that was not worth the game.

“Oskar has drummed us through the war in prostrate Poland—through the war in Germany and France as well, and into a

post-war world where mankind is a bucket of eels. Nothing is sacred to him; everything is to be derided if not destroyed. The devil take him and his maleficent masterpiece!”

What an atrocious book to be given to the young people of this country!

I have here another book, entitled “Conflict 1”, in which, on page 15, this rhyme appears—

“There was an old girl called Old Muvver Lee,

Old Muvver Lee, Old Muvver Lee,

There was an old girl called Old Muvver Lee,

Under the walnut tree.

She 'ad her baiby on 'er knee, on 'er knee, on 'er knee,

She 'ad 'er baiby on 'er knee, Under the walnut tree.

A carvin' knife was in 'er 'and, in 'er 'and, in 'er 'and,

A carvin' knife was in 'er 'and, Under the walnut tree.

She ran it through the baiby's 'art, baiby's 'art, baiby's 'art,

She ran it through the baiby's 'art, Under the walnut tree.

The rich red blood went runnin' dahn, runnin' dahn, runnin' dahn,

The rich red blood went runnin' dahn, Under the walnut tree.”

That is absolute rubbish. So much for that.

In his speech the honourable member for Callide referred to the desirability of augmenting the Central Queensland power system. I support such an augmentation. I want greater electrical power to be made available for future industries in Queensland. When the Gladstone Power Station was mooted, I said quite frankly in this Chamber, during the period of shuffling between the State and Federal Governments, that the anticipated final capacity of 1,100 megawatts was insufficient. Of course, I was subjected to arrogant reproach from the Treasurer who, in typical, dirty fashion tried to deride my comments by being half smart. Today, the Comalco people have options over half the block capacity of that power station, and it seems that they will have the third stage of the aluminium industry established in the region. Complementary chemical industries will be established not far from the power station and other avenues will be available for the operation of vast secondary-industry complexes in the area. The great natural resources of the region, the wonderful natural harbour over which I presided as chairman of the harbour board for many years, the quantity of power available, the wonderful water supply, and the potential for large-scale industrial expansion—all of these things make obvious the desirability of augmenting the present power scheme.

I realise that the power station is in its initial stages. The earthworks have not been completed and a lot of assembly work is taking place at the moment. The full workforce has not arrived at the power station and some time will elapse before it does. I reiterate that a capacity of 1,100 megawatts is insufficient. Ten years ago I said that at Lake Munmorah and Vale's Point the New South Wales Government was building power stations with capacities well in excess of that of the Gladstone Power Station. Since then, a power station with a 2,000-megawatt capacity has been built at Liddell. The combined outputs of these power stations, which will be supplied at a cheap rate, are attracting industries to New South Wales.

Unfortunately much of the alumina produced in Queensland goes to New Zealand and Tasmania. It will also go to the complex in New South Wales because of the cheap electricity that can be obtained there. Why should not this manufacturing process become part and parcel of an aluminium industry in Queensland? We have an extrusion plant in Queensland in which the metal is fabricated, but that is the fourth stage, not the attractive third stage.

In the past I castigated the Government for its poor performance in this matter. It has nothing to be proud of in not insisting that this enterprise should be part and parcel of the agreement. In Western Australia conditions were inserted in the iron-ore agreement relative to the establishment of a steel industry—and rightly so. I ask our Government, for God's sake, to have some sense. It should take a stand so that, in future, conditions are inserted in agreements to ensure that we will not be in any way disadvantaged in secondary-industry development.

We must establish a large power station in the Central Queensland region, because it has wonderful advantages for the establishment of a steel industry. Iron pellets could be brought from Western Australia, and good coking coal from the Port Curtis region could go to Western Australia. A shuttle service could be run to service two additional steel complexes in Australia, which would be extremely desirable. It is definitely something that should occur and should be the responsibility of this Government.

If the Government has the tenacity and enterprise that I very much doubt it has, it will take notice of the words I have uttered and, in future negotiations with consortiums, will fight to ensure that some form of assistance is given in this direction to the young people of the State whose future employment prospects and opportunities depend so much upon cheap power for secondary industry. It is the responsibility of the Government to shape up, even if for this reason only. After all, our young people are our greatest asset. The

Government should write into contracts with those who enjoy very generous concessions conditions that will enable it to give the young people an opportunity of gaining employment in the State in which they live.

While the Government has created many secondary-education institutions, it is to be regretted that our young people are not able to find jobs or positions in the towns in which they live or the towns of their choice. This is a great problem. This is not so in other parts of the globe where, before the establishment of great secondary complexes, the Governments concerned wrote into contracts many desirable features such as intentions on future expansion.

(Time expired.)

Mr. ARMSTRONG (Mulgrave) (9.12 p.m.): It was heartening to listen to some of the comments of the honourable member for Port Curtis. I refer particularly to his remarks on pornography and some of the extracts he read. He would find that we on this side of the Committee agree 100 per cent with his sentiments, but it is doubtful whether he would get that support from Opposition members. If, by some stretch of the imagination, he does get support from Opposition members, he will not get it from many of his party's supporters and people who serve under its political banner because they are great advocates of pornography. They go further and demand abortion on request and the legalisation of homosexuality. As I said, it is very heartening to hear at least some Opposition members sharing the concern of Government members in this regard.

He charged the political parties which form both this Government and the Federal Government with being gutless in allowing this sort of thing to grow up during the past 24 years in the Federal sphere and 15 years in the State sphere. Society has changed since the days of Labor Governments in this State. I remind the honourable member that some of his party's leading men advocate the breaking of laws that do not suit them, the burning of our flag, and all sorts of rot for which there is no room in our society. These are the matters that concern us and many other good Australians. They might be taught the lesson on 2 December that the people of Australia do not go along with that sort of thinking.

I have many friends in the Labor Party and many of them are as concerned as we are about the views expressed by some of its radical members. It is heartening to know that we have men like the honourable member for Port Curtis in the Labor Party who will endeavour to bring about the type of life we desire.

I was rather amused to hear him offering sincere congratulations to the new members of this Parliament. When he said that some

members on this side of the Chamber would have a fairly short political career, I wondered what his fate will be. He used the sentence, "Never fear while Marty is here." I do not think that that will stop the hatchet-men of the Q.C.E. from lopping off his head when selection time comes around again. It will be with regret that I shall see that happen. I should like to see him remain for many years in this Chamber, because I share many of his views. I hope that he will receive substantial support, but, after listening to the honourable member for Mackay making his contribution the other day and hearing the rumblings that went on when the selections were being made on the last occasion, I think it is very doubtful that he will remain here. I suggest that some of the members on this side to whom he offered his congratulations will be here when he has gone.

I am very grateful to have the opportunity to say a few words on this occasion, and at the outset I should like to offer by sincere congratulations to the Treasurer on the presentation of his seventh Budget. Time flies; it does not seem seven years since he became Treasurer. Many things have happened in this State during the period in which he has been guiding its finances, and I think we should be very grateful to him for the able way in which he has husbanded the finances of the State.

I agree with the Treasurer when he said in the Financial Statement—

"It is heartening indeed to see the prosperity of this State continuing at a pace virtually unaffected by the less favourable economic conditions prevailing throughout the other States of Australia."

Despite what our friends on the other side of the Chamber say, there is full employment in Queensland. We have the best record of all the States in this field.

Mr. Sherrington: Where is there full employment?

Mr. ARMSTRONG: It is only necessary to refer to statistics. I come from an area where it is interesting to note that there is no unemployment. Even if statistics may show that there are people who are unemployed, you could not get them to work in an iron lung! I think I can safely say that there is full employment in this State.

There are many things in the Budget on which I should like to comment. Under almost every heading increases are mentioned. I think the Treasurer has done an excellent job in that, in spite of all the increases, there are no taxation increases. In fact, relief has been given in certain areas. Our friends opposite criticise the policy of the Government on education. In this field a record allocation has been made. I share the views of others in this Assembly who do not think that the value of education should be

measured by the amount of money spent on it. We believe that it is better to see what is being obtained for the money spent.

It is also interesting to note that in 1969-70 factory production, for the first time in this State, equalled the value of primary products. I also noticed in the Annual Report of the Director of the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development that it is estimated that by 1971-72 factory production will be about 55 per cent of the State's total recorded production. This type of development does not come about by accident. We all know that it is necessary to create an atmosphere that encourages people to invest in this State. Confidence, with all the things that go with it, has to be created, and this has taken a number of years. Queensland today is vastly different from what it was when the coalition Government took over 15 years ago.

This is the first opportunity I have had of speaking in a debate since this Parliament assembled. Like many other honourable members, I was not able to avail myself of the opportunity offered by the Address-in-Reply Debate. Therefore, I now offer my sincere congratulations to each new member of this Assembly, and I have no doubt that they will all do their best for this State. I must, however, offer my condolences to new members on the other side of the Chamber. The length of their stay here may be determined not by the people who elected them but by the people who selected them. I suggest to them that they watch carefully where they are going and what they do. It will be interesting to see what happens to some of them in the next two or three years.

I offer my sincere congratulations to my worthy colleague on the Ministerial bench, Mr. Keith Hooper, and to Mr. McKechnie, the two new Ministers in this Government. I have lived long enough with these men to know that they will apply themselves very diligently to their task and do everything they can to guide the destiny of Queensland in accordance with the stable policies laid down by the Government.

My electorate is based principally on primary industries, and I wish now to devote a few minutes to drawing the attention of the Committee to some of the problems facing them. They are all important primary industries—sugar, dairying, timber, maize, peanuts, tobacco, potatoes—in fact, you mention it, Mr. Hewitt, and my electorate has it. Each one of these industries is making a worth-while contribution to the welfare and development of the State, and the Government has worked in co-operation with them.

The industry that I wish to mention particularly on this occasion is the dairying industry. The dairy pasture subsidy scheme that was recommended to the Government and implemented some years ago has meant

a great deal to the dairying industry, which is carried on right across the Atherton Tableland. Two very modern factories now operate on the Tableland, one at Millaa Millaa and one at Malanda, and the industry is well diversified. In case the honourable member for Salisbury does not know, I point out that the Millaa Millaa factory produces a greater percentage of first-grade cheese than any other factory in Queensland. It beats the other factories not by 1 per cent but by about 50 per cent.

Mr. Sherrington: I was cutting cane when the honourable member was only a twinkling in his father's eye.

Mr. ARMSTRONG: If the honourable member did cut cane, he did not learn much. It is a pity that he did not cut more cane. If he had had a good ganger over him, perhaps he would have received a better education. However, Mr. Hewitt, I do not wish to waste time telling you about the virtues or otherwise of the honourable member for Salisbury. I wish to point out to the Committee how much the dairy pasture subsidy scheme has meant to the dairying industry in my electorate.

Milk production has been a record this year, and the Atherton Tableland is supplying the whole of North Queensland with milk. Without doubt, the factories on the Tableland have the longest milk runs in the world. Milk is taken from Malanda to Townsville and down to Home Hill and Ayr. Milk from Millaa Millaa is taken as far as Darwin and to other places in the Northern Territory, and also to a number of places in North Queensland. That shows just what the scheme has meant to the dairying industry. The people in it have initiative; they have confidence in the State and in the Government that is guiding it.

My electorate is probably one of the prettiest in Queensland and is very well suited to the development of the tourist industry. It boasts the highest mountain in the State and very rich rain forests. As well, it has lakes, including the man-made lake at Tinaroo. It is passing strange that I could get away without an interjection when I mentioned the word "Tinaroo". However, I have. We have some real problems in the tourist industry. The main ones are distance and the cost of getting to that part of the State. I am hoping that we can bring aircraft direct from the southern States to Cairns on a package-deal basis, and thus reduce fares. As it is, people could have a good holiday in many other parts of Australia for the cost of fares to and from Cairns.

Mr. Sherrington: Is this when you get the new State that McMahon promised?

Mr. ARMSTRONG: That is a distinct possibility. I know it will never happen under a Government of the honourable member's

political colour. We would lose States if his party's policy could be implemented. I certainly hope it will not be in my day.

A problem that is often talked about in rural areas is the loss of population. To people with children this is a very worrying matter. We educate our children at our schools, as the previous speaker said, but when they reach an age when they are looking for employment, it very often means that they have to leave home. One of the main causes of the problem is inflation. It is time we looked very closely at it to determine its real cause, because it will eventually overtake us if we do not. Let me give one or two examples from the sugar industry to give my noisy friend who is interjecting some indication of my thinking.

Mr. Sherrington: How much did you cut?

Mr. ARMSTRONG: I would cut more than the honourable member.

Mr. R. E. Moore: He would cut it with his teeth.

Mr. ARMSTRONG: For sure. I might even be able to eat more than he could.

Mr. R. E. Moore: He would eat more than he could cut.

Mr. ARMSTRONG: That would be very true. If we had to rely on him to keep us going, we would starve and the industry would fold up.

On the farming side of the industry there have been huge increases in costs. It is frightening when one stops to analyse all the increased costs. I have a lot of figures here, but I will not go through them, because the more I go through them, the more I fear them. In the last 10 years wages have increased almost 100 per cent, but the price of the product has either remained stationary or dropped. For a number of years it was at a very low level. I do not know how honourable members opposite or anybody else expects growers—and this problem is not confined to the sugar industry—to continue to absorb substantially increased costs without an increase in the price of the product.

Mr. Sherrington interjected.

Mr. ARMSTRONG: Let the honourable member get in the corner and have a talk to his colleague from Isis if he does not want to listen to me. He has a little more knowledge in this field than the honourable member for Salisbury, and a little more common sense, too, but meanwhile let him be a little bit quiet.

This is one of the reasons for the population drift. We have got to the stage where we can no longer afford to employ labour on a permanent basis. That is becoming more apparent every day. As I said before, a man cannot be picked up just at any time one is needed. It has been the policy of many of us to employ men reasonably permanently,

but that day and age is fast going. We have had to do all sorts of things to try to stay with these costs.

I remind honourable members that we are very big export-earners and we do not set prices, although the International Sugar Agreement is working reasonably well at present. Otherwise, we would not be in business. We have arrived at the stage where we must appeal to the people who lead the unions who are in very responsible positions and should be looking after the welfare of their members as well as adopting the long-term view of helping and developing their country. But what do we see when we stop to analyse how these people are performing? I do not think we have ever seen a more irresponsible approach to this responsible job than we see at the present time. I do not say this lightly and it does not please me to say it.

The other day I asked a question in the House because this is the trend of things today. I asked the Minister for Development and Industrial Affairs how many industrial problems we had endured and the number of man-days lost as a result of them. He gave me these figures: in 1970 we had 303 disputes and lost 128,100 man-days.

Mr. Sherrington: What about the man-days lost by executive golfers?

Mr. ARMSTRONG: Just listen to this. The honourable member for Salisbury is one of the "stirrers." In 1971 there were 428 disputes causing a loss of 180,700 man-days. In 1972 there was a further increase. We had an increase of 125 disputes between 1970 and 1971 and an increase in man-days lost of 52,600. In 1972 we had 440 disputes with a loss of 296,200 man-days.

I never cease to be amazed when I pick up a newspaper and see the claim that the industrial unions are not political. We know that most of them are affiliated with the party supported by honourable members opposite. Indeed, they finance it. What I strongly object to is that, irrespective of a man's political view, if he is a member of a union he is forced to pay a levy to support those whom he would otherwise be trying to annihilate. This is not at all desirable. I often wonder about the freedoms we hear honourable members opposite supporting. Where is a man's freedom in that respect? If honourable members opposite were as much in favour of freedom as they claim they are, they would at least exempt such a person from paying a levy in that situation.

Mr. R. Jones: What about the levies on farmers for the Country Party?

Mr. ARMSTRONG: To correct the honourable member, no primary industry is affiliated with this Government. It is part and parcel of the constitution of every primary industry that it is non-political. If my colleague from Hinchinbrook were here,

he could assure the honourable member of that, as also could his friend from Isis. They are experienced men in this field, and I suggest that the honourable member have a talk to them.

This is the horrible position into which we are moving and, as the figures indicate, it is becoming worse daily. At the moment in this State we have strikes and hardship. In tonight's Press we see that, in a day or two, we may not be getting milk supplies, bread supplies or anything else. Where is our Australian mateship? Where is our loyalty one to another? Where is our industrial fairness?

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. ARMSTRONG: I am told that we must preserve the right to strike. I wonder what the attitude would be if the boss said, "I must have the right to a lock-out"? I want to make it clear that I do not subscribe to this sort of thing, but if it is fair for one person to withhold his labour, surely it is equally fair for another to do likewise.

The one I am concerned about is the ordinary man in the street. He is the one who has to foot the bill. Trade unions make a practice of lodging applications with the Industrial Commission, and the very next day telling their members to go on strike in an attempt to get what they want. What sort of arbitration is this? It is like hijacking an aircraft. Unfortunately, as I say, the poor old fellow in the street is the one who has to foot the bill.

If members of the Opposition travelled by air as often as I do, they would see mothers with children waiting all day at airport terminals for aircraft and wondering whether or not they will be able to make their trip. Those members who travel by rail will see women with young children who cannot get anything for them to eat. These sights make us wonder who is running the trade unions. I wonder where the fellows who are inflicting these hardships on the decent people of this nation derive their philosophies. They are driving us out of every export market that we obtain. It is time we got on with the job of preserving our happy society and family units, which are the very basis of society. Let us get on with the job of preserving honesty and decency.

I have frequently said that by no stretch of the imagination can it be claimed that I am in favour of low wages. This Government has demonstrated its belief that if it does not pay the workers a fair wage it is robbing itself of the best market it has. I have no objection whatever to the payment of a man's wages, provided they add to productivity. What I do object to is a man withholding his labour and blackmailing an employer into paying a wage that he cannot afford. I object to any increase in wages that is passed on in costs by the employer to people on fixed incomes—and I represent a great number of them.

These days, Queensland's rural areas are being denuded of many of their residents. This situation is being overcome to some extent by mechanisation; but we can only go so far. We need to entice employers to this State, and we can do so only if they know their workers will be loyal and will not blackmail them every second day of the week. Recently we have heard a good deal about an oil tanker that is at anchor off Gladstone and unable to unload its cargo at a time when there is an acute shortage of petrol. The seamen on the tugs in Gladstone have refused to handle the tanker because they claim that Australian tankers are lying idle. If that is so, why are they lying idle?

I wonder how long our patience will last. A handful of men are forcing this State to its knees. Queensland is on the march to prosperity, so members of the Opposition should exert their influence on the workers to fulfil their duty to this State. Ways and means can be found of overcoming industrial problems. Our arbitration system has proved to be a good one. Of course, it does not appeal to the Johnny-come-latelies or the Hawkes. Whereas today they might be winning, tomorrow they may be losing. Let us keep our arbitration machinery well greased and let the people as a whole be given a fair deal.

In my electorate, women work in the fields and men work at week-ends. They work, not a 35 or 40-hour week, but a 50 or 60-hour week. These people get no social service benefits, sick pay or holiday pay. In fact, many of them do not get holidays at all. That is what they have to put up with. What happens when they produce a crop? In today's situation they do not know whether they will be able to harvest it or not. What is the end result if the crops are not harvested? How will the country keep going? This is a serious situation.

I never thought I would see the day when what is now happening would come about in Queensland, the State that we were all once proud to belong to. To use a common Australian saying, the general public have had a proper gutful of this type of action and they are likely to bail up any day.

As I pointed out a little while ago, I have been on trains when the conductor has come along and asked, "Do you want anything from the griddle car?" I have replied, "We have had a cup of tea. Why would we want anything from the griddle car?" The conductor has replied, "I have instructions to lock it up because there is industrial trouble." Women with children, some without much money, knowing that they will be home in 36 hours get on a train but cannot buy food for their children or themselves.

Mr. Sherrington: That happened to me during the—

Mr. ARMSTRONG: It is a great pity it did not happen to the honourable member now. I should like to see him starve for a week or two. It would change his whole attitude. I would like to see Hawke and a few more of his cobbers in this situation. I would welcome it because they would then get the message that the ordinary fellow gets now. I should like to see the honourable member in the same position as some of our grain-growers and a few others with perishable products who cannot get them to the market. Opposition members seem to think they can live without primary industry, but they will have a rude awakening in a day or two.

Mr. Davis interjected.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. Davis interjected.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! I am asking the honourable member for Brisbane to come to order.

Mr. ARMSTRONG: I am not concerned whether he is in order or out of order, or whether he is here or not here. I think we can manage without people like him.

While talking about industrial strife, I emphasise that I take strong exception to reading reports in the Press—one of them appeared in this afternoon's "Telegraph"—stating that a decision in an industrial dispute is a matter for the rank and file. If that is so, why on earth don't the rank-and-file members get an opportunity to take a vote to see if in fact they want to go on strike?

Mr. Davis: You don't know how it operates.

Mr. ARMSTRONG: I know how it operates. I have been mixed up in industrial disputes too long for Opposition members to tell me anything about them. I have seen unions having to send out to get enough men to form a quorum—and very often there is not a quorum. In many instances the trouble is started by a handful of irresponsibles. The truth of the matter is that the union leaders cannot control them. Let us have secret strike ballots. I do not believe in strikes, and I do not care who knows it. The day has gone when this type of blackmail, lawlessness and the law of the jungle can be inflicted on educated people. I repeat that, in the years ahead, we will pay, and pay dearly, if we do not do something about this problem.

We also have the horrifying financial mess that is confronting local government. Every second day local government representatives are pleading with the Premier and the Treasurer for more money to do what people are demanding. I know they are called upon to do a little more than they did when they were created, but ever-increasing costs are catching up with them. I recently

received my rate notice; but I did not know whether I was paying rates or for a lease.

Mr. Sherrington interjected.

Mr. ARMSTRONG: The honourable member is not paying; when Clem's grandiose schemes catch up with him, he will know all about it.

Mr. Sherrington interjected.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Salisbury will cease his constant interjections.

Mr. ARMSTRONG: The honourable member only has to be patient. In a year or two he will know all about it.

The situation is aggravated by strikes and demands. A union files a claim with the Industrial Commission and then its members go out on strike. The claim is granted and it is demanded that the benefits flow everywhere—and they do. When every union receives the flow-on, another claim is filed. This is the problem that is worrying the local authorities. Demands that they cannot meet are being made on them. I will have more to say about that in a moment or two.

We have almost reached the stage where we cannot open a block of land because the local authority has no money to build a road to it. Many Government members know this because they are closely associated with it. The Premier knows it only too well. On occasions, he and I have listened to the pleas of these people. He listens to them very attentively and is doing all he can to overcome this problem. But how can it be overcome when wages increase by 10 per cent and productivity increases by only 2½ or 5 per cent?

Local authorities have to go looking for money every second day. According to the Budget, the State will pay \$41,000,000 for the same services that were provided last year. As my colleague said earlier tonight, it would not be so bad if these increases came out of productivity. If they did there would be no need to increase prices. But they have not.

At times, I am amused when I hear Opposition members talking about price control. They do not want wage control, and they hold the view that the boss is the only one who should pay income tax. Somebody referred to the millions of dollars that are being made by some companies. Some companies are making millions but, at the same time, some are going to the wall, and have been for some time. If we allow this sort of thing to go on much longer, many more will go to the wall, and I do not want to have anything to do with that.

An Opposition Member interjected.

Mr. ARMSTRONG: I would not line them up and shoot them. If I were in the Labor Party's position, I would line them up and

tell them of their responsibilities to this nation. I would castigate them for black-mailing the public. I would not be like members of the Labor Party who go out and stir them up. Unfortunately, some of these people do not realise what is going on. Members of the public and the men who are striking are not on side with the people who are doing this. That was proved when the honourable member for Maryborough gave the Labor Party the greatest shock it has ever had—and it will get a few more shocks if it keeps on with this caper.

I was speaking about local authorities and the ever-increasing level of rates. If a person who has land bothers to make a check of the position 10 years ago, he will find that the story of rates is very much like the story of wages. There has been a substantial increase. I do not know what is going on in other industries—other Government members would—but I know that many sugar farmers are paying to local authorities \$6 to \$7 a year on each acre of assigned land. Many of these people do not have the facilities that people in Brisbane enjoy. They drive on gravel roads and have to fill in the pot-holes themselves. They are becoming heartily sick of putting their hands in their pockets year after year to find substantial sums of money when they get no real benefit.

I shall leave that subject temporarily because I have two or three pressing problems that it might be possible to do something about. They deal with very important roads in North Queensland. One is the highway that runs from Innisfail, through Millaa Millaa and Ravenshoe, to Mt. Garnet. Its construction was commenced in the depression days, and I remind Opposition members that the depression started in 1928, not 1935. I happen to know something about it.

This road was completely sealed by about 1938. It has carried, and is still carrying, a tremendous amount of traffic. It is a very important link. It carries from the Tableland virtually all the milk, potatoes, cattle, timber and ply produced there. Whilst I realise and appreciate the problems presented to the Main Roads Department by this road, and I also know the problems of the Minister because I have discussed this matter with him on many occasions—

An Opposition Member: What about the honourable member for Mourilyan?

Mr. ARMSTRONG: He is the first member for Mourilyan who has ever "come to the party". I welcome his support. I do not know if he is going about it the right way, but that is his business. I am glad that there is at least one member on the other side of the Chamber who realises the value of this road. He has had a couple of accidents on it himself, and people learn things from accidents. About half the road is in his electorate, and the other half is in mine. Unfortunately, I have the more difficult half.

This road presents tremendous problems, and I know that the Main Roads Department has done much searching work on it. I plead with the Premier and the Minister for Main Roads to try to have the plans that were laid down for it put into effect. The Main Roads Department is spending on maintenance more money than I like to see spent in this way. This is a very narrow road. It is a strip of bitumen which, with the exception of the shoulders, has stood up remarkably well. In an endeavour to keep the road usable, the department has constantly graded it, and in that process some of the earth from the shoulders has been swept onto the road. It is in a very wet area; I think approximately 200 inches of rain has been received in this locality this year. When the road is wet and some of the soil from the shoulders has been graded over it, it is not uncommon for heavy transport vehicles to slip over the side.

At times, this road becomes very dangerous. Not long ago the police issued a warning during a very wet period. For a driver proceeding down the road on a foggy night, it is a nightmare, believe me. It has served the area well. It has earned realignment, and I should like to see this carried out as soon as possible so that the area can develop further.

I have one or two other little problems to mention. There is another road in my electorate about which I wrote to the Premier and the Minister for Main Roads some time ago. A vehicle went over the side of this road. I refer to the Topaz Road in the Eacham shire. This shire is unique in that it contains large areas of national park and forestry reserve from which no revenue is obtained. As the area is now a substantial supplier of milk, which is carried in bulk tankers, it is necessary to keep the roads in reasonably good order. It is a very wet area, and bulk tankers travel the road daily.

When anything goes wrong, as it did at Topaz earlier this year when one vehicle slipped over the side of the road, it holds up school buses and also prevents supplies from moving in and out. What is required would not be very costly, as only a few miles require attention. It is, however, beyond the financial capacity of the local authority to do the work. I am glad to see the Minister for Main Roads entering the Chamber. I ask him to look closely at this matter. I think it is a developmental road. If it is possible to do something to make this portion of the road safe, I should certainly like it to be done.

There was also a failure on the Gillies Highway last year. Nobody could have predicted it. On a portion of the road almost beside Lake Eacham, where there is a very big fill, for some reason about half the road slipped away overnight. It fell about three or four feet, and left an enormous crack sufficient to frighten any motorist. The Main Roads Department naturally stopped traffic on

the road forthwith, and the heavy traffic that could be diverted had to travel round through Mareeba to Cairns. Vehicles going to Gordonvale had to go through Mareeba, on to Cairns, and back to Gordonvale, at extra cost. I must thank the Transport Department for waiving portion of the charges. It still imposed charges on the normal mileage, but waived those on the extra distance. There is a certain amount of essential traffic such as bulk-milk tankers, school buses and passenger buses that are licensed to run over this road.

When that occurred last year, fortunately an alternative route was available. However, it was six or seven miles further on a very ordinary gravel road, the contour of which was not very good. There were steep pinches on it that the buses and tankers at times could not climb. Again the Main Roads Department and the local authorities did everything in their power, under extremely difficult circumstances, to keep traffic flowing. I understand that the experts have now found a solid foundation, and I hope to see the trouble rectified before the beginning of the wet season. This is a vital link and should receive urgent attention, and I should be grateful if the Minister would give my request consideration.

Much has been said in this debate about education, and I think that from time to time one should point out the facilities that were available before a Country-Liberal Government came to office in Queensland. I was very interested in some of the figures mentioned by my colleagues, and I suggest to the bright young school-teachers on the other side of the Chamber that they should get down on their bended knees every night and thank God that there was such a thing as a Country-Liberal coalition to take over and guide the destiny of the Education Department in this State. But for it, these young gentlemen would not be nearly as well educated as they are now, and possibly would not have had the opportunity of entering this Assembly. They have had a much better opportunity than many of us who tried to educate ourselves under Labor Governments, when there were no schools to go to.

It was interesting to hear the honourable member for Port Curtis speaking about the grand old Labor Governments. I point out here and now, very forcefully, that they were very different Labor Governments from a Labor Government that would be elected tomorrow. At least they were composed of men who knew where they were going and knew what their job was.

Mr. R. E. Moore: They made a mess of it.

Mr. ARMSTRONG: I would not say they made a mess of it, but they did not make a very good job of it. However, I would hate to see honourable members opposite try to emulate them. Those men were the salt of the earth. Many of them knew

what was required. They might have had difficulty in finding the answers, but at least they tried.

An Honourable Member: They were "fair dinkum".

Mr. ARMSTRONG: Yes, they were "fair dinkum", and many of them were my friends. If some of them could see the Labor Party of today, they would roll over in their graves. They would be so disturbed that they would not be able to lie peacefully. They had a conscience.

Getting back to the subject of education, I remind the Committee that the honourable member for Port Curtis referred to the school transport system that existed.

Mr. Lee: There was none.

Mr. ARMSTRONG: There were bits and pieces.

Mr. Lee: Very little.

Mr. ARMSTRONG: Not one high school was catered for. There was a high school at Cairns and another at Innisfail, or at least portions of high schools.

Mr. Houston: How many were there in 1932?

Mr. ARMSTRONG: I remind the honourable gentleman that this State was governed by a Labor Government for many years before 1932. I suggest that he read the history of the Ryan Government, and so on.

Mr. Houston: Didn't they give you a brief on that?

Mr. ARMSTRONG: I do not need briefing. I know the history of the honourable gentleman's party. If I had time, I would tell him of it. I would tell him what some Labor men whose names have gone down in history said when a socialistic system was introduced. Some of them opposed it violently and bitterly, but unfortunately they were defeated. They knew where they were going, but once the system was introduced they had to go with it. It was like being caught in a tidal wave. They had to go with it; it was too difficult to swim against it.

Not only were there no school bus services; Labor Governments did not care whether or not a child got to school. I know something about this because I was chairman of a school committee for a number of years. When it was known that a Minister was visiting the school, the mothers of the pupils would bake cakes and put on a party for him. We would ask him for a few trivial little things, but the answer invariably was "No".

I am very grateful to have had the opportunity of saying a few words during this debate.

Progress reported.

The House adjourned at 10.2 p.m.