

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

THURSDAY, 26 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 paper was laid on the table, and ordered to be printed:—

Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account of the Public Curator for the year 1971-72.

The following paper was laid on the table:—

(A) Proposal by the Governor in Council to revoke the setting apart and declaration under the Forestry Act, for the purpose mentioned in each case, of:—

(a) All that piece or part of State Forest 611, parishes of Beerwah, Canning and Toorbul, described as portions 920 and 922, parish of Beerwah, as shown on plans Cg. 2772 and Cg. 2911, respectively, deposited in the Survey Office, and containing an area of about 5 acres 2 roods 31 perches—and,

(b) All that piece or part of State Forest 1142, parish of Geham, described as Area "A" as shown on plan FTY. 558 made and prepared by the Surveyor-General and deposited in the Office of the Conservator of Forests and containing an area of about 1 acre 3 roods 36·4 perches—and,

(c) All that piece or part of State Forest 127, parishes of Kerimilla and Moogoon, described as Areas "A" and "C" as shown on plan FTY. 441 made and prepared by the Surveyor-General and deposited in the Office of the Conservator of Forests and containing an area of about 31 acres 1 rood—and,

(d) All that piece or part of National Park 880, parishes of Cairns and Smithfield, described as portions 150 and 152, parish of Smithfield and R. 1385, parish of Cairns, as shown on plans Nr. 4991 and Nr. 5189, respectively, deposited in the Survey Office and containing an area of about 56 acres and 27 perches—

under the Forestry Act 1959-1971.

(B) A brief explanation of the proposals.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

YELLOW FEVER VACCINATION FACILITIES, TOWNSVILLE

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

(1) In regard to Townsville citizens who wish to travel to overseas countries where yellow fever still prevails, where can inoculations against the disease be obtained in Townsville?

(2) If inoculations are not available in Townsville, where are they available?

(3) How many inoculations are necessary to give protection and satisfy the authorities and, if more than one injection is required, what is the waiting time between each?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) "Yellow fever vaccination is administered at the Commonwealth Health Department, the authorised World Health Organization yellow fever vaccination centre in each State. I, therefore, suggest that the Honourable Member direct his Question to that Department."

(3) "The Commonwealth Serum Laboratory Medical Handbook states 'For the purposes of international travel the W.H.O. recognizes the single dose as being valid from 10 days after the injection and for 10 years thereafter.'"

CULTURED-PEARL FARMS, TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS; OIL AND DETERGENT POLLUTION, GREAT BARRIER REEF

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

(1) Are only two out of eight cultured-pearl farms now operating in and around the Torres Strait Islands because of the apparent effect of the use of dispersants or detergents following the "Oceanic Grandeur" incident on March 30, 1970?

(2) If so, what action is proposed or what research has been undertaken to offset a future occurrence of oil spillage or discharge, whether small or large, within Great Barrier Reef waters, for the ultimate prevention of damage to marine life which may be occasioned by oil or detergents utilised in this manner?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "It would seem to me that the Honourable Member's Question is inspired by a recently reported statement emanating from a self-styled expert on matters relating to marine biology. This gentleman already has a reputation for making exaggerated, irresponsible and unsubstantiated statements in this field and I can only regard his comments on pearl culture farms in the Torres Straits as providing further evidence of this unfortunate habit."

LONG-TERM PRISONERS IN QUEENSLAND GAOLS

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

(1) How many inmates of Queensland penal institutions have been imprisoned for continuous periods of 20 years or more?

(2) What are the names of these inmates?

(3) What was the period of imprisonment served by each?

(4) What is the crime or crimes of which each was convicted?

(5) What are the reasons for their prolonged imprisonment?

Answers:—

(1) "Four."

(2) "It is considered that no good purpose would be served by publishing the names, and that it would not be in the best interests of the prisoners concerned."

(3) "One prisoner has served 22 years 5 months, another 25 years 1 month, the third 26 years 2 months, and the fourth 28 years 3 months."

(4) "Two for murder and two for wilful murder."

(5) "The Parole Board has not seen fit to recommend their release."

ACCESS ROAD, STUART PRISON RESERVE

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

Have representations been made to have a bitumen roadway built to serve the houses on the Stuart Prison reserve in order to provide reasonable access for prison officers to their homes and to remove a serious dust nuisance? If so, will favourable consideration be given to the request and when?

Answer:—

"Yes. This matter has been referred to the District Supervisor of Works. The Acting Superintendent, Townsville Prison made a written request for the bituminizing of 600 yards of unsealed road fronting the houses at H.M. Prison, Townsville. The matter is presently being examined by the Department of Works."

MEDICAL FACULTY QUOTA, QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY

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

Will he, in view of the grave shortage of doctors in the State, ask the Vice-Chancellor of the Queensland University to supply this Parliament, through him, with an honest, unambiguous reason why there are facilities at the university to issue degrees to only 185 doctors per year, including Asians, Colombo students and many others from foreign lands and yet there are abundant facilities and staff to enable thousands of students every year to waste their time and millions

of dollars of taxpayers' money to eventually secure degrees which are worthless to them and a joke to industry and commerce where jobs are available?

Answer:—

"I am advised by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Queensland that the reason for limiting second-year intake to 185 is to provide a number who (together with students allowed to repeat second year) can be adequately taught in the clinical, that is to say, the hospital years of the course. Whilst in general medicine and surgery Queensland is in a good position to provide patients suitable for the teaching of students, there are serious limitations in respect of the number of paediatric and obstetric patients available. Since a medical student must be properly trained in these fields, there must be adequate facilities for teaching. The advice that the Vice-Chancellor has received from the Faculty of Medicine is that approximately 200 students are the numbers for whom comprehensive clinical teaching can be provided. This means that no more than 185 can be admitted to second year since, as already stated, this number together with repeating students makes up the class to the limits. Unlike Arts students, students graduating in Medicine do so with a specific qualification in Medicine, through registration, as a goal. To secure registration, Medical graduates must work for a year in an approved hospital. At the present time the posts available in Queensland are limited and for the foreseeable future are not likely to exceed 200. It would not be a sound policy to graduate medical students without a reasonable assurance of the availability of posts which would enable them to qualify as registered practitioners. The problem of the need for medical graduates in Australia as a whole is being investigated by a national committee under the chairmanship of Professor Karmel, Chairman of the Australian Universities Commission."

MINERAL SANDS ROYALTIES

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

What was the average royalty per ton paid to the State Government in the last financial year for mineral sands?

Answer:—

"The average was 46.46 cents per ton. The figure was affected by a very large sale of ilmenite which had been stockpiled over some years. The royalty rate for ilmenite is the lowest for the beach minerals."

WINDOW DISPLAY, GOVERNMENT TOURIST BUREAU

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

(1) As he stated in Answer to my Question on September 21 that window displays were a part of the promotions of the Queensland Government Tourist Bureau, is he aware that one-third of the window space at the main office of the Bureau in Adelaide Street has been taken up by advertising overseas travel on the P. and O. cruise liners?

(2) As these cruises are damaging the Queensland tourist trade, why is his Department involved in this promotion?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "The Queensland Government Tourist Bureau spends no money on overseas tour promotion, although a service is available if requested. Temporary window displays have been utilised pending completion of the new Queensland Government Tourist Bureau Brisbane office. Overseas tour posters are not now featured."

PUBLIC SERVICE SUSTENANCE ALLOW- ANCES FOR RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

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

(1) Why is the rate of sustenance payments which has been paid to public servants since January 1 in the various areas encompassed by this scheme not being paid to railway employees within such areas?

(2) Are not such employees part of the Public Service?

(3) Will he recommend that the ruling rate of sustenance payments at present paid to public servants be extended to railway employees and, if not, what is the reason?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) "Divisional and district allowances payable to railway employees are prescribed in the Railway Award—State and not the Public Service Regulations under which the scheme referred to by the Honourable Member operates."

(3) "Any variation of these divisional and district allowances would be a matter for determination by the State Industrial Commission."

REGISTRATION OF TEACHERS

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

(1) When will the Board of Teacher Education proceed with the registration of teachers?

(2) What principles and methods will be followed for the registration of teachers?

Answers:—

(1) "The Board expects that the registration of teachers will commence early in 1973. The exact date will depend on the passage of proposed amendments to the Education Act some of which relate to registration."

(2) "The principles governing registration are set out in by-laws based on the amended Act. These cannot properly be made known until the proposed amendments are enacted."

STATEMENT BY MR. J. H. ANDREWS
ON FLOOD MITIGATION WORK,
BRISBANE

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

(1) Is he aware of a statement appearing in *The Sunday Mail* headed "Facts on Flood Action"?

(2) What qualifications has Mr. J. H. Andrews to be the chairman of this group?

(3) What are the names and qualifications of the personnel on this committee?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes. The statement was submitted to me and received my concurrence prior to being published."

(2 and 3) "Mr. Andrews, as Acting Co-ordinator-General, represented the Co-ordinator-General (Mr. C. N. Barton) on the committee during Mr. Barton's absence overseas, and has continued to represent the Co-ordinator-General as a member of the committee. His present official position is Chief Engineer, Main Roads Department. Prior to his appointment in 1961 to the Main Roads Department, Mr. Andrews had considerable experience in flood mitigation work in New South Wales. The other members of the committee are Mr. F. B. Haigh, Commissioner for Irrigation and Water Supply, Mr. A. J. Peel, Harbours and Marine Department, and Mr. L. A. Hielscher, Deputy Under Treasurer. I would point out that the committee is being advised by three consulting engineering firms employing 18 engineers, and surveyors, draftsmen, economists and computer specialists."

SEISMIC SURVEY, CAIRNS WATERS

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

Is he aware of any seismic or other survey being carried out in waters adjacent to Cairns? If so, is this related to the search for oil and what details are known?

Answer:—

"I am not aware of any survey being carried out in waters adjacent to Cairns."

WATER SUPPLY, KARUMBA

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

(1) Has a way been found to provide adequate and suitable water for Karumba? If so, what work will be carried out?

(2) Will he give this project priority so that residents and the prawning industry will have ample water at the earliest possible date?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "The Honourable Member is referred to my Answer to his Question on August 31, 1972."

WATER SUPPLY, EDWARD RIVER
ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY

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

Have investigations been carried out to determine the best source of suitable water for Edward River reticulation? If so, where is the supply situated and when will work commence to connect the new supply to the existing system?

Answer:—

"Test drilling in 1971 by the Bureau of Mineral Resources in the course of an investigation connected with the geological mapping of the Mitchell River area indicated that artesian supplies could be available over a considerable area on the western side of Cape York. To obtain further information on the extent of this artesian basin, and especially to delineate its northern extent, the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission called tenders for the drilling of three test bores, one of which was to be located at the Edward River community. It was proposed that if a suitable supply of water was encountered in this latter bore it would be completed as a production bore for use by the community. A contract for the drilling of the bore was let to Mr. J. M. Johnson of Mt. Garnet on July 5, 1972. It was anticipated that the contractor would commence work on the bore at the Edward River community in September as soon as the site became accessible. However the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission received advice on October 20, 1972 that the contractor had withdrawn from his contract because he was afraid of being stranded at the bore site during the wet season. In view of this the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission is now

giving consideration to either—(a) Recalling tenders for the construction of the bores; or (b) Carrying out the work with commission plant and personnel.”

LIGHTING OF CHILLAGOE CAVES

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

(1) Have tenders been let for the electrification of the Chillagoe Caves and who was the successful tenderer?

(2) Has expert advice been obtained so that the best possible method of illumination can be used and the existing beauty of the caves retained?

(3) When will the work be completed?

Answers:—

(1) “No. The work will be done by a staff electrician under the supervision of the Cairns Regional Electricity Board and national parks staff familiar with the caves.”

(2) “Yes. The Department of Forestry has consulted the Cairns Regional Electricity Board and the State Electricity Commission as to the most suitable type of installation. The officer-in-charge of the national parks section of the Department has recently inspected cave lighting in the U.S.A. and discussed the subject there with the authorities concerned.”

(3) “It is not possible at this stage to indicate when the work will be completed. The Donna Cave will be the first to be electrically illuminated.”

PURCHASE OF LAND BY FOREIGN COMPANIES

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

(1) Further to his Answer to my Question on October 24, how many foreign companies registered in Queensland own or lease land?

(2) From which countries do such companies originate?

(3) What types of operations are being performed on such land?

(4) Has he, subject to special terms and conditions, permitted any foreign companies to hold land without being registered? If so, what are the names of the companies and what are the reasons for allowing them to hold land?

Answers:—

(1 to 3) “Information in this regard is not maintained at either the Titles Office or the Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs.”

(4) “Yes. Since July 1, 1972, I have approved six applications by companies for permits to hold land in this State without being registered. Applicants are required to state the reasons for the issue of a permit and include in such application the real property description of the land. They are also required to submit their Certificate of Incorporation. Permits are only granted on the basis that the company does not propose to carry on business in this State. It has been noted that the majority of applications are in relation to the purchase of property for holiday purposes for company personnel. The names of the companies to which permits have been granted since July 1, 1972, are—Asia Pacific Christian Mission; W. R. Stevenson Pty. Ltd.; Syzygy Pty. Ltd.; Ellison Pty. Ltd.; Rural Commerce Pty. Ltd.; and Munro Machinery Pty. Ltd.”

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT FATALITIES; BREACHES OF SAFETY REGULATIONS BY EMPLOYERS

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

In response to his request for a copy of the report by the Chief Inspector of Factories in Britain, as I have this report available for his perusal will he examine it and compare the comprehensive activities of the British Department with the activities of his Department in Queensland?

Answer:—

“The Question asked of me previously by the Honourable Member referred to a newspaper report, not the Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories of the United Kingdom for 1971. As has been the case in regard to previous Annual Reports of this Chief Inspector, this one also will be carefully examined.”

FENCING OF GRAZING LEASES ADJOINING HERBERTON-ATHERTON ROAD

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

In view of the number of accidents and near-accidents on the highway linking Herberton and Atherton due to the unrestricted grazing of cattle from grazing leases D 32403 and 30663, and as these leases are coming up for renewal next month, will he consider, in granting future leases, that a fencing clause be added to the leases as the straying cattle present a continuous hazard to motorists?

Answer:—

“The grazing leases referred to are Special Leases Nos. 32403 and 31663 over parts of State Forest 194, parish of Barron. The term of Special Lease No. 31663 expired on April 30, 1972, and that

of Special Lease No. 32403 will expire on October 31, 1972. The matter of further dealing with both leases is presently under consideration and should the areas be again leased it is proposed to condition any such leases to require the lessee within 12 months from commencement of the term of lease to erect and maintain adequate stock-proof fencing to contain stock within the leased land. A small area, near Wirpoo Siding, which has been excised from former Special Lease No. 31663 is to be leased separately, and a condition of lease will require the Main Road boundary to be fenced within six months of commencement of the lease."

PROPOSED A.L.P. HEALTH SCHEME

(a) **Mr. Ahern** for **Mr. Hughes**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Health,—

(1) Is the A.L.P. scheme for health to be financed by implementing a compulsory health tax?

(2) Would such a tax require Queensland people to pay for a service which they are now entitled to receive, as a right, without cost?

(3) Does the A.L.P. scheme under the proposed health tax cover people for public-ward hospitalisation only?

(4) Would the scheme deny the public the democratic right of a choice of hospital and/or doctor?

(5) If Queenslanders were made to pay the tax, would it still be necessary for them to be members of a medical benefit fund to insure against the extra costs of private or intermediate ward hospital accommodation?

Answers:—

(1) "The Honourable Member's interpretation of the levy proposed under the A.L.P. Health Scheme of 1.35 per cent. of taxable income of all citizens, as being a compulsory health tax, would be a very fitting assessment."

(2) "The health tax would certainly be in addition to the amount of income taxation presently paid by Queensland citizens and would provide for Queenslanders nothing that they do not already have—that is, a free hospital service."

(3 and 4) "I understand that A.L.P. spokesmen claim that the subsidy would apply in respect of intermediate and private ward charges and that the present rights of the public in their choice of hospital or doctor would be maintained."

(5) "The subsidy proposed to be paid under the A.L.P. scheme towards the cost of intermediate and private bed accommodation will fall far below the actual charges

made generally for intermediate and private beds. The financial gap would have to be met as a cash payment by the patient or, alternatively, the patient could insure to cover this deficiency. It can be anticipated that the cost of insuring under the proposed A.L.P. scheme would be far in excess of insurance premiums under the present voluntary health insurance schemes."

(b) **Mr. Ahern** for **Mr. Hughes**, pursuant to notice, asked The Treasurer,—

(1) In view of the serious and detrimental effect which the Australian Labor Party health scheme would have on the finances of the people of Queensland and as the scheme is stated by the A.L.P. to be a 1.35 per cent. health tax, would this rate apply equally to all as a total tax?

(2) What financial effect would such a proposed scheme have on the people and the State?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "From references I have seen to the A.L.P. health proposals I gather that the figure of 1.35 per cent. to which the Honourable Member refers is 1.35 per cent. of taxable income for income tax purposes. Thus it appears that every person presently paying income tax would have his tax increased by 1.35 per cent. of his taxable income. Queensland presently provides hospitalisation in public wards free of charge. Many Queenslanders will want to know why they should make a compulsory contribution of a further 1.35 per cent. of their taxable income to provide a service that is now provided free of charge. This matter was discussed in greater detail by the Honourable Member for Ipswich in this House on August 29, 1972, when he pointed out the disadvantages which would accrue from the implementation of the A.L.P. scheme."

FREE HOSPITALISATION AND COMMONWEALTH GRANTS COMMISSION GRANTS

Mr. Ahern for **Mr. Hughes**, pursuant to notice, asked The Treasurer,—

(1) Has Queensland been penalised by the Grants Commission because the State Government has not imposed charges on the State-controlled hospitals?

(2) Is he aware that allegations in this regard have been made by the Honourable Member for Lytton?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "I am aware of the erroneous allegations made by the Honourable Member for Lytton, which can be attributed to his complete lack of knowledge of the

principles and methods of the Commonwealth Grants Commission. I would not attempt to explain the workings of the commission's calculations to that Honourable Member because his ideas are so hopelessly astray that this would be a task of considerable magnitude. A claimant State is entirely free to allocate its resources in whatever manner it sees fit. The Grants Commission does not seek to impose its will on or, as the Honourable Member says, penalise Queensland because the present Government wishes to provide a free hospital service to its population. The commission makes it clear in its reports that the adjustments it makes to a State's accounts for the purpose of calculating a grant are not in the nature either of penalties or rewards. The size of the grant is not affected by the existence of the free hospital system in this State."

SYNTHETIC SUGAR FROM STARCH

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to a statement by Dr. R. A. Bottomley, when presenting the fourth annual Dr. S. A. Trout Memorial Lecture to the Queensland branch of the Australian Institute of Food Science and Technology, that the synthetic production of sugar from starch was now a proven commercial proposition in a range which could economically compete with cane sugar?

(2) Is he aware of any Australian production or importation of such synthesised sugar or of any plans for its production or importation?

Answers:—

(1) "I am aware that sweet carbohydrate syrups are being manufactured overseas from starch on a commercial basis and that these syrups are virtually identical to invert syrups made from cane sugar."

(2) "I am aware that small quantities of invert syrups produced from starch have been shipped to Australia. However, these syrups have been considered to be prohibited imports under the provisions of the *Sugar Agreement Act 1971* and have been re-exported. I am not aware of any Australian production of sweet carbohydrate syrups, nor of any plans for their production in Australia. The Sugar Board and the Government's marketing agents, the C.S.R. Co. Ltd., are maintaining a close watch on the developments to which Dr. Bottomley referred in his address."

PYRAMID SELLING; "GOLDEN PYRAMID" GROUP

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

(1) Is pyramid-selling legal in Queensland?

(2) What is the comparative loss between buying under this scheme and the average straight-out cash purchase, on a percentage basis?

(3) How many firms are registered as being engaged in this mode of selling and what are their names?

(4) Has he been made aware that there is a group called "Golden Pyramid" operating in and around Brisbane?

(5) What are the names of the principals of this group and is there any connection between them and any other group of sellers who have fleeced thousands of Queensland families?

(6) If such a group is located here, will he consider making a public statement warning the people of Queensland?

Answer:—

(1 to 6) "These matters do not come within my administration."

HOBBY CLASSES, ADULT EDUCATION SCHEME

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

(1) Have any hobby classes which were conducted in technical colleges and other centres as part of adult education been discontinued this year? If so, in which sections and classes of establishments?

(2) How many classes in Brisbane centres have been discontinued?

(3) Will any teachers and/or instructors be dismissed as a result of any cessation of classes and what are the reasons for the cessations?

(4) Where hobby classes closely connected to occupational therapy are being discontinued for pensioners and invalids, will he review any decision to cease the classes?

Answers:—

(1) "Hobby classes are not conducted at any technical college as part of an adult education program. However, certain classes, which hobbyists have attended are to be discontinued in 1973. These classes are conducted at the Yeronga Technical College in refrigeration and in machining. They are being discontinued because they infringe on formal apprenticeship trade training in vogue in this State. The Board of Adult Education has this year discontinued a class in public speaking at Beenleigh because the enrolment only reached four. The instructor was assigned to a new class at Tugun, which replaced the class at Beenleigh. As far as is known by the Board no other Adult Education hobby classes have been closed in other parts of the State."

(2) "In 1973 two classes will be discontinued at the Yeronga Technical College."

(3) "No teachers or instructors will be dismissed as the result of the cessation of these courses."

(4) "The classes in question were not in any way intended as occupational therapy for invalids, pensioners, or any other persons. My Department is currently re-examining these matters. The refrigeration course will probably be reformed as an extension course for tradesmen, which would not infringe on apprenticeship trade training. I will be prepared to give consideration to special cases where pensioners and invalids require the training for therapeutic purposes."

SURPLUS EGG STOCKS AS DROUGHT AID
TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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

With reference to help being given to alleviate starvation caused by drought in Papua New Guinea, will he confer with Cabinet and relevant Commonwealth authorities with a view to having both Governments purchase at least a large part of Queensland's surplus egg stocks and thus help the starving poultry farmers of South-east Queensland as well as the starving people in Papua New Guinea?

Answer:—

"The implementation of relief measures in Papua New Guinea is a matter for the Commonwealth Government. I have no doubt that the authorities have the matter well in hand, and are fully aware of the extent of supplies required and the commodities best suited to meet the needs of those unfortunately affected by drought."

POLLUTION, BULIMBA CREEK

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

(1) Did the Acting Director of the Water Quality Council, Mr. L. Henry, advise the Murarrie Progress Association that the principal guide to the condition of Bulimba Creek in relation to possible odour problems was the dissolved oxygen content and that recently this has consistently been above the danger level even at night and in the early hours of the morning?

(2) At what intervals are readings taken?

(3) What are the monthly readings for the last six months?

(4) What action has been taken to relieve the discomfort of residents as a result of the pollution of this creek?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes. The statement referred to was made by Mr. Henry in relation to a complaint of odours in the vicinity. I am advised that odour problems from Bulimba Creek are unlikely to occur until the dissolved oxygen level of the water in the creek drops to zero for a significant period."

(2) "Inspections are made at least every month but other inspections are made when complaints are received."

(3) "Regulation tests of the tidal part of Bulimba Creek conducted over the past six months disclosed that from 48 tests made the dissolved oxygen content was less than 3 milligrams per litre in 35 tests, between 3 and 5 milligrams per litre in 11 tests and above 5 milligrams per litre in 2 tests. On no occasion during the past six months has the average of the tests at any sampling point fallen to zero. On a few occasions a test near the bottom indicated a complete lack of oxygen at that level but it is the average result which is important."

(4) "I am advised that the odours complained of recently have been shown to be caused by the disposal of tannery wastes on land and are a matter for my colleague, the Honourable the Minister for Health. The condition of Bulimba Creek is, however, cause for concern because of the number of industries and sewage treatment plants discharging effluents into it and remedial measures will be given a high priority when the Clean Waters Act is proclaimed. In the meantime, dischargers are being requested to make improvements to their control equipment."

COMPENSATION PAID TO VICTIMS OF
CRIME

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

How many payments have been made under the *Criminal Code* amendment which provides for *ex gratia* payments to innocent victims of violent crimes and what was the total sum involved?

Answer:—

"Six payments of compensation totalling \$4,950 have been made by the Crown."

ARTIFICIAL REEFS, MORETON BAY

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

(1) Is he aware that a number of artificial reefs are being built in Moreton Bay from old ships, car bodies and tyres?

(2) Has any check been made to ascertain whether these car bodies, tyres, etc. have shifted with the tides and have become a danger to small ships?

(3) Will action be taken to clearly mark these reefs so that small ships will not be endangered by the loss of anchors and other gear as a result of snagging on these uncharted artificial reefs?

Answers:—

(1) "Approval has been granted to the Underwater Research Group of Queensland for the creation of two artificial reefs in Moreton Bay. One is located about 1½ miles north of Cowan Cowan Point, Moreton Island and the other in the Southport Broadwater in the vicinity of the area known as 'The Deep Hole'."

(2) "Conditions of approval of the Moreton Island and Broadwater reefs included that there should be at all times at least 36 feet and 20 feet of water respectively over the highest parts of the reefs at low water. The Underwater Research Group is responsible to the Marine Board for ensuring that the materials used in the construction of the reefs do not move out of the defined area."

(3) "My Department of Harbours and Marine has so far not considered it necessary to mark these reefs. There is adequate depth over them for safe navigation of small ships. It is true that there is a possibility that anchors could foul them, but this possibility exists in many areas of Moreton Bay where natural foul ground exists. To date my Department has not been made aware of any problems in this regard."

AUSTRALIAN TRANSPORT ADVISORY
COUNCIL MEETING, ADELAIDE

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

(1) Did he attend the 38th meeting of the Australian Transport Advisory Council which was held in Adelaide on October 5? If not, was Queensland represented and, if so, by whom?

(2) What were the names and portfolios of the Ministers who attended on behalf of the Commonwealth and other States?

(3) Were railway and urban public transport services, and investment therein, under discussion during the proceedings and, if so, with what result?

(4) What other items, requests or suggestions were submitted on behalf of this State and with what result?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) "I refer the Honourable Member to my Answer to a similar Question of recent date."

FIRE PREVENTION MEASURES,
HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS

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

Has his attention been drawn to a Press statement by the Cairns fire chief during fire-prevention week concerning the absence of a regulation or statute to provide for the compulsory installation of sprinkler systems and similar fire precautionary measures, particularly in respect to new high-rise buildings? If so, what action is proposed to be taken to have these matters rectified and, if not, will he have the matters investigated and reviewed?

Answer:—

"The statement to which the Honourable Member refers I understand was made over the local radio. Consequently, I did not hear it. However, I am having enquiries made and will have the statement by the chief officer examined."

SOCIAL SERVICE PAYMENTS, CHILDREN'S
SERVICES DEPARTMENT

(a) Mr. Leese, pursuant to notice, asked
The Minister for Tourism,—

Concerning his statement regarding families who had their State assistance reduced after the recent increases in Commonwealth social service benefits and as he said that he had discretionary powers and invited people with any reasonable claim to contact him—

(1) Were people advised of this when they were notified that their State supplementary assistance would be cut?

(2) How many people have sought to have the decision to reduce their State assistance reconsidered and how many have received favourable consideration?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "The Honourable Member has not correctly interpreted the purpose of the discretionary power. This power is vested in the Director, Department of Children's Services, and enables him to give special consideration in certain categories, particularly involving children having special difficulties, or needing specialized training or assistance or for whom the Commonwealth does not pay a child allowance. The people whose assistance was discontinued were not notified of this discretionary power because it was not necessary to do so. The Department has already on record the circumstances of each family and was in a position to determine whether special needs would justify the continuance of the assistance. Of the 637 cases in which assistance was discontinued, only 27 made written requests for their cases to be reconsidered and assistance has been restored in five of these

cases. I might add that assistance is continuing to be paid in 367 cases and these comprise not only cases of children with special needs, but also cases involving children for whom the mother does not receive any Commonwealth social service benefit other than child endowment."

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

With regard to supplementary pension payments which until recently were paid by the State to widows and deserted wives and which have now been withdrawn—

(1) What supplementary or State assistance was available to widows or deserted wives with (a) one child, (b) two children and (c) three children as at June 30, 1969, 1970, 1971 and 1972?

(2) What was the total Commonwealth and State pension payment made to widows and deserted wives in those categories for the years specified?

(3) As the withdrawal of supplementary State assistance is creating undue financial hardship for hundreds of families in Queensland, why has this policy of non-assistance by the State been adopted?

Answers:—

(1) "A widow or deserted wife in receipt of a Commonwealth widow's pension with no other income or no extenuating or alleviating circumstances would have been eligible for supplementary assistance as follows:—June 30, 1969—\$2.50 per week for a one-child family, \$5 per week for a two-child family, \$5 per week for a three-child family. June 30, 1970—\$2.50 per week for a one-child family, \$2.50 per week for a two-child family with one child under six years of age and \$5 if neither child was under six years of age, \$2.50 per week for a three-child family with none of the children under six years of age. June 30, 1971—\$2.50 per week for a one-child family, \$5 per week for a two-child family, \$2.50 per week for a three-child family with a child under six years of age and \$5 per week if all children were over the age of six years. June 30, 1972—\$2.50 per week for one- and two-child families. Three-child families were ineligible because of the level of Commonwealth Social Service payments."

(2) "The following table sets out the total weekly Commonwealth and State payments made to widows and deserted wives in the categories specified:—

—	One-Child Family	Two-Child Family	Three-Child Family
June 30, 1969	\$25.00	\$30.00	\$32.50

—	Child Under Six Years	No Child Under Six Years	Child Under Six Years	No Child Under Six Years	Child Under Six Years	No Child Under Six Years
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
June 30, 1970	26.00	28.00	32.00	31.50	33.00	32.50
June 30, 1971	27.00	29.00	33.00	35.00	36.50	38.50
June 30, 1972	31.25	33.25	35.75	37.75	37.75	39.75"

(3) "Queensland was assisting widows and deserted wives for many years before the Commonwealth commenced its social service payments. With the commencement of Commonwealth payments to widows and other eligible mothers, the State did not then withdraw from the field but has followed a policy of adjusting its payments in relation to increases in Commonwealth payments and variations in the State male basic wage. This policy has been followed consistently up to the present time when it has now been decided to vacate the field of supplementing Commonwealth social service payments. Queensland is the last State to discontinue supplementary help, all other States having previously vacated this field. Widows and other eligible mothers in Queensland have been receiving

greater financial benefit than people similarly placed in other parts of the Commonwealth. The Honourable Member's estimate of hundreds of families in Queensland who have suffered undue financial hardship by the withdrawal of this assistance is exaggeration, and I would refer him to the Answer given to the Honourable Member for Brisbane on October 12, 1972."

PORT FOR LARGE SHIPS

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

(1) Has his Government examined the possibility and desirability of creating or establishing a deep-sea port to handle the

giant freighters of up to 100,000 tons which are now being built in overseas countries?

(2) As such giant ships could lessen freight rates considerably, handle greater volumes of tonnage and benefit Queensland's rural producers, particularly in the grain and wool industries, with mining being a primary consideration and with the added advantage of a short haul particularly to Eastern countries, what are his Government's views on this matter?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "There is no likely nexus between the wool trade and 100,000-ton bulk carriers. Conventional and container shipping of more modest tonnage is considered adequate to handle this trade for a long time. Deep sea port facilities serving mineral trades are available for 100,000-ton ships at Hay Point and for 60,000-ton ships at Gladstone and Weipa. Additional facilities for 100,000 tonners are being investigated in the Mackay region and at Weipa. The grain trade has facilities at Gladstone for 45,000 tonners and at Brisbane for 25,000 tonners. The cheaper freight rates available from the larger ships must at all times be considered along with the extra cost of port facilities necessary to service these ships, including substantial additional port storage, larger and stronger wharfage, and deeper and wider channels, and if new ports are being considered, the cost of railway development. The ability of the ports of outturn to handle the larger ships must also be examined. This latter factor is most significant in the grain trade where the great majority of outturn ports can only handle shipping of small to medium tonnage. The Honourable Member can be assured that the use of larger shipping at all Queensland ports is kept under constant review."

ASSISTANCE FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY
RATES, SOUTH-WEST QUEENSLAND
TOWNS

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

(1) Is he aware of the increases that have been imposed lately on water, sewerage and rates generally in certain rural shires?

(2) As towns and rural industries are interdependent for their living and as he has promised to push for Commonwealth assistance to rural property owners in the South-west, why have town ratepayers not received similar considerations?

Answers:—

(1) "I am not aware of any significant increases in rates and charges made and levied by local authorities in rural areas. In fact, I compliment the local authorities

for holding the level of rates as well as they have despite constantly rising wages and prices during the recent adverse seasons. The quantum of rates and charges to be made and levied is, of course, a matter within the sole discretion of each local authority pursuant to the *Local Government Act 1936-1971*, and is outside my control."

(2) "The financial position of local authorities, particularly those in the wool growing areas of the State, is of prime concern to the Government and it has aided such local authorities to the limit of its financial resources. As the Honourable Member is aware, substantial assistance has been given to local authorities in drought affected areas by way of unemployment grants from the Commonwealth and certain rural ratepayers have received assistance under the rural reconstruction scheme, the drought assistance scheme, and special State assistance. The assistance so granted has increased liquidity in the areas concerned, thus aiding town ratepayers both through additional employment opportunities and increased business activities. The rendering of additional assistance by the State is basically dependent on further moneys being allocated by the Commonwealth and the Queensland Government will continue to seek such assistance."

INVESTIGATIONS, UNDERGROUND WATER;
DRILLING SUBSIDY

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

(1) What has been the investigation expenditure by the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission in water finding in Queensland in each of the last five financial years?

(2) What account has been taken of the increasing progress in better equipment and techniques and what effect have these factors had in increasing the capabilities of known water reserves?

(3) Is any subsidy available to landholders, particularly in the arid areas, for deep-bore drilling, which would be largely accentuated by an extreme necessity for water in an area of unknown water supply?

(4) What is the depth of Queensland's deepest bore-water supply?

Answers:—

The following Answers relate only to the activities of the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission in measurement and recording of surface water and investigation assessment and recording of ground-water supplies—

(1) "Annual expenditure on these activities for the five years 1967-68 to 1971-72 was—(a) Surface Water—\$614,900; \$639,300; \$720,600; \$663,400;

and \$652,400. (b) Groundwater—\$389,000; \$341,500; \$368,200; \$379,200; and \$399,300.”

(2) “New equipment and techniques are being constantly sought, evaluated and used in both surface and groundwater assessment. In surface water, examples are automatic stream height recorders, use of helicopters to transport stream gauging parties, automation of translation of chart records to numerical form, computerisation of flow records, data recovery and analysis. In groundwater assessment, examples are rotary drilling, improved aquifer sampling, black and white and colour aerial photography and recent trials of infra red and thermal scanning equipment. Geophysical methods have been used but not generally adopted because of doubtful results to date. They are being kept under review. The effects of expanded activities and improved methods have included the following. Increase of the stream gauging network from 220 gauges in 1963 to 550 at present is providing more detailed and reliable data on these resources throughout the whole of the State. Means of rapidly extracting and analysing the great volume of data now obtained are being used. Some new discoveries of groundwater have been made such as at Weipa, parts of the Isaac River Basin, the Darling Downs and in the Julia Creek Areas. Increased use of groundwater in many areas has required major activity to be concentrated on efforts to improve these supplies. Artificial recharge of groundwater in the Burdekin Delta is the first scheme of this type in Australia and Queensland leads also in proposals for conjunctive use of surface and groundwater. With 260,000 acres irrigated from groundwater, many town supplies and a large part of Queensland obtaining stock supplies from these sources, Queensland is the leading State in groundwater use.”

(3) “Subsidies are not paid to landholders to drill for water in any areas. The commission provides an advisory service to assist landholders to select the most favourable bore location. The extensive bore data now available assists greatly in this advice. Advances under the Farm Water Supply Scheme provide finance on better terms than other sources.”

(4) “The deepest bore drilled for water supply in Queensland is the 7,009-foot deep Springleigh Bore near Blackall, drilled in 1921.”

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR POLICE OFFICERS

Mr. NEWTON: I ask the Minister for Works and Housing: In view of the number of law-breakers who seem determined to shoot it out with members of the Police Force before being arrested for crimes they

have committed, has any special protective equipment, such as that used by the Riot Squad in Brisbane, been provided throughout the State to protect police from being maimed or killed when effecting arrests in cases involving firearms?

Mr. HODGES: Police officers carry small arms, and they are the only means of protection they have against anyone who desires to shoot it out with them. No special equipment or clothing is issued to them for the protection of their person, and I doubt whether anything of that nature, unless it was bullet-proof, would afford any real protection. The police in this State have sufficient intelligence to handle situations such as the ones referred to by the honourable member, with due regard for their own protection and the welfare of the State.

Mr. NEWTON: I ask the Minister a supplementary question. Will he now give urgent consideration to providing protective equipment, similar to that supplied to policemen in New South Wales, to policemen in all police districts throughout Queensland to protect them in carrying out their duties?

Mr. HODGES: If the honourable member can give me an indication of the type of protective equipment that could be supplied, I shall have the matter investigated. It would, however, be almost physically impossible for any policeman, or any person in a position of authority, to carry with him on all occasions equipment of such a type that it would protect him from bullets.

Mr. NEWTON: I ask the Minister a further question. In view of the number of recent incidents in which firearms have been used by law-breakers against members of the Police Force when they are effecting arrests, as well as in hold-ups and similar incidents, will he give urgent consideration to the easy access that people have to firearms in this State with a view to overcoming the present situation before it gets completely out of control and affects members of the public in all categories?

Mr. HODGES: This is a matter that is under review at the moment, and I am now awaiting a national conference of all Ministers in charge of Police Forces and other authorities from the various States of Australia, where it is to be considered. It is being very seriously considered, and a decision will be reached in the very near future on the registration of firearms and personnel obtaining them. However, a person who is shot by a registered firearm is just as dead as one who is shot by a firearm that is not registered.

MOCK AUCTIONS

Mr. BROMLEY: I ask the Minister for Justice: Further to my question yesterday relating to mock auctions at 152 Queen Street, Brisbane, and his answer thereto in which he

said that this matter had been raised in the House previously, why has this type of sale not been stopped by his department? In view of the investigations that he says have taken place, and in view of the continued complaints, which I mentioned by way of interjection yesterday concerning this type of robbery, will he now take immediate action instead of waiting for me to make a speech on the subject, as he suggested, similar to that of the honourable member for Merthyr, which has obviously resulted in the continuation of this obnoxious sales practice?

Mr. KNOX: I am not aware of the interjections to which the honourable member refers and of which he expects me to take notice. However, as a result of the speech of the honourable member for Merthyr in this Chamber, I have asked those concerned in my department to prepare submissions for me that could ultimately result in legislation. As the honourable member for South Brisbane knows, there does not appear to be any control over some of the activities of the people to whom he refers. But—and this is where I think the responsibility of the honourable member rests—if it does come to his notice that certain people in the community are perpetrating frauds, he should immediately bring the matter to the attention of the police, who have power to take the necessary action.

Mr. BROMLEY: I rise to a point of order. Yesterday I did bring to the notice of the House—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! There can be no debate on the answer to a question.

SUSPENSION OF NURSE, SOUTHPORT GENERAL HOSPITAL

Mr. D'ARCY: I ask the Minister for Health: To clear the good name of the staff of the Southport General Hospital, will he name the nurse whom his department has suspended from duty at the Southport General Hospital?

Mr. TOOTH: I certainly will not. To begin with, I do not know the name of the nurse. This matter is being handled—and, I imagine, being handled quite effectively—by the Southport Hospitals Board.

Mr. D'ARCY: I ask this supplementary question: As it was reported in yesterday's Press that the Minister had received a report on injuries to six babies at the Southport General Hospital, will he outline the action his department intends taking?

Mr. TOOTH: I do not know what report the honourable member is referring to; but if he is referring to the report that the Deputy Director-General of Health gave me, I have already said that it was a report on the medical condition of the children, about which I was personally concerned. I cannot reveal something that I do not

know, and I certainly do not intend to speculate. The matter is being dealt with, as I said earlier, by the Southport Hospitals Board, and that is where it now rests.

FLOOD MITIGATION, BREAKFAST CREEK

Mr. DAVIS: I ask the Minister for Conservation, Marine and Aboriginal Affairs: In 1969 the Minister inspected Breakfast Creek and said he would arrange for obstructions to be removed from the creek and also that a brick wall near the bridge on Bowen Bridge Road would be removed. As this is 1972 and his department has not taken the action promised, will he inform the House when the work will be carried out?

Mr. N. T. E. HEWITT: My department has done a considerable amount of work on Breakfast Creek. I am not absolutely certain, of course, whether everything mentioned by the honourable member has been removed. I assure him that we are fully conscious of the matter and will keep on doing whatever it is possible to do. At the same time, let us have a look at the Brisbane City Council and some of the problems it is creating along the creek.

REVISION OF AIRLINE SCHEDULES

Mr. R. JONES: I ask the Minister for Transport: In view of the situation that has now arisen in relation to airline schedules in Queensland with the introduction of daylight saving in the southern States, would this not be an appropriate time to seek improvement of airline services and to eliminate the unsatisfactory operation of parallel air services, both interstate and intrastate? Have any such recommendations been made by him?

Mr. K. W. HOOPER: No such recommendations have been made.

SUPPLY

COMMITTEE—FINANCIAL STATEMENT— RESUMPTION OF DEBATE

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

Debate resumed from 24 October (see p. 1304) 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. SHERRINGTON (Salisbury) (12.2 p.m.): By no stretch of the imagination could anybody claim that the Treasurer is a shrinking violet. Over the past couple of weeks I have had the opportunity of studying the Financial Statement in some detail, and, having read it thoroughly, I have come to the conclusion that, on his own admission,

in the final paragraph he claims to be the Cassius of Treasurers throughout the States and the Commonwealth.

Mr. Hinze: Who said that?

Mr. SHERRINGTON: The Treasurer has admitted it. In one paragraph under the heading "Conclusion" the Treasurer said—

"Strict budgetary controls and financial policies and strategies, often unpalatable to me and extremely unpopular with the Government itself, had to be introduced to bring the State through these difficult times. To survive, then, was the first goal . . ."

In typical Cassius fashion, he continued—
"I am bold to say . . ."

I do not know whether, as a result of having recently been granted a knighthood, the Treasurer regards himself as a Sir Galahad in this State, or whether he imagines he is like King Arthur among his Knights of the Round Table. Whatever he claims, no-one could accuse him of being a shrinking violet when enumerating the many "achievements" of which he boasts.

Over the years, we have become accustomed to glib references to record spending in the various departments. Probably these stories make good telling to the Sir Gordon Chalk Fan Club and to those of his admirers who aspire to Cabinet rank.

Mr. Lane: You are sulking because you were not selected for the Constitution Convention.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I intend to make an intelligent contribution today, and I do not wish to be interrupted by the loud-mouth with flapping ears from Merthyr.

Mr. Lane: You are only sulking.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I point out to the honourable member for Merthyr that, during the short period he has been in this Chamber, he has built up for himself the reputation of being the greatest "can-tipper" on either side of the Chamber. Recently when I was in the electorate of Merthyr I found that the local joke there is that if someone wants to keep the honourable member off his front lawn he should shift his garbage can to the backyard. However, I do not intend to be distracted today by the honourable member for Merthyr.

Mr. Lane: Why did you resign from the Opposition Conservation Committee?

Mr. SHERRINGTON: Why don't you shut your big mouth.

THE ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. SHERRINGTON: All the phrases used by the Treasurer, such as that he was "bold to say" and that this Budget was a great "achievement", to my mind are merely the stock-in-trade of a skilled raconteur. They are also an attribute of exhibition sielers, who probably are outdone only by

the honourable member for Merthyr. He may have performed quite well when he was dealing with poor inoffensive criminals who could not answer him back, but here in Parliament, when members "come back" at him he is right out of his depth.

Mr. Lane: I know what you think of the police. Bart Lourigan made it perfectly clear.

THE ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. Lane interjected.

THE ACTING CHAIRMAN: I have called "Order". The honourable member for Salisbury will please proceed.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I said that I did not intend to be side-tracked by the honourable member for Merthyr. However, as he has referred to my attitude to the police, I suggest that he can ask any policemen with whom I have come in contact in police stations in my electorate what they think of me. Every one of them would speak in terms of the highest praise in discussing my attitude to the Police Force generally and what I have done to assist its members to overcome deficiencies in police stations, which can be attributed to the Government. I also point out to the honourable member for Merthyr that any policeman will confirm that his greatest contribution to fame as a member of the Police Force was the day that he resigned from it. That was his greatest contribution to solving crime in this State.

No doubt the polite handclaps of Cabinet Ministers and crawlers like the honourable member for Merthyr when the Treasurer told his glib tale of how he had husbanded the State finances were paralleled by handclapping in the local Liberal ladies' club. After studying the Budget in detail, I found that once the tinsel was stripped from it a different picture was revealed. I do not know whether the Treasurer feels that because Christmas is drawing close he should wrap up his promises in tinsel, but even this illuminating example of his exuberant verbosity could have had a fitting finale only if he had followed the practice of the great scientists and mathematicians of bygone days who, when concluding their summary of a difficult theorem, always used the Latin phrase "quod erat demonstrandum". If honourable members recall their schooldays—mine are becoming very dim—they will recall that that phrase means something like "that which is to be proved".

I would have applauded the Treasurer and given him full credit for his verbosity if he had concluded his speech with the Latin phrase, "cum granos salis" which means, for the edification of the unintelligent member for Merthyr, "with a grain of salt". Everything contained in the Budget should be taken with a grain of salt.

Mr. Wharton interjected.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I do not want to be uncharitable to a lowly person like the honourable member for Burnett.

Year after year the Treasurer says, "We are undertaking record spending." With an ever-increasing population, greater exploitation of our natural resources, ever-increasing taxation imposts, ever-increasing amounts of royalty, small though the rates are, and ever-increasing Commonwealth grants and payments to this State, including the rather miserable \$9,000,000 that the Treasurer received from the Commonwealth Grants Commission because he could not balance his Budget, there would be something wrong with the economy of the State and the Treasurer if we were not spending increased amounts each year in the various avenues supervised by Parliament. Members of the public do not need this *pate de foie gras* of increased spending. They want to know, in bread-and-butter terms, what it is achieving.

Mr. R. E. Moore: Have you a little liver trouble this morning? I think your goose liver has gone off a bit.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: If the honourable member for Windsor desires, I shall allow him a few minutes of my time to make an intelligent interjection.

If one removes the veneer of respectability with which the Treasurer cloaks his Budget, and strips it of the glittering tinsel in which many of its proposals are wrapped, and then studies the expenditure in various fields, the real situation assumes a character vastly different from that portrayed by the Treasurer.

Education is a field in which this Government likes to gird its loins and stake its all. One could believe, on an examination of the proposals in the Financial Statement, that all of the basic needs of a comprehensive education system had been achieved, that all children who are being educated in this State are being taught in the most modern schools and are receiving the greatest aids to education, and that, indeed, the stage had been reached where the Government, believing it had cured all education problems, was introducing innovations into the primary-school system.

Government members represent pampered electorates which, over the years, have been the venues of tremendous development in an effort to prop up the sagging political images of those members. Note the Government's sudden realisation of the importance of Ipswich because they were lucky enough to have a seat gerrymandered for them in that area.

Mr. Lane: Marginson fled from it. He couldn't face the ballot.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: Members representing pampered, Government-held electorates were possibly able to kid themselves that education had reached the standard that I spoke of. I get heartily sick of hearing,

session after session and year after year, the Government trying to excuse its inefficiency and incompetence in the field of education by claims of Labor's neglect of education prior to 1957.

Mr. R. E. Moore: You didn't have any high schools. You must admit that.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: That probably accounts for the ignorant attitude of the honourable member for Windsor.

Mr. R. E. Moore: That would be right—under your system.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I get heartily sick of this attitude, because, after all, the Government has been in office now for 15 years.

Mr. Lane: How long was your mob in?

Mr. SHERRINGTON: Let us face the fact that in those 15 years children who were born after the Government came to office have progressed to 10th grade at school. Is the Labor Party being blamed for not providing schools for unborn children? Is the Government trying to excuse its inefficiency in this manner?

Mr. Lane interjected.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: Perhaps the honourable member for Merthyr might cease interjecting if I tell him that I have received a late message from the Police Union that he is known as, "Victor, the telephone-tapping man."

Mr. Lane: Were you on "Command Performance" at Festival Hall? Did you use that joke there? Are you trying to beat Bobby Limb for his spot? I suppose you'll be singing, "It's time" on T.V.?

Mr. SHERRINGTON: As I was saying, Mr. Hewitt, not only are there children now in 10th grade who were not born till after 1957, but there are now whole suburbs and districts that were not developed then. Surely honourable members opposite are not suggesting that the Labor Government should have provided schools in areas of development that did not exist?

Mr. Lane: It should have had more than it did have.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: It is no use the Treasurer or any of the vociferous members on the Government side trying to say that the Labor Party neglected education, because the Government is equally guilty of the incompetence and neglect of which it accuses the Labor Party.

Mr. Lane: You deliberately fought secondary education. Keep them ignorant and they will vote Labor—that was your policy.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: Then how could such an ignorant clot as you—

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Merthyr will cease his constant interjections.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I make no reflection on you, Mr. Hewitt, but I am sure that, if I had been as persistent in interjecting as the honourable member for Merthyr, I would have been on my way home now.

None of these areas of development existed before 1957. Now I come to the latest innovation of the Minister for Education. Having created the illusion that Queensland is a modern Utopia in education, he is now making a pathetic attempt to introduce a half-baked, ill-conceived, and as yet not-finalised system of pre-school education in primary schools. The Minister is hoping that this will create the impression that a great leap forward in education is being made in this State.

Without equivocation, I make the charge that the Government cannot house the students who are now attending State primary schools, let alone cope with the increased number of students that will flow on as a result of the introduction of its half-baked pre-school scheme.

Government Members interjected.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: If the "crows" opposite will only be quiet, Mr. Hewitt, I will give them some of the facts about education.

Mr. Hinze: How many school-teachers have you on your side of the Chamber?

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I do not intend to be interrupted. The honourable member is only trying to waste my time.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. SHERRINGTON: It is passing strange that the honourable member for South Coast was the one who made sneering references to the Leader of the Opposition being in New Zealand judging dogs.

Mr. Hinze: Yes.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: But apparently he does not make any protest when the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Welfare Services, instead of being in this Chamber, is up on the Barrier Reef admiring the "birds". The Minister makes his annual pilgrimage there to honour the title "King Polyp" that was conferred on him. If I remember my lessons in biology correctly, a polyp is a spineless, gutless animal.

As I said earlier, the Government tries to create the impression that the State is making great leaps forward in education, but the Department of Education cannot house the children who are now attending State schools. In Housing Commission areas, in particular, not one school has been planned or built to meet the growing education needs of the suburb. From many years of experience of representing Housing Commission areas, I can tell the Committee that additional schools have been provided in such areas only as a result of pressure from

myself or other honourable members representing similar electorates, and I assure the Committee that no new school in a Housing Commission area has ever been completed and ready for occupation at the beginning of a school year.

One of the best examples that I can give honourable members is the school at Carole Park, which was in my old electorate. For nine years I attempted to get the Government to shift that school because it was located in an industrial area that had been developed with encouragement from the Government. The stage was finally reached when the head-teacher said, "The next child who comes into this school will have to stand up." It was only because of continual representations by me that the problem was eventually solved.

Possibly the greatest example of incompetence and lack of interest that it has been my misfortune to witness is the schools situation in the Woodridge-Kingston area of my new electorate. I can describe the attitude of the Minister for Education to the education needs of that area only as singular disinterest. Not only is there insufficient school accommodation to cater for the growing population of the area; there is not even one school reserve to cater for future education needs.

At the Woodridge State School in Wembley Road, 32 students were enrolled in two days recently. What is the situation at that school, which is part of the education system which the Treasurer boasts has been given so much aid and direction by the Government and under which so much planning has been carried out? It is now attended by 1,200 pupils, and there are 36 classrooms, 12 of which are temporary—one-third of the total.

Let me go a little further and describe to honourable members the type of temporary accommodation that is provided. The school is a conglomeration of new rooms and old buildings. Children are being taught in an old Army barracks that was moved from Cannon Hill to Woodridge after the Second World War. A multitude of demountable buildings and a collection of "humpty-doo" form part of the school complex, all parts being lumped together in grounds of seven acres. The staff room at the Woodridge State School would make the black hole of Calcutta look like a luxury apartment. A few weeks ago it was proposed to move the teacher out of the school residence and convert it into classrooms. These conditions have continued since my colleague, the former member for that area, Mr. Baldwin made representations. In May this year, before the State election, I sent urgent letters to the Minister for Education and the Minister for Works and Housing, but I see nothing in the Budget to cure what amounts to a social evil in the field of education in this State.

There were two toilets at that school for a staff of 32. The teachers told me that because there was a bolt on the outside of the door they were not game to close the door in case a student locked them in. What I have said might be a cause for merriment, but it is a damned disgrace that children have to be taught in such schools. It is certainly a pointer to the fact that the Government plans education on a political basis. That situation has existed month after month without anything being done to rectify it, other than a visit by the Minister for Works and Housing. I managed to get the Minister to have a look at the school, and I pay him credit for doing so. As a result, the Minister has indicated that two double areas of classrooms will be made available to ease the situation. But they will not be ready until April of next year, and in the meantime enrolments are increasing rapidly. I have instanced one increase of 32 in two days.

Mr. R. E. Moore: Your speech would read just as well if you didn't shout.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I have to shout to get through the honourable member's thick skull.

With the present situation at Woodridge, including the lack of adequate school grounds, what is needed is an additional school. The Minister for Education would not see fit to include the area in the pilot scheme for pre-school facilities. That area should be given No. 1 priority for pre-school education.

Mr. Hodges: You will agree that we gave you extra ground for the school oval?

Mr. SHERRINGTON: We got the extra ground only because I twisted a few arms. Nothing had been done about extra ground until I came on the scene. The Minister will admit that.

The provision of education facilities in Woodridge North has never kept pace with the increase in population of the area. The Department of Education did not even have a future school site available. It was not until I screwed somebody's arm that arrangements were made for the District Inspector to make a visit. I had to find a school site for the Department of Education. The situation at Woodridge stands as a monument to the Education Minister's colossal lack of interest in Labor-held areas and rapidly expanding areas that should be allotted high priorities.

If that is the best that the Minister for Education can offer, apart from peddling this heavily tinselled pre-school-education scheme, I call on him to resign. I go further than that. I call on the other Cabinet Ministers to remove him from office. The neglect of education in areas such as Woodridge is a damn disgrace. I think every one of my

Labor colleagues who represents an area similar to Woodridge has had an experience similar to mine.

Mr. Chinchin: Woodridge has been given a new opportunity school and a new high school in the last 18 months.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: The honourable member does not know anything about it. I prefer to deal with people of normal intelligence, so I ask him to keep out of this.

An area such as Woodridge, which vitally needs pre-school education and the best possible facilities for primary-school education, is bypassed for areas such as Jindalee and Yeronga which, strangely enough—and I make no accusations—are both represented by Liberal members.

Going a little deeper into the matter, in areas such as Woodridge, where there is a high proportion of apprentices, no technical college is available. The nearest college of this nature to Woodridge is in the Yeronga electorate and apprentices from Inala, Woodridge and Kingston have to travel to that college for instruction. Even worse, as the Government has not looked after the college at Yeronga properly, on one occasion apprentices from Inala were told they would have to go to the Eagle Farm college for instruction. Yet Government members have the colossal temerity to tell me what they have done for education!

In order to demonstrate the Minister's lack of interest, I point out that when I made my initial inspection of the Woodridge North State School I found that the drinking fountains were located in the lavatory. In addition, there was the filthiest and most ill-conceived transpiration system it is possible to imagine. Anybody who may have had it in his back yard would have been fined for a breach of the health regulations.

So that, stripped of the tinsel wrapping, what the Treasurer said in the Budget makes very little sense. Unfortunately, I should have liked to continue in this strain and mention the lack of hospital facilities in the outlying suburbs to which I have referred. I should have liked to emphasise the need for dental clinics in places such as Woodridge and neglect by the Minister for Health of essential services such as these. However, I will be unable to do so, as I want to answer a recent statement made by the Minister for Mines, who tried to belittle the efforts of the Australian Labor Party in 1947 relative to the English Electric Steel Corporation's move to develop the coal deposits at Blair Athol, in Central Queensland. Incidentally, statements such as those made by the Minister are the stock-in-trade of every Government member who poses as a mining expert.

The Minister for Mines has repeatedly made the statement that the Labor Government was charging only 6d. a ton royalty in 1947. And added, "Indeed, on the third millionth ton the royalty fell to 1d."

Let us look at what has happened in the intervening years in regard to values. If we use the Consumer Price Index as a guide, 6d. in 1947 would be equal in value to 15c in 1972, so that, in order to parallel the royalty demanded by the Labor Government in 1947, in 1972 we should be getting at least 15c a ton for all our coal. If the process is reversed, the 1947 equivalent of 5c would have been 2d. It is a wonder that some Government members do not accuse the previous Labor Government of overcharging.

I propose now to quote from the 1947-48 Volume of "Hansard", in which, at the second-reading stage of the Electric Supply Corporation (Overseas) Limited Agreement Bill, introduced by the Hanlon Government, the then Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Nicklin, said—

"At the outset, I wish to assure the Premier that this agreement, having as its object the development of large-scale operations at the Blair Athol coal-mine, has the approval and support of the Queensland Country Party."

Mr. Pie, who represented Windsor, commented—

"In the main, the agreement is a splendid one for this State. A great deal of thought must have been put into it, and, quite apart from political affiliations, this House owes a debt of gratitude to the Premier . . ."

Subsequently, Mr. Russell, who represented Dalby, said—

"I welcome the proposals outlined in connection with this Blair Athol project. Having been a critic of the Government, I feel that I should like to congratulate them, the Premier in particular . . ."

Among the lesser lights was the former Treasurer, then Mr. Hiley. With his usual exuberance he gave the Left Wing of the A.L.P. a bit of a lacing, but then he proceeded to make some intelligent remarks, as follows—

"We find the Premier of this State introducing today a measure that I, for one, heartily commend."

Since 1947, members who now occupy the Government benches have tried to gain some petty political kudos from that Bill. They have twisted and distorted the facts, just as they misrepresent the attitudes of the Federal Labor Party in its present pre-election campaign. Never has this Chamber been so misused as it is today for Country-Liberal Party propaganda against the A.L.P. Instead of being the venue for debate on matters that vitally affect Queensland, this Chamber has become the forum in which Government members are trying desperately to prop up their Federal counterparts, whose leaders in Cabinet no longer enjoy credibility.

In the remaining few minutes at my disposal—unlike the Minister for Health, who, last year, welsbed on an agreement, I honour an agreement that is arrived at—I shall read

from the list of those honourable members who voted affirmatively in the division on the second reading of the Electric Supply Corporation Bill. That list is headed by none other than Mr. Bjelke-Petersen, who, we know, has had some experience in the matter of the payment of royalties.

Others in the list are Mr. Decker, a good old Tory, Mr. Kerr, and Mr. Low, the present member for Cooroora. The other night I floored him by reminding him that in 1947 he had voted with the Australian Labor Party. He cannot remember his actions in this Chamber over the years. As well, the names of Mr. Maher, Mr. Muller, Mr. Pie and the then Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Nicklin, appear in that list.

Every one of those members gave his blessing to the Bill and complimented the late Ned Hanlon on his foresight in attempting to develop Blair Athol and thus prevent a situation that would create unemployment, with a consequent drift of population from that part of the State. Yet the Minister for Mines tries to denigrate the members of the then Government to gain a petty political advantage. The only two members who voted against the second reading of that Bill were Mr. Marriott who, I believe, deserted his party, and Mr. Paterson, the Communist. I hope that what I have presented puts paid to the attempt by the Minister for Mines to misuse history, which is written indelibly in "Hansard".

I regret that, because of interruptions, I have taken a little longer on my speech than I intended. I assure you, Mr. Hewitt, that it is only because I agreed to speak for no more than 40 minutes that I did not speak at greater length. Had I continued, I would not have pulled any punches in my submissions on education matters as they pertain in this State.

Mr. BIRD (Burdekin) (12.42 p.m.): I was very interested to hear the comments of the honourable member for Salisbury on education because I, too, intend to deal with education, but in a slightly different way.

Firstly, I congratulate the Treasurer on the presentation of his seventh Budget. I believe that it would have been one of the easier ones he has had to present since becoming Treasurer of Queensland seven years ago. As we all know, in those seven years, there has been a great decline in primary-industry returns caused by low prices and the very serious effects of drought. In that time the Treasurer has had to try to balance the Budget, but his job has been far from easy due to low primary-industry returns. During his term as Treasurer the world market price of sugar dropped—in no time at all—from a high of £Stg.105 a ton to the very low level of £Stg.12 a ton. The bottom also fell out of wool prices. In addition, the shocking drought that has ravaged Queensland for so many years brought many of our primary

producers to their knees. Today, the world market price for sugar has increased to a good figure that should be very satisfactory to all producers in the industry, there has been some easing of drought conditions, and we have had a return of better wool prices. All of these improvements must have made the Treasurer's job a little easier than in the past, but everyone in Queensland should pay tribute to him for having brought us through very difficult times.

The Treasurer, in introducing his Budget, reported that over all Queensland's economy is in very good shape. I would say that that is something of an understatement. After he presented his Budget there was virtually no criticism in the Press or from members of the Queensland public. That in itself indicates the confidence of the people of Queensland in the Budget.

As a result of the private-enterprise policy adopted by this Government, we have seen tremendous growth in our secondary industries. This assisted Queensland to carry on while primary industry, which was experiencing very difficult times, had its back to the wall. This growth in secondary industries would not have taken place under a Government that adopted socialistic policies. We know, from experience, that success of private enterprise and private-enterprise policies are definitely far and away the best incentives to industry to come to this State. Those policies lead to the creation of new industries and the expansion of others, with the result that they build up our markets not only in Queensland and throughout Australia but also overseas. Later in my speech, I intend to deal briefly with the State-owned enterprises set up by previous Labor Governments, and to outline the losses incurred by them.

In his speech, the honourable member for Rockhampton wept a few crocodile tears about the decision to terminate the expansion programme at the alumina refinery in Gladstone. His tears seemed rather belated when we remember that over 900 strikes have been held at that plant during the past two years. When those strikes were occurring, we heard no complaint from Opposition members about the problems confronting the people involved in this wonderful project. The complaints were voiced only when the management decided it could stand no more, and that it had no alternative but to terminate the expansion programme. As much as does anybody else in this House, or in Queensland, I regret that work has stopped on that wonderful project. However, I am also very much concerned that it is happening and will happen in other industries.

I instance the Greenvale nickel project. This is a golden opportunity for North Queensland to gain a wonderful new industry. When the construction on the railway line to the treatment works at Yabulu is completed and mining commences, some 1,200

men will have an opportunity of constant employment. Yet the unions have stepped in, without consulting the workers, and have asked the main contractors for impossible terms and conditions. I spoke earlier about the type of people who went to work on the construction of that railway line. They were rather deeply hurt to be referred to by some people as "gypsies". I do not blame them for feeling that way; I would feel the same way if someone referred to me in that manner simply because I had gone to such an area to help develop this wonderful State of ours.

The men on this job were working six days a week, and more than eight hours a day. But that is why they went there. They went there to work overtime and to build up a nest-egg so that they could return to live in comparative comfort and provide their wives and children with many of the things that they were denied in their young days. But what did union representatives see fit to do? They went to the area and, without discussing the matter with the men or calling for a vote, imposed a ban on overtime. They put to the contractors terms and conditions which, because of the economics of the project, could not possibly be agreed to.

It now seems that completion of the railway line will be well behind schedule, and that the whole project will start much later than was originally intended. It is shocking that all the planning by the contractors has been disrupted. They planned to construct a certain number of culverts, creek-crossings and bridges before the onset of the wet season. Thanks to the unions and their ban on overtime, this work will not be completed on time, and all who know North Queensland appreciate that there is a considerable amount of work that cannot be done in the wet season. The whole planning of the project will therefore be thrown completely out of gear by union bans.

Do we ever hear Opposition members castigating union representatives for this type of action? I have heard no such criticism, and I doubt whether any member on this side of the Chamber has ever heard it. Opposition members wait till the stage is reached when contractors have to say, "We are sorry, but we can carry on no longer; we are closing down the job," and then they weep crocodile tears.

Mr. Low: What is the answer to all of this?

Mr. BIRD: I am afraid that the only answer is for the workers themselves to demand that, before any decision is made by their union, they be given the right to a free and secret ballot. That is the only answer I can see.

Let us now consider the sugar industry and the towns that depend on it. It has been said that job opportunities in the sugar industry have gone. Most certainly they have. But what happened in the case of cane-cutters? A few years ago a sugar

district could have employed, say, 1,200 cane-cutters. The unions, by constant demands for higher and higher wages and better and better conditions, again made without reference to rank-and-file workers, placed a tremendous strain on the sugar industry. It will be recalled that when the world market price of sugar rose to £105 a ton, the Australian Workers' Union, which I have generally regarded as a very level-headed union—

Mr. Miller: It was a good, solid union once.

Mr. BIRD: Probably the A.W.U. is still the best of the unions in this State. However, in what I would say was not a very wise move, the A.W.U. asked for, and eventually received, a prosperity loading of £2 a week for every person employed in the sugar industry, whether he be cane-cutter, field worker or mill worker. Shortly afterwards, as I told the Committee earlier, the world market price of sugar dropped to £Stg.12 10s. a ton. Did the unions ask that the prosperity loading be waived and that the workers take lower wages and rates for cutting cane? Certainly not! The prosperity loading of £2 a week—that is, \$4 a week—was written into the award.

At that time, cane-cutters' earnings were based on 24 tons of cane a week—cut, topped, and, supposedly, loaded. In fact, a cane-cutter received his \$4 prosperity loading if he cut and topped 24 tons of cane a week. However, the average cane-cutter was cutting and topping far more than that. In the Lower Burdekin the average would have been somewhere about 85 tons per man per week, and I should say that in other areas the average would have been at least 70 tons. They were receiving their \$4 on the basis of 24 tons cut and topped, but as they were actually cutting 70 to 80 tons a week, they were receiving several times the amount of the loading.

It should be remembered that that was at a time when, because of a small shortage of cane-cutters, the industry was investigating the possibility of using mechanical harvesting. Arguments were going on between mill managements and cane-growers' organisations as to which type of harvester would be best for the industry. The consensus amongst growers was that the chopper-harvester was preferable; on the other hand, the milling fraternity thought that the chopper-harvester created a problem with the introduction of leuconostoc, which, as honourable members who know the sugar industry will be aware, was supposed to get into the billets of cane through the cut ends and eat the sugar, and therefore recommended the use of whole-stalk harvesters.

The cane-growers probably would have been quite satisfied to go along steadily with the introduction of chopper-harvesters and allow them to develop and become, as they have now, very efficient machines, without worrying greatly about using whole-stalk

harvesters, which they thought were not ideally suited for harvesting sugar cane. But when the prosperity loading was written into the award and the price of cane-cutting increased so greatly in one jump, the cane-growers decided that they had just about had enough. Their returns were very low indeed, because they were receiving only £Stg.12.10s a ton for sugar sold on the world market—the bulk of it was sold on that market at that time—and they looked for a way of reducing their harvesting costs.

As a result, they turned to whole-stalk harvesting. Unfortunately, that proved to be one of the most expensive and wasteful exercises ever undertaken by the sugar industry. The whole-stalk harvesters were introduced in great numbers, and within a few years the fears of the farmers were substantiated and the use of the machines had to be discontinued.

In the meantime, the poor old cane-cutters were forced out of the industry. I have a great regard for cane-cutters who worked in the industry over many years, because they worked tirelessly and well and very seldom complained.

Mr. R. Jones: That is not what was said about them in 1936.

Mr. BIRD: I do not know what was said about the cane-cutters in 1936. I am telling the Committee what my own feelings are about them. As a matter of fact, not long after I was first elected to this Assembly, a gentleman said that if every worker in the Lower Burdekin had voted Labor, I would not have a seat in this Chamber. I very smartly told him that I was well and truly aware of that. I said, "I know the people who voted for me. The workers who voted for me were cane-cutters and field workers—the men whose confidence in me had been built up while I was an industrial officer of the cane-growers executive over a period of 8½ years."

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

Mr. BIRD: Before the luncheon adjournment I was speaking about increased wages bringing about a reduction in the number of job opportunities, particularly in primary industries. The 3 per cent increase in the number of civilian wage-earners throughout the State over the last 12 months is proof positive that the State has enjoyed increased prosperity. Unfortunately, the increase in the number of wage-earners has been confined mainly to the mining industry and secondary industries; certainly it has not occurred in the field of primary production.

What concerns me greatly is that in any industry where the employer is unable to pass on the added cost of higher wages there will be a change to mechanisation, if mechanisation can be introduced in his sphere. The result of that, of course, will be that more workers will be placed on the employment market. In one of my earlier

speeches I stressed the need for the introduction of a re-education scheme. That may still be necessary. Unfortunately, we will find great difficulty in re-educating many displaced persons. A large number of them would be migrants who came to Australia many years ago and, after settling in cane-growing areas, found work as cane-cutters and field workers in the sugar industry.

Those industries that cannot mechanise to absorb additional wage rises will not be able to survive. Certainly some industries will be priced out of overseas markets. This is a matter about which all genuine Queenslanders and Australians must be very greatly concerned. As individuals, the workers are innocent parties in the constant push for higher wages. As I said earlier in reply to an interjection, I believe that the only solution is a demand by workers for secret ballots before any decision is made about pushing for wage increases.

Mr. R. E. Moore: Compulsory ballots, too.

Mr. BIRD: Compulsory, yes.

It is very pleasing to see an increase this year of 25.68 per cent in the expenditure on education. I would be prepared to argue with any honourable member opposite at any time about the wonderful forward strides education has made in Queensland under the present Government. Nobody could argue that we did not have a great leeway to make up in the field of education when we took office. Most of the leeway has been made up, but with Queensland's increased population—and I refer again to the 3 per cent increase in civilian wage-earners, which indicates that people are coming to Queensland from other States because employment opportunities are greater here—we are going to need more classrooms and more schools. It will be a constant battle to meet the demand.

There is a tendency amongst parents today to insist that their children be overeducated. Because the Joneses down the road send their children on to Senior and the university, many parents feel that their daughters or sons should receive an equivalent education. Unfortunately, many of the young people in question simply have not the mental capacity to cope with this standard of education.

I spoke on this matter some time ago, and it was with interest that I read in Haydn Sargent's column in yesterday's "Telegraph" what purports to be a letter from a university student. I should say that this particular student may not quite realise just what is wrong, but I believe it reflects the very thing I am now discussing. I should like to quote it because it paints a fairly clear picture of the problem encountered by many young people.

It reads—

"I'm a Uni student, and I feel very lonely and depressed most of the time. I am mixed up; I hardly talk to my parents, and I am beginning to dislike them more and more.

"The only time my father talks to me is to tell me to study or to go and do some job around the house. My mother is all sweetness and light—of the sickening kind. She preaches at me all day long.

"I am sincerely grateful for what they have given me, but they are always making remarks about what they've done and how little I seem to show my appreciation.

"My friendships are all messed up and I get cramps in the stomach whenever something happens that I can't cope with. I am fairly shy and find it hard to keep up a conversation.

"I've thought of suicide but haven't attempted it because I'd probably only fail."

I am not going to say that that is a genuine letter, but I am pointing out that this is what is wrong with so many of our young people today. No fault for this lies with the Government or the education system: it is purely the fault of the parents for forcing their young children on to higher education that is beyond their mental capacity simply because the neighbour's children have gone to that standard.

I believe it is time that we had a look at this matter. After all, how many of these young people go to university, as we heard the honourable member for Townsville South say today, and obtain a Bachelor of Arts degree or some other degree that is absolutely useless to them and will produce nothing for the State in the future? All the money and time spent in acquiring such degrees is wasted. I feel that more of this money should be spent on projects such as water conservation. With larger conservation schemes throughout the State, we could undertake a much more irrigated agriculture. How many young people whose parents have been on the land would themselves like to go on the land but are unable to do so because sufficient land is not available? Do not let anyone tell me that we could not find markets for the extra produce we would grow, because we most certainly would. These young people are continuing at school to obtain degrees that will be of no use to them and, eventually, they will go into fields of employment where these higher forms of education are really not required.

I draw the attention of parents to the fact that many of them are simply forcing their children into situations where they will have nervous breakdowns, turn to drugs or do something else that will lead them along the road to mental destruction.

I believe also that we should have a look at the law which provides that children should not leave school till they are 15 years

of age. Head-teachers will tell us that many children below that age are incapable of being educated.

Mr. Baldwin interjected.

Mr. BIRD: I am stating facts. Instead of simply claiming that the Government should spend more on education, members of the Opposition should look at the end result. I would be only too pleased to conduct them on a tour of Australia to show them the large number of boys and girls who, although incapable of comprehending or understanding, are forced to remain at school.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. BIRD: Some members on the other side of the Chamber would fall into that category.

I congratulate the Minister for Education on his decision to introduce a scheme of pre-school education. This, of course, has been the target of a good deal of criticism from members of the Opposition. Obviously they believe that the Government has the services of the good fairy and that merely by the wave of her magic wand pre-school-education facilities will be provided for every infant in this State. Naturally, the scheme will have to be introduced progressively over a period of two or three years. First of all, teachers will have to be trained and, of course, the necessary facilities will have to be provided. It must not be forgotten, either, that there is a backlog in the provision of classrooms at existing schools, so from now on the Government will be faced with two problems: firstly, providing additional classrooms, and, secondly, implementing its pre-school-education system.

I have no doubt that arguments will arise as to priorities, but I am sure that the decisions will be arrived at wisely and that within a period of three years all those parents who desire to have their young children attend pre-school centres will have their wish granted.

It is interesting to note that expenditure on public hospitals and other essential areas in the health field has increased by \$13,700,000, or 18.61 per cent. Together with other honourable members, I should like to see even greater expenditure on health, but I realise that the Government's finances are limited. Nothing is free, so in order to obtain the necessary revenue for the provision of essential services a Government has no alternative other than to impose taxation. I do not intend to enter into a debate on the advantages or disadvantages to be derived from the Labor Party's so-called health scheme, because it has already been extremely well canvassed.

As I have said, I should like to see more money spent on hospital and health facilities, and I look forward to increased expenditure in this field in the near future.

I am disappointed that the Budget does not make any provision for a geriatric ward at the Ayr Hospital. On several occasions I have raised this very important matter with the Minister for Health. I do not like to see geriatric patients in wards with surgical cases and people who have suffered minor injuries. Their presence is often disturbing to patients who are trying to make a recovery. I trust that, in his wisdom and with the help of his officers, the Minister will be able to provide a geriatric ward at the Ayr Hospital in the not too distant future.

I pay tribute to those people who have accepted responsibility for raising money to build the Lower Burdekin Home for the Aged in Ayr. This will be a wonderful home. However, it will only cater for people who are to some extent capable of looking after themselves physically and providing their own meals, and so on. It will not take in geriatric patients who need intensive care. They will still be cared for in the hospitals at Ayr and Home Hill. A geriatric ward should be provided for them at Ayr as soon as possible.

I am pleased to note that the Treasurer has agreed to pay a subsidy of 75c in the dollar to voluntary rescue organisations. Many honourable members know of the wonderful work carried out by these organisations. The Burdekin Air-Sea Rescue Organisation has already saved people who have been in serious danger. In the past, its members have struggled to raise, by all possible means, funds for such things as boats that are fully equipped with the facility of radio communication and so on.

I am also pleased to see that the subsidy to ambulance brigades has been increased to 75c in the dollar. I should like this subsidy further increased and eventually to have the ambulance service become part of the Department of Health so that ambulance committees and bearers will not have to raise money for the necessary facilities. It will be some time before that happens, but I am sure that the various Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigades appreciate the decision to increase the present subsidy.

Funds made available to the Queensland Housing Commission have been increased from \$19,700,000 to \$23,800,000. Of this amount, a special allocation of \$1,400,000 is to be made available for a pensioner housing scheme. This is an essential service to the community, as so many people in their declining years find it difficult to get suitable accommodation and are forced to pay very high rents for small rooms or single flats. I hope this allocation will relieve their plight.

I am sure all honourable members were pleased to see the increased allocation for expenditure on main roads. The Budget also contains provision for continuing with the construction of beef roads. In the light of what the Government inherited in

the way of main roads in this State, its performance since coming to office has been really wonderful. I have often spoken about the condition of the Bruce Highway, from Brisbane to Cairns, as it was in 1957, and about the wonderful improvements effected to it and other roads throughout the State since then. I am sure these and similar improvements in other fields are helping to keep the Government in office.

I regret that there does not appear to be provision in the Budget for the start of a major water-conservation scheme on the Burdekin River. I should like to see more money spent on schemes such as that. If the major Burdekin Dam is not to be built yet, I hope the Commonwealth Government will agree to put the Urannah Dam at the top of the priority list. I agree that first consideration must be given to areas that are in dire straits owing to shortage of water, but the Burdekin area will rapidly become one of them if it is not provided with another major water storage.

I should now like to reply to some of the remarks of the honourable member for Lytton on the Premier's use of the Government aircraft. The honourable member should remember that he represents only a very small part of this State. In the past, the honourable member for Townsville South has pointed out that there are people in Queensland other than those in Brisbane. In any case, a Northerner or a Westerner is worth five Brisbaneites.

I agree whole-heartedly with the Premier's use of this aircraft. I wonder how the honourable member for Townsville West would feel if the Premier had not been able to use the Government aircraft to enable him to be in Townsville within 24 hours of the disastrous cyclone there on Christmas Eve last year. The Premier got there very quickly; he was able to assess the damage and had relief work started almost immediately. I assure the honourable member for Lytton that his remarks would not gain anything but adverse publicity for him in the North. The Premier has seen more of Queensland than any previous Premier. This is what the people want. They want the Premier to go to areas where problems exist, such as cyclones, floods or droughts, so that he can assess the position and then see that the people get the assistance they need.

The honourable member for Lytton referred to this Government as the "Not yet" Government. He is the "Not yet" member of the A.L.P. Whenever I have asked him when heads would next roll in the A.L.P., he has replied, "Not yet." Whenever he has been asked when he would depose the Leader of the Opposition, he has said, "Not yet." I thought that "Not yet" would become his nickname. However, I happened to be speaking to some of his A.L.P. colleagues last night on this subject and they said, "He is not the 'Not yet' man. We have another name for him. We call him 'The iron claw'."

I said, "How did you get that name for him?" They said, "Many years ago a serial film called 'The Iron Claw' was being shown at picture theatres. Before each episode there was a prologue along these lines—

'A fabulous fortune is at stake. The Iron Claw is hot on the trail. He lurks in the dark. He strikes in the back. Murder. Intrigue. Friend against friend. Brother against brother. Who is this man who laughs at the law and underworld alike? Who is this man who holds them all at bay? Who is the Iron Claw?'"

The honourable member's A.L.P. colleagues went on to say, "That description fits him perfectly." I agree. It seems a very appropriate name for him.

Mr. BROMLEY (South Brisbane) (2.40 p.m.): The last rather inane statement by the honourable member who has just resumed his seat reminded me of the recent election of the Speaker of this august Assembly—particularly the part about stabbing in the back! I do not intend to make any further reply to the remarks of the honourable member for Burdekin, because I have some sensible submissions to make to the Committee.

I am sorry that the Treasurer is not in the Chamber. No doubt he has important business to attend to. He said at page 1 of his Financial Statement—

"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 went on to describe his seventh Budget as an "Achievement" Budget. As he read it, with his head down and his posterior up, all that I thought he had achieved was the seven-year itch.

Whilst the Treasurer was reading the Financial Statement I was called to the telephone. This is one of the reasons I am sorry he is not in the Chamber. I said to the caller, "I can't stay very long. The Treasurer is introducing his Budget, and, naturally, I am interested in it." The caller, who incidentally was once a Liberal supporter but is certainly not one now, said, "Tell the old woman to shut up and leave it to those in the party who know something about it—that is, if there is anyone among them who does."

Mr. Knox: That is what has been said about you.

Mr. BROMLEY: Touche.

The caller mentioned a former Treasurer, Sir Thomas Hiley, and he also said that Perc Tucker could, and would, do a better job as Treasurer. In fact, it would be more appropriate for the honourable member for Townsville West to be presenting the Budget, as he is a member of the Labor Party, and that party received the majority of votes at the last election. If there was any democracy in this State, he would now be the Treasurer.

This caller also said that Sir Thomas Hiley's successor in the Chatsworth electorate was trying. I replied—very fairly, I thought—"And so is the Treasurer trying." He said, "Yes, very." It was rather a coincidence that I received that phone call, and had a conversation of that type, whilst the Treasurer was speaking. That is one reason for my sorrow that he is not now in the Chamber.

Is there any significance in the fact that this is the Treasurer's seventh presentation of the Budget? Is the seven-year itch taking effect? What are the implications? Will the Treasurer be here to present his eighth Budget?

Mr. Bousen: No. He is going to retire.

Mr. BROMLEY: The rumour is that he will be out of Parliament before long. He has ambitious colleagues, and perhaps his deputy will be the next Treasurer or even the honourable member for Windsor.

Mr. R. E. Moore: You'll be gone.

Mr. BROMLEY: Could anything be more laughable than that interjection by the honourable member for Windsor?

The Treasurer went on to say on page 1 of the Financial Statement—

"Another undesirable feature has been the continued high rate of increase in our wage structure, but this, of course, is a national problem."

The Treasurer shows clearly throughout the Financial Statement that he is, with one exception, against wage increases. The need for such increases would not be so great if the Commonwealth and State Governments had the intestinal fortitude to introduce a system of price justification and control. Higher profits are made by business firms each year. We read in the financial pages of the increased profits made by organisations such as B.H.P., Myers, David Jones, Mount Isa Mines, Thiess Brothers, and all the motor-car manufacturers.

Mr. R. E. Moore: About 3½ per cent—General-Motors Holden.

Mr. BROMLEY: The honourable member must be joking. That is the interest he would get from the Commonwealth Bank. What about the tremendously large net profits—\$10,000,000, \$12,000,000 and so on?

I have done some research into various statements on the subject of prices and wages made over the years by some spokesman far removed from the Left-wing and the Labor movement. Their statements debunk the wages-prices bogey. This is the first, and they are similar to what I have often stated in this House.

"I contend that we should not say 'the wage-price spiral'. We should say the price-wage spiral. For it is not primarily wages that push up prices. It is primarily prices that pull up wages."

That was said in 1952 by E. Wilson, then President of General-Motors.

The next reads—

"Some people put the blame on rising wages. Some more specifically put the blame on the Arbitration Court or Mr. Hawke as an advocate. But they are wide of the mark. Rising wages are a consequence, not a cause; wages go up because profits have gone up."

That statement was made by economist Colin Clark in "The Sydney Morning Herald".

Mr. R. E. Moore: They are indivisible.

Mr. BROMLEY: These are well-known men, and I have just quoted what the well-known economist Colin Clark said on 17 February, 1971.

The next one is—

"It is clear that for a wide range of goods throughout the economy prices are determined by management rather than by market forces."

That was said by Dr. H. C. Coombs in 1969, when he was Governor of the Reserve Bank. Is anyone in this Chamber, particularly anyone on the benches opposite, game to argue with such a distinguished man as Dr. Coombs? Of course not!

Another reads—

"Rises in prices are not inflation, nor are consequent demands for increased wages. The inflation is in the debasement of the currency. The increase in the vast amount of money creates the pressure under which prices are bound to rise and when they do so, labour is bound to demand increased means of meeting the higher price level."

That was said by Thomas I. Parkinson, head of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, in 1946, and it was quoted in the "Victorian Labor College Review" of September 1971.

Two further quotations bear out what I have said over many years in this Chamber.

Mr. Hinze: Tell us what Fred Bromley said.

Mr. BROMLEY: I shall deal with the honourable member for South Coast and the honourable member for Surfers Paradise later in my speech, so I invite them to remain in the Chamber.

The next quotation is—

"Wage claims, awards and strikes do not cause rising prices, inflation, for one single but sufficient reason—they cannot. There was never a strike yet which caused inflation and never will be."

Mr. Hinze: Lord Byron, or Shakespeare?

Mr. BROMLEY: A British Tory M.P., Enoch Powell, for the information of the honourable member. He continued—

"The most powerful unions or group of unions . . . is powerless to cause prices generally to rise . . . In the matter of

inflation, the unions and their members are sinned against, not sinning . . . they are pure . . . as the driven snow."

That is more than I can say for members of the Country Party or the Liberal Party.

Mr. Hinze: Fred Tennyson Bromley?

Mr. BROMLEY: As I said before, a British Tory M.P., Enoch Powell, said that in the British "Socialist Standard" in 1971.

The final quotation is—

"Increasing productivity can make it possible for companies to pay higher wages without raising prices."

I ask honourable members to note that—"increasing productivity".

"The Government can so debase the currency that the money wage increases in terms of purchasing power aren't increases at all. This helps to explain why unions are pressing for ever higher settlements. Union members, like everyone else,"—

including members of Parliament—

"find their dollars go less and less far, so they demand more of them."

That comes from the editorial of the Wall Street Journal of 3 June 1971.

Mr. R. E. Moore: Give us some of your own thoughts instead of quoting Shakespeare.

Mr. BROMLEY: I said that the quotations were similar to what I have said in this Chamber. Honourable members like the honourable member, in their ignorance, would not believe me so I did some research to get those quotations.

I wish to deal briefly with the position of the State Public Debt, as indicated on page 3 of the Treasurer's Financial Statement.

Mr. R. E. Moore: I have already done that.

Mr. BROMLEY: The honourable member for Windsor would not have a clue. He cannot even add up!

Mr. R. E. Moore interjected.

Mr. BROMLEY: In reply to the honourable member for Windsor, all I can say is that he is a mamzerim. If he can work that out, he will know that it has something to do with his ancestors.

I wish to refer to pages 38 and 39 of the Tables relating to the Treasurer's Financial Statement. The gross Public Debt at 1 July 1971 was \$1,277,198,679.64. If to that are added the loans raised during 1971-72, which amounted to \$191,539,641.36, the total becomes \$1,468,738,321. Deducting from that the conversions, redemptions, and so on during the year, amounting to \$121,737,693.28, we get a gross Public Debt at the end of June 1972 of \$1,347,000,627.72. The latter figure shows that the Public Debt increased during the year by \$69,801,948.

I am not complaining unduly about the increase in the Public Debt. I have often said in the Chamber that to some extent posterity must pay for progress and the extra benefits and facilities provided over the years by the people of today. That applies also to improvements in the standard of living and education.

In dealing with education, I should like to answer the honourable member for Burdekin. He did not have a clue about the subject. All he did was castigate children and education. He said children did not need education. What he said was all bunkum. Of course children need education. We are always learning, irrespective of our age.

What worries me about the Public Debt is that during 1971-72 the cost of servicing the debt was \$82,191,902. When account is taken of the fact that part of that amount was due on some amounts borrowed at a lower scale of interest than other loans shown in the Tables, it is obvious that in future years the cost of servicing the Public Debt must escalate. Interest rates are continuing to rise. I am giving facts. The Treasurer can correct me if I am wrong. One only has to look at the interest rates to realise that interest rates are rising. They are never static.

Mr. Hinze: Did you get Pat Hanlon to work it out?

Mr. BROMLEY: The honourable member for Baroona, to give him his correct title—which is more than the honourable member for South Coast could do, because half the time he does not know what he is talking about—does take an interest in financial affairs. He has a great knowledge of financial affairs and discusses them in this Chamber lucidly and clearly. That is more than could be said of the honourable member for South Coast. All he knows is the number of teats on a cow.

The return of \$4,365,138 from Treasury operations in the short-term money market is most gratifying. It is really money for nothing and it is very good to see that the Treasurer has shown some wisdom in this respect. No doubt he was advised by the honourable member for Chatsworth and the honourable member for Windsor in these investments.

I turn now to page 5 of the Treasurer's Financial Statement, the section dealing with education. As these Estimates will be debated later, I will be brief in my remarks.

Mr. R. E. Moore: You are light on in that.

Mr. BROMLEY: As a matter of fact, I think I have had a better education than the honourable member for Windsor. If he had any education, brains or sense, he certainly would not be in the Liberal Party, but in a party that represents the people of this country, namely, the Australian Labor Party.

I repeat that, as the Estimates of the Education Department will be coming up for debate later, I will be brief in my remarks, but I point out to the Committee that some parents and teachers are extremely worried about the introduction of pre-school centres. I am very much in favour of these centres, and many years ago I suggested their establishment in this Chamber. I said at that time that they would be a good idea, and the then Minister for Education—not the present Minister—made a special point of getting one of his staff to contact me and request further details of my suggestions. I gave them and they were the embryo suggestions on which the Government formulated the scheme it is now bringing into operation.

To return to the point I was making, many parents are worried that, with the introduction of pre-school centres, some small schools will be closed. This is also worrying some parents and citizens' associations, and I should be very happy to receive an assurance that small schools such as the Buranda State School will not be closed. A rumour is circulating in my electorate at the moment that the Buranda State School may be closed because its numerical enrolment is slipping.

Mr. R. E. Moore: What is the enrolment now?

Mr. BROMLEY: 219.

Personally, I am not enamoured of the type of crash course to be introduced for pre-school teachers, but I will reserve my judgment on it until a later date.

The proposed school-library grant, as shown on page 7 of the Treasurer's Financial Statement, especially for primary schools, is not nearly adequate and the subsidy should be increased. We do not see many Government members taking much interest in school libraries, but even they would know that the last increase was not nearly enough. It was about 5c per pupil and was completely inadequate. I believe that adequate school libraries in primary and secondary schools, and even in pre-school centres, are an important part of education facilities. At those early ages children are in their formative years and they want to see things in pictures that are reproduced in books and read about them, as well as be taught about them. I have always believed that the eye is a better "pupil" than the ear.

The Government is dodging its responsibilities in the provision of hospital and health services. The Financial Statement implies, in effect, that, in order to raise finance for the construction of hospitals and the provision of essential health services, charitable organisations will have to work harder than at present. I have tremendous regard for such organisations, which are dedicated in their desire to care for people, so the Government is to be condemned for falling down on the job.

The honourable member for Burdekin referred to subsidies for ambulance services and the Surf Life Saving Association. The Treasurer should have "gone the whole hog" and, in one fell swoop, granted full dollar-for-dollar subsidies. If he had, he would not have to worry about increasing the percentage of subsidies next year or the following year.

Mr. F. P. Moore: The Government "swiped" the rest of the A.L.P.'s policy, anyway.

Mr. BROMLEY: Of course it did. This was part of Labor's policy prior to the election. Here again, I believe the Treasurer is dodging his responsibility, because ambulance services should be a responsibility solely of the Government.

I welcome the incremental-pay scheme for Crown employees. Recently I asked the Treasurer a question pertaining to blind persons at the Industrial Institution for the Blind, and in answer he said that that section of Crown employees is being considered by Cabinet. I hope those persons will receive favourable consideration.

I do not intend to speak further on incremental payments, except to remind the Treasurer of a phone call that I received during his presentation of the Financial Statement. The person to whom I was speaking on the phone said, "Tell the old woman to shut up and leave it to those in the party who know something about it." The Treasurer can put that in his pipe and smoke it.

Under the heading "Special Assistance to Primary Industry", the Treasurer says that it is proposed to set up an equine research foundation and to provide \$100,000 over three years to cover the cost of research work into diseases in horses and the improvement of bloodstock lines. I am pleased to note the provision of this sum, because some years ago I suggested the establishment of a State stud similar to those overseas. The setting-up of this research foundation could well be the nucleus of such a State stud.

Mr. Hinze: What do you know about a State stud?

Mr. BROMLEY: The honourable member for South Coast would know all about it, because I have seen him at the trots at Southport. He knows what I am talking about.

Mr. Tucker: They wouldn't let him near a State stud.

Mr. BROMLEY: They would not even let him near the gigs, let alone the horses.

I compliment the Treasurer on the provision of \$250,000 for assistance to sport under the new Ministry of Sport. But this, again, is something that the Government has "pinched" from the Labor Party's policy.

Mr. Frawley: Cut it out!

Mr. R. E. Moore: What rot!

Mr. BROMLEY: In spite of the interjection by the embryo Treasurer, if I may use that term, it is part of the A.L.P.'s policy. Be that as it may, I sound a note of warning about the supervision of the expenditure of the sum involved. For goodness sake do not let such expenditure merely become the handing-out of favours in return for favours rendered. We have seen an example of this in the allocation of money by the Department of Cultural Affairs. If I have time, I shall go into that matter more deeply.

Mr. Hinze: What about Creedy?

Mr. BROMLEY: If I were to tell the honourable member about Creedy, I would provide enough scandal to fill all the newspapers in Queensland. I repeat, it is important to supervise the accounting and expenditure of money involved in the Department of Sport.

The establishment of the new portfolio of Tourism, Sport and Welfare Services is a forward step. If the Department of Sport is wisely administered, it will greatly assist the State and our subsequent national sporting representatives, especially in Commonwealth and Olympic Games. Some time ago it was said that we should not bring politics into sport, or sport into politics.

A Government Member: We shouldn't.

Mr. BROMLEY: In that case, how is it that at the Munich Olympic Games, every time an Australian won a gold medal—it was wonderful to see how successful our sports representatives were—McMahon, the Prime Minister, got a free advertisement when the band played "God Save the Queen".

Mr. R. E. Moore: There's nothing wrong with that.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mrs. Jordan): Order!

Mr. BROMLEY: I am referring to the Prime Minister of Australia and the "Top 40" song the band played at the Munich Olympic Games.

I should now like to deal with some matters associated with cultural activities. In my Address-in-Reply speech I started to deal with the Government's strange silence on the lack of progress in acquiring land for the new Art Gallery and commencing construction of this very important project. I am still of the opinion that the area selected on the south side of Brisbane is not the proper site, but apparently the Government is determined to use it. It should be constructed near the Centenary Swimming Pool on Gregory Terrace, where there is plenty of parking space and the surrounding land lends itself to the construction of off-street parking, which is very important these days.

In each session of Parliament during the last few years I have frequently referred to the weedy, under-nourished, stagnant growth of art, Government-wise, in Queensland. The Government has not completed the purchase of land for the new Art Gallery and, according to letters I have seen and those sent to the council, apparently it has no intention of doing so. The Minister for Education and Cultural Activities has not seen fit to release the Creedy report. As I said previously, if it is not released shortly I will release one. People in Queensland's cultural circles are asking me what has happened to Mr. A. J. Creedy's report.

Mr. Aikens: What do you think of Arthur Creedy?

Mr. BROMLEY: I do not want to be distracted from this subject. I think the honourable member knows a fair bit about him. People are asking me about it because they cannot get the information elsewhere. I raise the matter again because of the numerous requests I have received to do so. Interested people believe, as I do, that the Minister has shelved the report. Certainly he has not acted on any of the major recommendations in it.

There is no excuse for such procrastination. The report was submitted to the Minister in June 1970, and it is now October 1972. In July 1970, when I asked the Minister about it, he said he was studying it.

Mr. Chinchen: Give him time.

Mr. BROMLEY: I am giving him time. I asked about it in 1970. I raised the matter again in October of that year, and the Minister said he was still studying it. It must have been a "beauty".

Mr. Hinze interjected.

Mr. BROMLEY: If it covered all the Director's activities and affairs, it would be a "beauty".

Mr. Aikens: It contains too many big words that the Minister cannot understand.

Mr. BROMLEY: There would not be too many big words. There might be some four-letter words.

In October 1970 the Minister said he did not know how much of the report could usefully be made public. Either the report is hopeless, or the Director and the Minister are hopeless. In my opinion, probably the three are hopeless.

Mr. Aikens: Why don't you agree with me and say that neither of them is any good?

Mr. BROMLEY: I have just said that the three of them are no good.

The major recommendations in the report, if any, should be made public. If they are advantageous to the furtherance of art in Queensland, they should be effected.

I should like to deal with the proposed Gold Coast cultural centre, but because the man who "thinks small and votes big" is not in the Chamber, I shall not. He might get upset again if I did.

Over the years, the number of private galleries in Brisbane, on the Gold Coast and in other areas has increased. Parliament should be grateful to the increasing interest displayed by people in art and art shows. As I have said when opening art shows, congratulations should be extended to these people, who foster all spheres of art. On Friday night the Treasurer is scheduled to open an art show, to which I have an invitation. I intend to deal with that matter if I have time. Congratulations should be extended to the owners of private galleries and studios who sponsor and inspire a greater interest in art. They include Brian Johnstone, Ray Hughes, Tom and Rona van Erp, Kyrán McInnes and her father, Don McInnes, the Design Art Centre and many people on the Gold Coast, such as John Cooper of the "Eight Bells". He would probably be one of the most knowledgeable art critics in Queensland, if not in Australia.

Mr. Hinze interjected.

Mr. BROMLEY: I have not forgotten anybody at all. I also mention Veda and Brian Arrowsmith, whom the honourable member knows. There are many others who have done much to promote the Gold Coast City art prize.

Mr. Hinze interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mrs. Jordan): Order!

Mr. BROMLEY: The honourable member for South Coast, sitting with his legs stuck underneath his posterior, continues to interject. Because it was decided to charge for admittance to the Art Ball this year, the honourable member for South Coast did not attend.

Mr. Aikens: He gave the cup for first prize.

Mr. BROMLEY: He would not give anyone a fright if he were a ghost.

I also pay tribute to Henry Shute of Boondall, who is a friend of my colleague the honourable member for Sandgate. He has offered to teach painting and art free to Aboriginal children, but the Government will not accept his offer. He has a good studio and is an excellent artist. In passing, because the honourable member for Surfers Paradise is not here—

Mr. Hinze: He is in the gallery.

Mr. BROMLEY: In that case, I shall speak up so that he can hear me.

Gold Coast City has no art gallery or civic centre because of the lack of interest and knowledge displayed by its mayor. A headline in today's "Telegraph" reads, "Gold

Coast Centre Project Approval Tipped." It should be tipped. It should be a reality—and it would have been if the sensible men in that city had had their way. But every opposition possible was put in their way. The Mayor of Gold Coast City is tardy in introducing this essential art centre, which would be a mecca for tourists and artists.

We should also be grateful to the news media, such as "The Courier-Mail", "Women's Weekly" and the A.B.C. for publicising and promoting art. Without that promotion, where would art be today? Certainly nowhere so far as the Government is concerned. It is a pity that the Government is not enthusiastic in this matter. Over the years, it has been complacent.

It is no use the Government appointing a Director of Cultural Activities and then sitting on its backside hoping that a miracle will erupt. From my observations and inquiries, the private galleries are visited by 10 times the number of people who visit the Queensland Art Gallery. That is not surprising. The Queensland Art Gallery is a blot on the sunshine of this, the tourist State. As a matter of interest, the British National Gallery last month paid \$3,800,000 to prevent a masterpiece from leaving the country. An American oil millionaire named J. Paul Getty wanted to buy Titian's "The Death of Actaeon". Although I realise that the Queensland Government does not have that amount of money to spend on art, I do not think it has that type of enthusiasm, either. The money to retain that painting in Britain was raised by the public, the gallery, and the Government, because of the enthusiasm of the people of Britain.

Mr. Davis: The Government doesn't help here.

Mr. BROMLEY: I agree with the honourable member for Brisbane. The Government does not wax enthusiastic in matters of art.

I have many friends in the art world.

Mr. Hinze: Do you know Arthur Creedy?

Mr. BROMLEY: I said that I have many "friends" in the art world. Over the years I have had a number of discussions with various people interested in art, and only recently, because of my constant probing and hoping that the regulations relating to exempt goods would be changed in their application to art galleries, the Minister for Development and Industrial Affairs, on my prompting, together with the Minister for Education, whose arm I also twisted, decided that they would add objects of art to the list of exempt items so that they could be sold outside usual trading hours.

Since then I have received correspondence from all over Queensland, particularly from Mrs. Verlie Just. Incidentally, she lives at Camp Hill, and I know that the honourable member for Chatsworth has been to her establishment.

Mr. Aikens: I'm leaving the Chamber; you're breaking my heart.

Mr. BROMLEY: I did not know the honourable member had a heart. If he has, it will be of stone, and there is no way in the world to break that.

Mrs. Verlie Just is still of the opinion that the amendments to the regulations under the Factories and Shops Act do not fill the bill for art shows and craft exhibitions. Her opinion, incidentally, is backed by a barrister.

On Friday night, at the Don McInnes Gallery, the Treasurer will be opening an exhibition by Lance Bressow, the younger.

Mr. Hinze: Will you be there?

Mr. BROMLEY: I do not know. I have another very important meeting to attend. I have opened art shows there before, and I should like to attend this one.

I have with me a letter of 24 October written by Mrs. Just. As the Treasurer and the Premier know, she is a prolific letter-writer. As the Premier has just entered the Chamber, I should like to mention that the last letter that I saw addressed to Verlie Just from the Under Secretary of the Premier's Department informed her that correspondence on matters associated with art was now finalised. That means that she got the "big brush-off" there. In other letters, from the Minister for Education, the previous Minister for Labour and Tourism and the present Minister for Development and Industrial Affairs, she has also been given the "sailor's farewell".

Verlie Just says that the exhibition that the Treasurer is to open on Friday night is illegal.

An Opposition Member: The Treasurer wouldn't know anything about art.

Mr. BROMLEY: No; he wouldn't have a clue. I remember him opening an art show that was sponsored by one of the cigarette companies—I think Stuyvesant's—at Garden City, and I know that he had to have a yarn with David Rowbotham and a few others to find out what it was all about before he was able to say a few words.

I cannot read the whole of this letter from Verlie Just, because I promised to finish my speech in 40 minutes. However, she says—

"Therefore, the exhibition to be 'officially opened by Sir Gordon Chalk, Deputy Premier and Treasurer of Queensland, at 6.45 p.m. on Friday 27 October' is an illegal function."

Of course, whether or not it is illegal is open to question. Personally, I do not think it is. Nevertheless, I have promised to bring the matter before Parliament. I have spoken in private about it with the Ministers concerned, but Mrs. Just has determined to get the matter settled once

and for all. I believe that, to do justice not only to her but also to others, it should be finally settled.

Although I have many more matters to mention relative to the field of art, because of the time allotted to me today I shall have to content myself and bring other matters, and particularly the Verlie Just matter, before this Assembly at a later date.

Mr. W. D. HEWITT (Chatsworth) (3.21 p.m.): We are drawing to the end of a long debate. Having listened to it very closely for the past few weeks, I am more convinced than ever that this Assembly must give attention to its procedures and must reallocate times for respective debates.

It seems amazing to me that each member can be given one hour to speak about the Budget, yet a few weeks later we cannot find sufficient time to debate every Estimate. I have always believed that every Estimate should be debated each year, and I believe that this could be done merely by trimming the Budget debate back a little. In my opinion, the Committee itself has given proof of this in the last few days, by securing agreement among all honourable members to trim their speeches to 40 minutes. I do not think that in doing so any honourable member has lost anything. He has been able to put forward salient points on which he feels strongly. As I have said, if that time-saving had prevailed from the outset of the debate, probably sufficient time would have been saved to enable honourable members to apply themselves to each and every Estimate.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mrs. Jordan): Order! There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber, both on my right and on my left.

Mr. W. D. HEWITT: I am quite convinced that a meeting of the Standing Orders Committee of this Assembly is long overdue, and I would hope that every person who has the privilege of sitting on that committee would take the initiative and see that it convenes as quickly as possible and considers all the Standing Orders that prevail in this Chamber.

Honourable members give emphasis to a Budget according to their own points of view. We view it according to our interests, our pursuits, and the pressures that are applied to us in our own electorates. As there are 82 members in this Chamber, there are probably 82 different points of view and 82 different emphases. That is right and proper. We represent a diverse State with diverse interests.

I wish to express my approval, therefore, of the increase in the education vote, the Government's pioneering in the field of pre-schooling, the fact that it has now set up a Ministry of Sport, and, importantly, that it has maintained or increased over-all

expenditure without increasing taxes in any field. Indeed, concessions have been given in the freight field and in that of probate succession. Importantly also, the Government has embraced a new concept relative to incremental pay; it is now promising to further enhance the superannuation scheme for public servants; and probate and succession duty is going to be further modified.

I think that the Opposition has been a little bit churlish in paying scant regard to and making scant comment on any of these progressive matters. It is right and proper that Opposition members should highlight the weaknesses of a Budget and draw appropriate attention to those weaknesses. But in all fairness they should also touch on areas where it breaks new ground and its other provisions that are of benefit to many thousands of Queenslanders. It is to the detriment of the Opposition that it has shown such scant concern about those new matters.

Consideration of the Financial Tables reveals the startling fact that State tax alone has doubled in two years from 1971 to 1973, rising from \$72,000,000 to \$150,000,000. Even deducting the anticipated \$58,000,000 for State pay-roll tax, which will be applied for the full year for the first time, it means that State taxation has risen by 27.7 per cent. When one remembers that the rates of taxation have not risen, and that there is no proportionate offset by way of rising population, one can only draw the conclusion that all of this reflects a buoyant economy which is surging ahead. Stamp duty, for example, which shows a tremendous increase year by year, is directly related to business activity. Licence fees and totalisator revenue, likewise, can be related to the surplus spending power of the community. These few tax fields I particularly touch upon reflect a buoyant economy. It is highly significant that the buoyancy of the economy of this State leads in the whole of Australia. That stands as a continuing compliment to the Government, and as a particular tribute to the man who administers the finances of the State.

If I were to express disappointment in any way at all, I would refer to the omission of a drought-relief allocation. But that is going to be the burden of my case a little later on, and, for the moment, I defer reference to that.

Before proceeding with the matters I wish to touch upon at some length, I express my appreciation to the honourable member for Baroona for the fine and timely compliment he paid to the late Lady Hiley. It is a fact, as he said, that the women behind the men in public life are not often enough recognised, and their contribution to public life is not often enough hailed. Honourable members know that I succeeded Sir Thomas Hiley in this Chamber as the member for Chatsworth. I will always be grateful to him and his late wife for the

assistance they gave me and for the friendship they bestowed on me. Lady Hiley was a fine, gracious and charming lady. It was a great sadness to me and many of my constituents when she died so suddenly at a comparatively early age.

When Sir Thomas Hiley learns about this tribute paid to his late wife by the honourable member for Baroona, I know that he will be touched and be very grateful. I add my tribute to the late lady, and I say again that I am grateful to the honourable member for Baroona for the compliment he paid her.

The honourable member for Baroona also referred to Treasury officials. Again I agree with what he said. He referred to Mr. Hielscher, the Deputy Under Treasurer, and made reference to the Eisenhower Fellowship that has been conferred upon him. Mr. Hielscher leaves for the United States early in January. The Eisenhower Fellowship is bestowed upon one Australian each year—one Australian, not necessarily a Queenslanders. Mr. Hielscher had to hold his own against people aspiring to this honour in every State in the Commonwealth. It is a great personal compliment to him and also a compliment to the top echelon of the Public Service in this State. I have often said—and I am happy to go on record as saying it—that at the top level of the Public Service in Queensland we have men who undoubtedly hold their own with public servants in any other State or, indeed, in the Commonwealth sphere. I, too, congratulate Mr. Hielscher upon this very significant recognition of his talents, and I do hope that his eight months overseas will be fruitful for him and highly advantageous in the pursuit of his career.

More than passing reference has been made to the money that has flowed to the State from the Commonwealth Grants Commission, and I am a little surprised at the action of Opposition members in constantly misinterpreting parts of the commission's report to suit their own ends. It smacks somewhat of the Goebbels technique that if a lie is told often enough and strongly enough it comes to be believed. It is a technique in public life that I decry. I will have no part of it and will argue against it whenever I see it being developed.

The two points constantly developed in the submissions of Opposition members were, firstly, that free hospitalisation is under challenge, and, secondly, that the report referred to our low income from royalties. I believe that the Treasurer, time and time again, has given the lie direct to the charge that free hospitalisation is under challenge because we have gone to the Grants Commission. The worst that could happen is that our reimbursement as a consequence of maintaining free hospitalisation would be lower. But that is our option and choice; that is the way we want it. I think it has been well enough established in this Chamber

by my colleagues that, if there is any challenge to free hospitalisation in this State, it comes from an aspiring Federal Labor Government, not from any action by the incumbents of the Treasury benches in Queensland.

Their second proposition involves the reference in the report to royalties. We have said, time and time again, that the revenue this State wants to enjoy from mining will accrue in the main from freights. No-one at all has said that our income from railways is enhanced by some \$18,000,000 this year directly as the result of freight on mineral haulage. As members of the Opposition choose to refer to this one clause in the report, I wish they would at least do us the favour of turning over a few more pages to where the same report pays a compliment to our outstanding performance in railway income. It has to be one thing or the other, and I say again that this technique of distortion or not telling the complete truth is repugnant to me.

The economic objective of any progressive State is to establish and maintain full employment. Again, as my colleagues have said time and time again in recent weeks, we have the significant honour of leading Australia in low unemployment. This is in clear contradistinction to the high level of unemployment that prevails in South Australia, Tasmania and Western Australia. I want to repeat, because it is worth repeating, that this excellent performance is the consequence of deliberate policies that have been propounded over the whole life of this Government.

Over its 15 years of office, emphasis has been deliberately changed so that dependence upon primary production has been lessened as we have continued to industrialise the State. When one considers the great influxes of seasonal workers that we had; the great fluctuations of employment that used to take place; mechanisation of the sugar and meat industries; and the great reduction in water-front labour as a result of mechanisation, our story is even more remarkable, and is a complete vindication of the continuing policies that have been pursued over the last 15 years.

Mr. Marginson interjected.

Mr. W. D. HEWITT: If the honourable member for Wolston wants to say something about past years, he should look at the graphs that applied in the time of Labor Governments, with their great peaks and great hollows. There was no level pattern of unemployment whatever. I think that is highly significant.

I made reference to the problems of drought. It has long been my opinion that there should be continuing policies relative to drought, that there should be continuing provision for drought, and I always believed that the more lush a season or the wetter and more buoyant it is, the more we should

provide for drought. It is no longer a contingent liability, but one that is always just around the corner.

It is interesting to go through the speeches made by the Treasurer in presenting his successive Financial Statements. In bringing down his first Budget, on 29 September 1966, the underlying theme of his whole speech was drought. He spoke about its impact on employment and on the economy, as well as its effect on sheep and cattle numbers. In fact, in that year his Financial Statement was a sombre document.

Twelve months later, in 1967, there was an upturn because in the intervening period the rains had come. However, in spite of that, the Treasurer found it necessary to refer to pockets of drought and to express concern at the price of sugar and wool. The September 1968 Budget sounded a brighter note. The Treasurer was able to say that no significant drought areas remained in the State. However, 12 months later, in September 1969, he told the House that the hopes had not been realised. Again the wet season had not come, and large areas of the State were once again plunged into severe drought. In September 1970 he told us that serious drought conditions continued with increasing intensity throughout the previous 12 months. Last year he said that drought conditions had been confined virtually to the Central-west. That, again, was a happier story. However, this year parts of our rural sector are once again threatened by the recurrence of drought.

For as long as the Treasurer has been in office there has been this underlying theme of drought. When it has been at its worst, large sums of money have been poured into primary industries and approaches have been made for financial aid from the Commonwealth Government.

Mr. Jensen: Why don't you put more money into the provision of irrigation?

Mr. W. D. HEWITT: I believe that the honourable member for Bundaberg is to be the next speaker, so I am sure that, if I fail to cover any particular point sufficiently, he will patch it up in his usual capable, competent and efficient manner. In the meantime I shall make my speech in my way.

In 1966 the Government was sufficiently concerned about the drought to set up a special committee to inquire into its impact on the economy and make recommendations upon the best means by which it could be mitigated to some degree. Those recommendations constitute an impressive document, which is now six years old. When it was tabled, the then Minister for Primary Industries (Hon. J. A. Row) became ecstatic and believed that a breakthrough had been made, so, he convened another subcommittee to consider the recommendations of the first committee. Of the second body's submissions he said that they could lead to a co-operative

effort on drought mitigation by industry as well as by the State and Commonwealth Governments.

He went on to say—

“The Department was actively studying the Committee’s proposal to assist contract production of lucerne hay, and a committee had been specially set up to look at off-property storages of fodder.

“Provided adequate financial backing could be obtained for these schemes, I am confident they could revolutionise the State’s approach to drought and allow producers to develop their properties with more confidence than in the past.”

That was said six long years ago. The synopsis of the recommendations is very short, and is as follows:—

“Encouragement of on-the-property fodder production and storage; encouragement of on-the-property and off-the-property storage of fodder produced by specialist growers; introduction of a scheme by which private financial reserves may be set aside for drought mitigation purposes; expansion of activities under the Farm Water Supplies Assistance Acts and/or rural water supplies schemes; a review of the freight concession on fodder purchased in advance of drought.”

Since then the State has experienced more crippling droughts. I should like to know what the Government’s continuing policies on drought are, because my proposition is simply stated. There must be a continuing encouragement to the primary producer to provide against drought. This encouragement must be built into Budgets year in and year out.

When the primary producer is hit by drought, the assistance that he gets from the State should be related to his efforts in good years to help himself. The Government should be helping him to help himself. Freight concessions on forage-storage material and even water-storage material should continue. They should be a built-in part of our economy.

Reducing it to simple terms, I emphasise—and re-emphasise—that drought is a continuing problem—it is with us all the time—and there should be continuing budgetary provision so that we do not have these marked fluctuations in our expenditure; so that we do not have crisis years; and so that, when we have particularly bad years, we will have put some fat aside as a buffer to help the primary producer ride it out.

I know that a city member can be accused of over-simplification. I concede that folly—that guilt. I do not want to over-simplify the problems. No-one knows in advance the length of a drought. No-one knows that a drought is really on him until he has almost reached the stage of no return. I realise that the most provident primary producer can reach a stage of utter desperation when he is totally dependent on the good will

of the Government. Under those circumstances, there is no doubt at all that Government good will must be forthcoming. There must be continuing encouragement, year by year, to help him meet the impact of drought.

Mr. N. T. E. Hewitt: The Commonwealth must help us.

Mr. W. D. HEWITT: My namesake and very good friend said that the Commonwealth must play a part. The Commonwealth has done something by creating Commonwealth drought bonds, which I feel are useful. The Commonwealth must play a major part.

Everything I have said about continuing budgetary provisions also applies at the Commonwealth level. The Commonwealth must certainly recognise that this is a continuing problem, not one that merely arises from time to time.

I now wish to refer to some comments made by the Auditor-General in his 1971 report, and to support some of his comments. In that report, which is now 12 months old, he indicated that he had released one of his inspectors to undertake certain investigations in the Justice Department. As a consequence of that exercise, he was able to say that substantial savings in cost and man-power had been achieved. He then went on to lament the fact that he was finding great difficulty in obtaining suitably qualified audit staff, and that he had made certain comments to the Public Service Board.

I am not without my criticisms of the way in which the Public Service is administered in Queensland. During an Address-in-Reply debate, I pointed out that there had not been an all-in inquiry into Public Service administration in Queensland since 1915. I said then that I thought such an inquiry was a little overdue, and I have found no reason since then to abandon that sentiment.

I imagine that one of the problems in recruiting audit staff is this strange idea that senior officers must come up through the ranks. I see no reason at all, if the Auditor-General is seriously short of staff, why he should not be able to recruit qualified, competent and mature persons from outside the Public Service. However, I think he would find it a little hard to sell that idea to the administration.

The Auditor-General’s report reads—

“I have in mind the awarding of annual scholarships for full-time study by young people who intend to make a career in the fields of public finance and auditing.”

These days, the fields of public finance and auditing are terribly complex—they are highly specialised fields—and if we are to have our affairs administered properly, thoroughly and well, we must get competent people to do it. If this is the Auditor-General’s recommendation on how to get them, I think we should grant his wish. His suggestion about annual scholarships is highly commendable. It should be embraced with enthusiasm and without delay.

More significant are the comments of the Auditor-General 12 months ago on the Audit Act itself, and I think I should place them on record, too. This is what he said—

“Equally, it seems to me that the Audit Act itself might well be subject to review. The Principal Act was passed in 1874 and many of the provisions of the present Act date back to the date of the Principal Act. As opportunity offers, progressive studies will be made of the laws and procedures in the Commonwealth, in other States and in some overseas countries. It is obvious that these laws and procedures vary considerably and the task of a searching evaluation is not a light one. However, it is hoped to make satisfactory progress in this task during the current financial year.”

Unfortunately his hopes were not realised because, in the report recently tabled in this House, he said—

“The pressure of work during 1971-72 has been such that no real progress was able to be made on a review of the Audit Act, the necessity for which was suggested in my last annual report.”

The Audit Act that is being applied to public administration in this State had its origin in 1874. Last week we referred to the Australian Constitution, which was promulgated on 1 January 1901. A Constitution Convention will be convened next year because we do not believe that the document is any longer totally relevant. It has to be updated and made more contemporary and more in keeping with present-day conditions. Yet that document is 20 years younger than the Audit Act, and the Auditor-General has to lament the fact that the Audit Act, written in 1874, in a substantial part, still lays down the conditions under which he has to discharge his responsibilities.

Let me contrast 1874 with 1972. I suppose typewriters were in existence in 1874, but adding machines were not thought of. These days, we have a highly technological approach to the whole world of finance and accounting, including computers, and the methods under which the Auditor-General operates and the Act that spells out his responsibilities should be more in tune with the 1970's than the 1870's. If the Auditor-General is critical of the Act under which he functions, this Parliament owes a clear responsibility to him, to itself and to the people to update it at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Haalon: He is an officer of Parliament.

Mr. W. D. HEWITT: That is a pertinent point. The Act lays down the conditions under which he can be dismissed. He is one of the few people in this State who can be dismissed only by Parliament. He is answerable only to Parliament. Therefore, just as he owes a responsibility only to this Parliament, we in turn owe him a clear responsibility. I dwell upon this point because it is highly significant and important,

and I want the Auditor-General to know that a few people in this Assembly agree with his sentiment and hope that something can be done to assist him.

That gives me a perfect opening to talk about a natural adjunct to public auditing and the responsibility of the Auditor-General. That, of course, is the creation of a parliamentary public accounts committee. The responsibilities of the two diverge a little. The Auditor-General has only to satisfy himself that moneys have been properly voted and that expenditures have been properly applied. The wisdom of certain expenditures is not his great concern. If, for example, a \$30,000,000 Taj Mahal was built across the road, all that the Auditor-General would concern himself with was whether it was approved by Parliament and whether the moneys were appropriated in the proper fashion. But a parliamentary public accounts committee would probe more deeply into such a matter and would be concerned with priorities and the necessity to incur certain amounts of expenditure.

In fairness to the Auditor-General, I repeat that the Audit Act should be overhauled at the earliest opportunity. Now that we are in a progressive frame of mind in regard to parliamentary accounts, this matter should be given due consideration.

From the “heavy stuff”, in the few minutes remaining at my disposal I want to deal with the “froth and bubble”. Earlier this year I referred to making use of schoolgrounds when schools are closed. It is now only seven weeks from the breaking-up of schools. Those children whose parents' holidays coincide with school holidays will be lucky enough to go to the beach. But there are others whose parents do not have holidays at that time of the year, and, in all honesty, it must be admitted that there are those whose parents cannot afford holidays. Those kids will be roaming the streets once again like lost sheep, excluded from the one place that is the centre of their lives for more than 40 weeks every year.

This is a form of nonsense that I have never been able to understand. I again make the simple plea that schoolgrounds be opened to children during the coming Christmas holidays. Let us make sure that school ovals are used; that school tennis courts are used; that school basketball courts are used; and that school swimming pools are used. There is no sense, only nonsense, in locking the gates when children leave their schools in mid-December.

Those who disagree with me will find all the reasons in the world why this should not happen. They will say that there will be vandalism, and that there will be no-one to supervise the children. Those would be their two main points. With regard to vandalism, I do not think its incidence would be very high. I think that if children were given the opportunity to do something useful, they would respond to it. There

would be some vandalism. But that is a price that I would pay, because I am more concerned with seeing that children are kept off the streets and that they have something useful to do.

Supervision is a problem because teachers are on holidays, and are quite entitled to be away from their schools. Possibly this problem could be solved only by a roster system, worked out by parents and citizens' committees and parents, under which parents would be available for a few hours each day. Supervision would present a problem, but not one that is insuperable.

Mr. Bromley: I have a sensible interjection. Don't you think this would help to decrease vandalism?

Mr. W. D. HEWITT: I am quite sure it would decrease it, and it would also decrease larrikinism. The important thing is that it would give youngsters a sense of purpose, and something to do with their spare time. It distresses me, during the long weeks of the Christmas-New Year holiday period, to see children wandering around aimlessly and wondering what to do. At times there are even fatalities. Youngsters are drowned in creeks, and run over by motor-cars, simply because they have wandered from home and, with the sense of adventure that motivates young children, have got into mischief or hazardous situations. All this would be contained if a common-sense attitude was adopted towards the use of schoolgrounds during holiday periods.

So well have I trimmed my speech to 40 minutes that I find I have spoken for only 34 minutes. The honourable member for Salisbury and others therefore cannot say that I do not enter into the spirit of agreements.

Mr. JENSEN (Bundaberg) (3.54 p.m.): I welcome the opportunity to speak in this debate even at this late stage when most of the important points have been canvassed. During the Treasurer's presentation of the Financial Statement he metaphorically patted himself on the back and shook hands with himself. He said it was heartening to see the prosperity of this State.

When the Treasurer was making those initial observations, I was reminded of the nursery rhyme about Little Jack Horner. All members know it. It goes—

"Little Jack Horner sat in a corner,

Eating his Christmas pie.

He put in his thumb and pulled out a plum,

And said, 'What a good boy am I.'"

Whilst the Treasurer was making his speech, I composed what I think should be the

latest version of that nursery rhyme. It goes—

"Little Sir Gordon Chalk, during his Canberra talk,

Surveyed his Grants Commission pie.

He put in his hand and pulled out nine thousand grand,

And said, 'What a clever little knight am I.'"

The Treasurer claimed all the credit for the surplus of \$2,700,000, and gave no thanks to the Federal Government for protecting him during an election year. He is probably correct in giving no thanks to the Federal Government, because the protection that the Federal Government gave him was, in effect, for its own survival. He was taking credit but not giving credit where it was due.

In addition to receiving \$9,000,000 from the Commonwealth Grants Commission, the Treasurer received additional windfalls from the Commonwealth Government which included the following: unemployment grant, \$5,400,000; national disaster relief, \$3,289,000; financial assistance under the formula, \$3,503,000; special allocation from Premiers' Conference, \$2,347,000; other receipts, \$351,000—a grand total of \$23,890,000. No wonder there was a surplus of \$2,700,000!

If one deducts the national disaster relief and unemployment relief payments of \$8,690,000 which assisted the Government with unemployment figures before the State election, the additional amount received from the Commonwealth was \$15,200,000. The Treasurer relied heavily on the Federal Government to get himself out of trouble, yet he had the audacity to say—

"Because of this (facing up in a practical and realistic manner) and by careful husbanding of our funds, we completed 1971-72 in the soundest position of any State."

The position as it relates to railway operations is typical of the Treasurer's attitude. He refers to a loss of \$8,900,000, whereas the Auditor-General's report shows that the loss was actually \$25,400,000. The profit on mineral hauls was \$11,100,000, but other rail traffic lost \$20,000,000.

It would be interesting to see a breakdown of the profit on mineral hauls, because it appears to me that special consideration or attention has been given to the mineral hauls in order to show a substantial profit to offset the paltry royalties that the Government receives on minerals from overseas companies. As honourable members know, auditors have done certain things with some companies. They can make or break a firm, and they can make a balance sheet show a favourable or unfavourable result. Take the case of H. G. Palmer. That firm went down to the tune of \$20,000,000 and the auditors got away with it. Similar things have happened in other instances. Any auditor will admit that he can make or

break a firm by manipulating the figures for such items as stock and depreciation. Until we see a breakdown of railway accounts and have those accounts investigated by an independent auditor, we will not be able to say whether or not the position outlined by the Treasurer is factual.

Mr. W. D. Hewitt interjected.

Mr. JENSEN: The honourable member for Chatsworth is correct. I am not doubting them; I am saying only that that could happen. It does seem very peculiar to me.

The Treasurer said a great deal about the prosperity of the State, yet the Public Debt increased by \$69,800,000 and the interest on that debt was \$82,200,000—and it will increase again next year by another \$5,000,000. If we hark back to 1957, as the Government constantly does when the Opposition raises any matter in this Chamber, we find that the Public Debt was only about \$504,000,000 and the interest was only \$16,800,000. Today the Public Debt is \$1,347 million—2½ times more than in 1957—and the interest is \$82,000,000—over five times more than in 1957. I know the cause of that, but the Treasurer has not explained the big increase in the Public Debt. He dealt with it in one line. When members of the present Government parties were in Opposition, they took every opportunity offering to criticise the Labor Party about the Public Debt. As I said, at that time it was \$504,000,000; it is now \$1,347 million—2½ times as much.

When a company increases its debts or its assets, it gives its shareholders the reasons therefor. How could any public company tell its shareholders that it was prosperous if it almost gave away its assets and increased its over-all liability to its shareholders? A public company has to explain its financial position to its shareholders, but the State Treasurer deals with the Public Debt in one line of his Financial Statement.

The state of the Public Debt is important to the public, particularly when interest on it is increasing at such a high rate. In 1971-72 the cost of servicing the State Debt was \$82,000,000, and it will increase by another \$5,000,000 this financial year. The Treasurer should explain this. What successful company budgets for a substantial loss and then relies on its parent company to make good its losses? That is what the Treasurer did. He let the Federal Government make good the losses of the State Government, and then took the credit for it.

The Treasurer made a point of saying in his Financial Statement—

“Another undesirable feature has been the continued high rate of increase in our wage structure, but this of course is a national problem.”

Nothing is said about the price structure and the continued company profit increases and bonus-share issues. America has

attempted to curb prices and wage rises, but neither the Federal nor the State Government has followed suit. They both continue to place all the blame on wage increases. I will refer to what has been done in America in an attempt to curb price rises by reading the following article:—

“Price Commission gets tough with profiteers”

“The Price Commission is not taking such a hard look at profits because it considers profits evil or undesirable. It is looking at profit margins—profits as a percentage of total price of the finished product—to see if firms are complying with U.S. price control regulations. Ultimately, the profit margin test will probably be the best way to tell if a firm has illegally raised prices.

“If any firm is found guilty of charging illegally high prices, penalties could be fines, plus triple damages to customers who have been over-charged.

“The Commission also is not against price increases—if they're justified by higher costs. To keep a sharp eye on both prices and profits, then, the Commission has devised two simple tests.

“First is the cost test. A firm desiring to raise prices must submit proof of increased costs. For example, labour costs might rise 5.5 per cent under a ruling of the Pay Board (a companion agency to the Price Commission). However, from this increased cost, the Price Commission will deduct any increases in productivity. For example: If labour costs rise 5.5 per cent and productivity is up 3.0 per cent, then prices may rise 2.5 per cent, or the difference between the two.

“All the price increases granted since November have come as a result of this extra-cost criterion.

“The second criterion is the so-called profit-margin test.”

That is what is being done in America to try to do something about inflation and increases in prices and the wage structure.

The Brisbane newspapers contain many financial reports that are of considerable interest. I have one here concerning Mathers. It is headed “Mathers result looks good.” Mathers is a shoe firm. It is no wonder children do not wear shoes as much today as they used to. They go to college either barefoot or in sandals. In my day, children thought it was an indignity to go to school barefooted.

This report reads—

“After 12 years on 15 per cent, the company added a bonus 5 per cent to the dividend to lift the total distribution to 20 per cent. And directors announced a one-for-five bonus issue, which obviously comes from share premium reserve, which stood at \$507,540 in the 1971 accounts.

"A significant factor was the high tax provision—\$499,677 for the latest year, or more than the declared profit of \$481,394."

The tax provision is more than the declared profit. I do not know how a company gets away with that type of thing, when company tax is 40c in the dollar.

The article continues—

"This could indicate a generous depreciation charge."

To think that a company can get away with that sort of thing! Now it will pay 20 per cent and the price of shoes will go up again. The 20 per cent will be paid on all shares, including the bonus shares, which are to be issued at the rate of one for five. That is only one instance. I could give the Committee dozens of similar cases.

Sir Gordon Chalk interjected.

Mr. JENSEN: I have just read the Treasurer an article that he himself should read and then do something about it. I bought a transistor-radio battery yesterday for \$1.99. The price used to be 7s. 6d. Almost \$2 for a radio battery, yet the production rate has increased many times over! Technological advances have helped manufacturers to increase production yet every time an opportunity presents itself prices are increased.

This applies particularly to batteries, soap, baby powders, and so on, which are manufactured by American companies such as Johnson & Johnson, and Eveready. They can make 100 per cent profit in Australia and get away with it. That is why they are flocking to Australia. They cannot do it in America now, so they come to Australia, make as much profit as they wish and send the money back to America.

Mr. Hanson: Scandalous!

Mr. JENSEN: It is scandalous.

Sir Gordon Chalk: Marty gets his batteries from Hong Kong.

Mr. JENSEN: He would be sensible if he did. They would be much cheaper.

As long as the Government is getting its bonus from the people by way of sales tax and company tax it does not care how much prices rise. The Federal Government will continue to reap its sales tax and company tax, and the people will keep on paying. This Government is not concerned about that, but as soon as a union asks for a rise in wages it starts to squeal. The squeal always comes whenever there is a request for a wage increase, but never a word is heard when companies increase prices unchecked.

The allocation for prices investigation in this year's Budget is \$6,000. What a farce, particularly when the Treasurer knows as well as anybody what is going on! He does not care. Nobody in the Government cares. The Government continues to blame wage

increases for price rises. Every time anybody sneezes in the wheat industry, up go the prices of flour and bread. Immediately after the termination of every session of Parliament, the price of bread rises.

In this Chamber, the Treasurer and his colleagues opposite constantly blame wage increases for rising prices, but I ask them to consider the position in the sugar industry. There has not been a price increase in this industry since 1967, yet in that time wages in the industry have increased by 50 per cent.

Mr. Armstrong: More than 50 per cent.

Mr. JENSEN: More than 50 per cent. The wage rate in the Southern Division in 1967 was \$44.37, and in August of this year it had risen to \$66.66. The sugar industry has not increased its price, but the prices of flour and bread are increased two or three times every year. The efficiency of the sugar industry has allowed for substantial wage increases without the need for corresponding price increases, and this could be the position with many other commodities today. But this will not happen while companies are allowed to profiteer by increasing their prices at will.

While companies are allowed to increase their prices to pay for bonus-share issues and increased dividends, without any check whatever, the people will have to keep on paying. I repeat that the Commonwealth Government does not mind, because it gets sales tax and company tax on the higher prices. That is what happens, and the Treasurer knows it full well.

Somebody has just suggested to me that Sir Gordon Chalk has a Datsun, and that he does not have to buy batteries for it. Probably he has them sent out free from Japan.

I do not intend to canvass education very widely; however I am astounded by the fact that at a time when 712 classes comprising 7,000 pupils are accommodated in 356 demountables, the Government is to incur expenditure on a scheme of pre-school education. As to that scheme, the President of the Queensland Teachers' Union, Mr. Costello, had this to say—

"Pre-school education represents a major change in the education system of this State and will take several years to completely implement. It is expected however to have the majority of these centres established within three years. It is the view of the Queensland Teachers' Union that to seek to have 'the majority of these centres established within three years' is not capable of achievement without large diversion of teachers from other areas of the service. Such an approach will be strongly opposed by this union.

"The number of teachers required to fully implement the scheme depends on decisions made about the breadth of

availability of pre-school places. However, on the assumption that Class I schools (over 600) would each require two pre-school teachers, and Class II schools (over 300 but less than 600), and Class III schools (over 100 but less than 300) would each require one pre-school teacher, and that no pre-school education is supplied at schools of less than 100, the total teacher requirements on 1972 school numbers would be 706 teachers.

"At present, the Department of Education has 21 teachers in training for pre-school work. These trainees have been recruited from the community as persons with teacher education who wish to re-enter the pre-school field. No doubt this source of recruiting can be relied on for a significant number of pre-school teachers.

"It is the Government's stated intention to reduce Primary class sizes to a maximum of thirty children. The Budget provision of 8,246 primary teachers for 1973 is 874 teachers less than would be necessary to achieve that goal in 1973.

"Accordingly, the urgent needs of the primary schools cannot be ignored in order to provide staff for a rapid expansion of pre-school education. The primary division could not support any significant diversion of teachers to the pre-school area."

Sir Gordon Chalk: In Labor's day there was no pre-school education.

Mr. JENSEN: It was not needed, and, if the children received proper care in their homes today, it would not be needed now, either. My mother did not go out to work; she stayed home and looked after her children.

Sir Gordon Chalk: But your father was very wealthy.

Mr. JENSEN: He was not very wealthy at all. At the time of his death he was receiving a pension.

Sir Gordon Chalk: He was wealthy, but you cost him a lot of money.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wharton): Order! The honourable member for Bundaberg is making the speech.

Mr. JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Wharton, but in reply to the Treasurer I inform him that my father did not believe in amassing wealth. As the Government Geologist for Queensland, he received a salary of £250 a year. However, he went broke when he tried to keep Roma oil going and when your rotten companies tried to rob the people.

Sir Gordon Chalk: My companies?

Mr. JENSEN: You were one of their supporters. He used his own money, even proceeds from insurance policies, trying to find oil, and he went broke. He was the

only man who believed that there was oil in Australia. He tried to get it before your rotten mob closed the companies down.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wharton): Order! The honourable member will please address his remarks to the Chair.

Sir Gordon Chalk: You will admit that there must have been something wrong somewhere.

Mr. JENSEN: If anything was wrong, it was the same as is wrong with some of the companies the Government is protecting today.

Sir Gordon Chalk: He could not have had the right oil.

Mr. JENSEN: That is right; he did not have the right oil, but oil has been found.

I support the extra grants made available, but I believe that some of the money allocated to schools should have been withheld so that special assistance could be given to more needy schools. I shall not start on the defects in the present school system because my time would just not be sufficient.

When I checked on the salaries paid to teachers of subnormal children in the Bundaberg area, I found that \$24,057 was paid to qualified teachers and \$4,188 to unqualified teachers, making a total of \$28,245. The subsidy paid on the salaries of qualified teachers amounted to \$13,833, but subsidy is not payable on the salaries of unqualified teachers. The subsidy represented 57.7 per cent of salaries paid to qualified teachers, or 49.15 per cent of total salaries paid. Under the new scheme the subsidy will represent only 70 per cent of their salaries. The Government is providing, by way of subsidy, only part of the salaries of teachers of subnormal children, who, under the Act, should receive free education. Members of the community have to raise money to pay these teachers, yet the Government is going to provide money for teachers of pre-school children who, as yet, do not come under the Act. Last year, in the city of Bundaberg, we had to raise \$10,174 for qualified teachers, and \$4,188 for unqualified teachers. The honourable member for Burnett knows this only too well because we cater for children in his district. Next year, if teachers' salaries are not increased, people in the Bundaberg district will have to raise over \$12,000 (\$8,137 for qualified teachers and \$4,188 for unqualified teachers) to pay teachers whom the Government is supposed to be paying, yet it has allocated money for teachers of children who do not come under the Act.

I will deal now with cultural activities, and I give notice to the Minister in charge of this department that I intend to write to him about the Bundaberg Amateur Players, who require some assistance. It seems that the department does not consider the cultural organisations in provincial cities, and concentrates only on those in Brisbane.

The increased subsidy for the Blue Nurses will be greatly appreciated. The ambulance subsidy is also to be increased, but I have said here more than once that the ambulance service should be a part of the hospital system. Unlike the position 20 or 50 years ago, ambulance centres do not merely attend to scratched knees or snake bites. Because of the number of motor-vehicle accidents these days, ambulance services are very costly to run. I noticed in the Press the other day that it costs \$300 a day to run the ambulance service in Bundaberg. That money comes from public subscriptions and Government subsidy. We are forced to raise a great deal of money to operate a service that I believe should be the sole responsibility of the Government.

Other organisations, such as the National Heart Foundation of Australia and the Asthma Foundation of Queensland, etc., need public support, yet the public have to provide money for ambulance services. They do it mainly by buying raffle tickets, which is a form of gambling.

The assistance given to the Surf Life Saving Association and the Air-Sea Rescue Organisation by way of increased subsidies is appreciated.

I shall now deal with the Agricultural Bank and special assistance to primary industry. I ask the Treasurer to explain why repayments to the Agricultural Bank amounted to \$16,320,000 while advances to borrowers amounted to only \$12,140,000. This means that the Agricultural Bank received \$4,000,000 more than it paid out to primary producers, who are crying out for assistance, yet the Government claims it is assisting primary industry. I admit that the Government has instituted a new scheme of assistance to the dairy industry but, as I said, the Agricultural Bank receives more in repayments than it puts out in loans.

Mr. F. P. Moore: What about the S.G.I.O. lending some money?

Mr. JENSEN: I am dealing with the Agricultural Bank because it lends money to primary producers. The bank should be able to re-lend any money it receives, which is the practice of hire-purchase companies and banks. These loans are approved by the Minister for Lands and Forestry, but I claim that they should be controlled by the Agricultural Bank, which has been set up to handle this money and knows the position of farmers and landholders. Extra Treasury officials should not be appointed to handle this money. The bank's facilities should be extended so that it will be more useful. Judging by the Financial Statement, the general manager is a very efficient officer.

Some farms would require an expenditure of \$100,000 to make them viable, but farmers cannot get loans of that size because the Agricultural Bank has a limit of \$25,000, so they must approach other sources for the difference. The honourable member for

Burnett should speak on this subject because he knows the position better than I do, but he will not take the Government to task. He claims that he protects those in primary industry.

Sir Gordon Chalk: You know that he is one of the best supporters of primary industry?

Mr. JENSEN: I know that I am one of the best supporters of primary industry in my area, and that is why farmers come to me for support.

Sir Gordon Chalk: What do you give them?

Mr. JENSEN: I give them the best of assistance. That is why everybody in the district says, "Vote for Lou Jensen."

A special allocation of \$250,000 has been made for sport. This is appreciated. It is interesting to note that the Bundaberg rowing crew has represented Queensland in the King's Cup for the past couple of years. In 1969 Bundaberg staged the King's Cup regatta, which was the first time that it had been held outside a capital city.

Sir Gordon Chalk interjected.

Mr. JENSEN: I ask the Treasurer to listen for a while. He will have his opportunity to speak tonight. He can go on with all his talk about a "gambling and beer" State later. I am talking about the King's Cup now. I wrote to the Premier asking if he would make some money available to send a rowing crew to Western Australia to represent Queensland. The Bundaberg crew was sent to Geelong and Hobart. I went to Hobart to see them row this year. When I wrote to the Premier and to the Minister for Tourism asking for financial support for this crew, I was told, "We have no money for this purpose, but we have plenty of brochures to tell people about Queensland". The money necessary to support a crew that represented this State had to be raised in a small city.

The allocation for sport may be a help in future for cities such as Bundaberg that produce State representatives in any field of sport. In the staging of the King's Cup, which is a most important rowing event, Bundaberg received no assistance. All that we received was a letter saying that no support could be given from funds allocated for tourism. All that we could be given were brochures.

Sir Gordon Chalk: Do you agree that this is a progressive move now?

Mr. JENSEN: I am saying that it is a progressive move, but it was pretty lousy when the Minister for Tourism could not even provide \$100.

Sir Gordon Chalk: He is on the right track now.

Mr. JENSEN: It is not so much a matter of whether he is on the right track; the important thing is whether he uses the money in the right way. We have seen how he uses his money for tourism. He could not even open an office of the Government Tourist Bureau in Bundaberg. That is disgraceful. If I do not get more assistance in matters of tourism from the honourable member for Burnett, I shall see that his area is not publicised at all in Bundaberg.

I now wish to say a few words about hospitals. I have heard that this year hospital maintenance work has been restricted throughout Queensland. I should like that suggestion investigated. I understand that it has been restricted to compensate for wage and salary increases. And the Government is talking about a "good health" Budget!

I shall not go through all the items that I have noted for comment, as my time is limited. I do, however, wish to make some reference to irrigation, because the honourable member for Chatsworth referred to drought. I know that an additional \$30,500,000 has been requested to finish the Bundaberg scheme this year. It is most important not to start a job and only half complete it. I know that the Eton area and many other districts want irrigation schemes. The Commonwealth Government has been influenced by economists who sit in the capital cities and say, "We don't want more primary production because it costs so much to produce these crops." But they do not state the cost of the tariffs on imports to this country. All they say is, "We cannot support this case. We cannot put money into irrigation for primary industry. We can get these items from overseas."

If the Queensland sugar industry, the third largest in the world, closed down, what would be the price of sugar in Queensland? It would not be 11c a lb. but the 30c a lb. that it is overseas. There would not be sufficient sugar on world markets to supply this country. This is an example of the sort of rubbish that one hears from economists. If any area wants an irrigation scheme, money should be provided for it. I want to see schemes completed, not half finished. The Childers area is one district that must have water to maintain its heavy production.

I hope to have the chance to make further observations at some other time. If my time was not restricted, I could say very much more about the Treasurer's administration and the Budget.

Mr. BRUCE SMALL (Surfers Paradise) (4.30 p.m.): The Budget is a product of the master of financial wizardry. It is a blueprint for all architects of economy to follow for the rest of time. It is really an "achievement" Budget. The Opposition confirms this because, from the very beginning of the

debate, there has not been one constructive criticism of it by honourable members opposite. It shows a list of extraordinary increases in every phase of progress and development; it shows no increase whatever in taxes or charges generally.

The allocation for the Department of Industrial Development is \$650,000 higher than it was last year; Education and Cultural Activities, \$29,000,000; Health (including hospitals)—I am sorry that the honourable member for Albert is not here to hear this—\$12,000,000; Mines and Main Roads, \$500,000; Primary Industries, \$1,700,000; Tourism, Sport and Welfare, \$4,000,000; and Works and Housing, \$10,000,000. That is a fantastic demonstration of co-operative and co-ordinating budgeting by a great team under the leadership and skilled guidance of the Treasurer.

In my maiden speech in this Chamber, I said of the Treasurer—

"In speaking of the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, Sir Gordon Chalk, I should like to record the enormous debt owed to him for the financial wizardry that he has brought to bear on the financial problems and achievements of the Government, for the influence that he has wielded on the development of this State's vast natural resources, and for the tremendous development that he has induced through co-operation with private enterprise.

"It is Queensland's proud boast that this is the only State of the Commonwealth to continuously and consistently maintain a balance of payments between exports and imports."

If I had known anything of the Budget at that time, I would have needed much more dramatic, eulogistic language to express my admiration and respect for the author of the Budget.

There is an old saying, "Faithful are the wounds of a friend", and I wish to constructively criticise a couple of matters contained in the Budget. I shall take, first, local government finances and the future of that sphere of government.

Last year 800 delegates from around the world attended the 20th Congress of the International Union of Local Authorities at Toronto, Canada, and I wish to read some of the comments made by the chairman, the Lord Mayor of Munich, in opening that Congress. He began by saying—

"The subject of this Congress is the economic and social development of the municipalities in the world today. This is quite a bold task when one considers that there are approximately 1.4 million municipalities and community associations spread over the face of the earth and that a gap of centuries, or possibly a millenium, may separate the development of these communities.

"Instead, permit me to describe the situation and probable development of some of the larger agglomerations in the industrially advanced nations whose daily life and work is characterised by the conventional concept of the consumer ideal of economic and profitable growth. Their problems, their dangers, their needs and the possible solutions are bound to be of interest to all other towns and communities.

"Never before in their history have the cities been faced with such a violent rate of growth and with such radical changes in the needs which they have to satisfy. The most essential consequences of this development for the cities are as follows:

"Their population increases. In 1900 four per cent of the population of the world lived in cities with 100,000 inhabitants or more, whereas today it is 20 per cent and in the year 2,000 it will be 60 per cent.

"The space requirements of their inhabitants are growing. In 1900 the average inhabitant of a West European city required 484 square feet; today he requires 1,453 square feet and in the year 2,000 he will need 1,938 square feet.

"Pollution of the environment is increasing. Today a city of 100,000 inhabitants places on the surrounding environment—that is, on the biological and physio-chemical forces and sources of nature—twice the burden as in the year 1930.

"The dependence of citizens on their public facilities is increasing. A hundred years ago a city was only responsible for the courts, police, schools and streets, but today the inhabitants could hardly exist a few days without such communal facilities as water, sewerage, electricity, gas, hospitals, public transport, garbage disposal and street cleaning. Tomorrow they will be dependent on the community to supply them with clean air, leisure facilities out of doors and guaranteed sleep undisturbed by noise.

"The cities are hardly able any longer to keep pace with this development. There is the tendency of cities and city regions to flow incessantly and aimlessly over their borders, there are the overcrowded slums, there is the smog, there are polluted lakes and rivers, the din of the airport approaches, not to mention the centres of our cities which threaten to be throttled by private traffic.

"There is the lack of wholesome housing and essential community services such as hospitals, schools and high-capacity rail transport. There is a rising crime wave and the spreading indifference and resignation of the inhabitants who believe that the fate of their cities can no longer be altered and try to escape the chaos as far as their social position permits them.

"It is true, there are some exceptions of this on record. Nevertheless, the tendency for matters to get worse is uniform and world-wide. The truth is that such developments threaten to plunge cities into chaos. However, the world cannot get along without cities. More than ever before it is dependent upon them. Therefore, the cities need help now, if they are to be saved from doom. How can we help? What can be done to help? What must we alter in our cities?

"In answer to such questions one can find no panaceas, but three points deserve to be made clear. The development as such cannot be halted. It is just as utopian to introduce a ban on research and science as it is to prevent technicians from designing, factories from producing, or consumers from consuming in general.

"The institution 'city' does not render its services like a robot. All aspects of the concept 'city' must be challenged and reconsidered. Only in this way can the gap between reality and existing institution be closed.

"The problem can be solved. In an age in which men can travel to and from the moon we should surely be capable of mastering the viability of our cities if we are prepared to give priority to such a task and pave the way towards more sensible planning and construction in cities."

The whole world must be concerned when its 1,400,000 municipalities are desperately needing financial help. We are more concerned here with the fate of 131 Queensland councils, many of which are bankrupt and all of whom are gravely embarrassed with the position as it now exists—and it is rapidly worsening. The Stuckey Report on local government finance shows that, from 1958 to 1970, rates and charges collected by those councils increased from \$38,000,000 to \$96,000,000, making a grand total municipal debt of \$451,600,000, an increase of \$68,000,000 in two years. It makes the average debt per head in Queensland almost double that for the rest of Australia.

Some councils are paying as much as 90 per cent—one that I know of is paying 95 per cent—of their rate income each year to liquidate past debts. This cannot continue much longer. Bankruptcy is inevitable unless a solution is found. The position on the Gold Coast is not as bad as these examples would suggest, but substantial improvement could be reflected if only some remedy was applied to correct the large number of anomalies and inequities in the Valuer-General's system and its formula. We have 30,518 rate assessments which, on the present basis of a general rate of 2.25c in the dollar based on the Valuer-General's rateable valuation of \$153,000,000, produce approximately \$3,500,000 per annum. The average over-all rate amount is \$114.68.

The lowest 751 assessments are rated at 23c per annum, which is subject to a discount of 10 per cent for cash. The lowest 5,000 assessments are rated at an average of \$18.05, also subject to 10 per cent discount. The lowest 10,000 are rated at \$25.66, and those in the highest bracket, of which there are 62, pay an average of \$4,305.95 each per annum. The 223 in the highest bracket are paying an average of \$2,312 each per annum. Widows on a fixed income are paying \$1,000 for rates on small timber cottages that have been caught up in the rush of development and overrun by it.

I believe that the remedy lies in a basic charge for those services that are actually basic—health, city cleansing, gardens, parks and beaches. We could then levy a rate based on valuation, the principle being that it is a tax based on ability to pay. I look forward to an amendment of the present formula. I see that as the only prospect of correcting the serious injustices that exist within the present structure.

The second point of my constructive criticism deals with the subject of tourism. I am concerned that the Government Tourist Bureau seems to be expanding its ticket-selling activities out of all proportion to its actual promotion of tourism itself. A question asked this morning concerning the window display in the bureau's head office in Adelaide Street, advertising overseas travel is startling in its implication. Without a shadow of doubt the greatest competition for Australian tourism today lies in the overseas lure and the attraction of reduced fares and duty-free facilities, as well as the novelty and appeal of overseas travel. The recent annual report of the Government tourist Bureau says, *inter alia*—

"The availability of an increasing number of overseas destinations within the price range of the average traveller has placed even greater emphasis on the need for travel agents to encourage domestic holidays and so allow the benefits of tourist spending to remain at home."

The explanation given this morning in answer to the question I have just referred to was that the window display was only temporary, and was free. But the point I raise is that the Neon sign outside the Tourist Bureau reads "Queensland Government Tourist Bureau—Overseas Tickets", with an arrow pointing to the bureau office. No-one can tell me that a Neon sign is temporary. In my experience, contracts covering these signs are always for a minimum of three years. The price is lower and more attractive for periods ranging from five to 10 years.

I believe that the answer given this morning is completely unacceptable. It is not only unacceptable, but it is positively wrong when one considers the Neon sign, and the implications associated with it, in conjunction with the window display and the obvious

attempt to lure Australians abroad in preference to seeing the Barrier Reef, the Gold Coast or, for that matter, any of Australia's attractions.

The Australian National Travel Association is at the moment preparing a scheme that is designed to spend \$2,500,000 in travel promotion on the basis of "See Australia First". It is extraordinary that our own Tourist Bureau has apparently not caught onto the idea of "See Australia First". I suggest that it is worth having a serious look at. I see the danger inherent in this urge to earn increasing commissions, although I must commend the management of the Tourist Bureau on its \$6,400,000 apparent turnover on tickets. It must have built up an enormous business in that line.

This raises a doubt in my mind as to whether there will be a detrimental effect on private enterprise—after all, we are a private-enterprise Government—and whether greater attention should not be paid to the promotion of tourism, leaving ticket-selling as a secondary and ancillary operation.

Many hundreds of experienced sales organisations are earning their livelihood from ticket and travel-selling. More than anything else we need their goodwill, and I suggest we should concentrate on getting it.

My concept of the modern way to promote tourism has been expressed in the campaigns that I have organised on behalf of the Gold Coast. These started in 1967, when I became mayor of "Paradise". At that time I thought I was being elected to reclaim waste lands and to develop a lovely city. However, three weeks later the city was hit by the worst flood in its history, and another three weeks later it was ravaged by cyclone "Dinah", which wreaked terrible destruction. Throughout Australia, as well as all round the Pacific, it attracted headlines in the Press which claimed that Surfers Paradise had been washed into the sea and that, as a tourist resort, the Gold Coast was finished.

Mr. Davis: Did you receive any assistance from the Government after cyclone "Dinah"?

Mr. BRUCE SMALL: Yes, we did. We were given handsome assistance by way of an authority to borrow, as well as grants and subsidies. I have no complaint at all with the help given by the Treasurer and his Cabinet, and, to a lesser extent, by the Federal Government.

Mr. Davis: I can see he looks after your area. He certainly does not look after the North.

Mr. BRUCE SMALL: As the Gold Coast earns \$85,000,000 in tourist revenue of an estimated \$135,000,000 for the whole State, only a very bad businessman in the Treasury would not look after it.

When the Gold Coast was very largely destroyed, we borrowed \$2,000,000 and received a subsidy of the order of \$750,000. For 12 months we were busily engaged in

repairing the damage that had been done and restoring the seafront while we waited for Nature to return the countless millions of yards of sand that had been "stolen".

In 1968, in spite of financial and other obstacles within the Gold Coast City Council, which does not believe in the erection of boulder walls, such a wall was erected. Early this year we had occasion to thank the Great Architect of the Universe, because without the boulder wall we would have been in a worse plight than at the end of the 1967 cyclone.

In 1968, too, the Gold Coast learned that it was likely to suffer more serious damage than that caused to the foreshores and beaches. Its tourist industry was almost totally destroyed, and only 45 per cent of the 120,000 beds for visitors on the Gold Coast were occupied. The area was heading for bankruptcy at breakneck speed. Some way had to be found of restoring the tourist industry to its former healthy economic position. I travelled abroad, where I pointed out that the worst thing that had happened to the Gold Coast was cyclone "Dinah".

Mr. F. P. Moore: Why not send Alderman Neumann?

Mr. BRUCE SMALL: Because I wanted to attract tourists to the Gold Coast. My prime objective was to act as a salesman to induce tourists to return to the area, and my task was not an easy one. At present each year, 2,250,000 visitors come to our city, but at that time the number was well below half that figure. In 1967 air traffic dropped 19 per cent. Something had to be done. As I have had a lifetime of spending big sums on advertising, I claim to know something about its potential and its implications. I am a great believer in advertising.

Sir Gordon Chalk: Malvern Star outsold them all for 50 years.

Mr. BRUCE SMALL: I must have been a pretty good salesman.

If we had had \$1,000,000 to spend on advertising, it would have helped to get the tourists back. To do that we had to reach out to Australia's 12,000,000 people and New Zealand's 3,000,000. In some way we had to reach the people of the Pacific and make them a captive audience as they had been during the 1967 catastrophe. The burning question was how to do it. It was impossible to achieve our objective by spending conventional sums on advertising. The airways were desolate because their business was unprofitable. They said that they were running empty planes. They begged for co-operation and offered their services in any way. This willingness to co-operate culminated in a brainstorm. Honourable members have heard of the meter maids of Surfers Paradise—the young lasses dressed in lovely gold-lame bikinis who paraded the streets feeding the meters and attracting the tourists. Kodak should subsidise them. In fact, they

were paid by the shopkeepers of Surfers Paradise, who filled their bags with coins to keep the meters alive. The council did not object, and its employees went around with bags collecting the proceeds.

We had to find some way of securing a captive audience. I lived in Melbourne for 55 years and I know something about Melbourne's climate. I also know what a blizzard in the middle of July can be like and how desolate a certain handsome boulevard can be when a cold, blizzardly wind of 20 to 30 knots is blowing. I was struck by the thought that, if we could launch our bikini girls on that block in Melbourne during one of its worst blizzards and let the Press, TV and radio know that we were coming, that might be a means by which we could secure a captive audience and tell them of the miracle of restoration that had occurred on the foreshores of the Gold Coast.

The airways were willing to try. They said, "If you are game to do it, we will take you down and bring you back." The girls were happy to give it a go. In due course we drew up a programme and, to fulfil the programme, set down the visit at the time likely to be most conducive to blizzards. The idea more or less originated during discussions with T.A.A. Quite naturally, in due course, I received a telephone call from Melbourne from the managing director of Ansett who said, "Bruce, we hear on the grapevine that you are doing something with T.A.A. We don't like being left out in the cold. What about finding something for us, because we want to help?" I said, "Can't you join the party?" He said, "We can hardly do that; this idea has been cooked up already between you and T.A.A., and we don't want to horn in. Surely you can do something, or think of something separate for us to do." On the phone we got another inspiration. He said, "T.A.A. is taking Mahomet to the mount. What about Ansett bringing the mount to Mahomet?"

An Opposition Member interjected.

Mr. BRUCE SMALL: The honourable member asks, "What on earth does that mean?" We were going down to Melbourne to tell the people about the Gold Coast, and I asked Ansett if it was prepared to bring the editors of all newspapers, TV and radio comperes, story-magazine writers and photographers to the Gold Coast. I said, "We will wine and dine them if you pick up the tab. We will go through with this and tell them the story prior to our visit to Melbourne, and by that time surely we will have the Press and other mass media ready to turn it on." The plan worked exactly like that. The TV people came up on the first day. I went to Sydney and came up with them. I used the hostess's microphone and gave them a ball-by-ball description. With a special D.C.A. permit, we flew low along 26 miles of the coast and then landed at Coolangatta.

I went south the following day, met the next group, and accompanied them on the trip. Then I said goodbye to the group who were leaving. This went on each day of the week. By the end of that week 72 of the leading editors, photographers and journalists had been at the Gold Coast for 24 hours. We showed them as many attractions as we could in 24 hours. Of course, it was not possible to see all of them in that time. However, we did our best.

We made many good enthusiastic friends, so that when T.A.A. took the bikini girls and me south a fortnight later we were met by a group of very happy and friendly representatives of the mass media. We received greater publicity than was given to the catastrophe of the cyclone. It gave us the opportunity to get onto television screens and to tell the story of the miracle of restoration at the Gold Coast. When we returned on the Saturday, many people said to us, "We heard you in Melbourne. We did not believe it. We just had to come and see for ourselves. It is true. The place is in fact better than it was before the cyclone."

We had hit the jackpot. We went on to Sydney and did it again. We repeated the performance in South Australia. We went to Tasmania, where we sat the bikini girls in six feet of snow on the top of Mt. Wellington—only long enough for the television cameras, of course. Then we went to New Zealand and visited every principal town between Auckland and Invercargill. We completed our tour by the end of November.

We had had 28,000 inches of free Press. We had been on radio for 18½ hours, and, in calculating that time, we counted the seven-minute A.B.C. relay to 62 stations as only seven minutes. We had been on television, at the very best times, for 4½ hours. All of this cost us nothing whatsoever. That is my idea of promoting tourism on a humanist basis. There must be more of it if we are to take our part in the world bonanza of tourism which is just breaking on our shores.

We did not stop in 1968. In 1969 we did it again. In that year we managed to horn in on a Qantas Australian Tourist Commission tour to Tokyo. The four bikini girls and I monopolised colour television in Tokyo for 12½ minutes at 11 o'clock. I checked the advertising rate card and found that we had 33,000,000 viewers. It would have cost \$45,000. We were on black-and-white television the following morning for seven minutes. We had 11,000,000 viewers, according to the rate cards. That would have cost \$14,000. We were on as a news item because, with those charming beach girls clad in their gold lame bikinis, no viewers turned off their television sets.

Sir Gordon Chalk: I am told you even held up the Ginza.

Mr. BRUCE SMALL: Yes. We did a big show in a store there. Qantas gave us a return ticket as a prize. The girls collected no fewer than 90,000 tickets containing the names and addresses of the people who entered the competition. The traffic on the Ginza was stopped for 15 or 20 minutes on five days in succession. That is something I did not think would be permitted. That is only incidental.

Every day, we had 50 travel agents, in different groups each day, from all over Japan attending a seminar. The Australian Tourist Commission and Qantas co-operated with us—T.A.A. and Ansett were also in the team—in a programme of slides and films, the bikini girls and pamphlets. We were well entertained. We had lunch in the motel garden at New Otani, where the bikini girls acted as hostesses. That was a promotion that started to bear fruit as soon as we left Japan, and it is still growing. In fact, this week our public relations officer has been quoted as saying that an invasion from Japan is imminent.

That is my conception of tourism. This programme has been continuing for five years, and we have now made up to 15 separate tours. New Zealand, from Auckland to Invercargill, with about 10 or 12 stops, is treated as one tour. In Victoria, we go to Geelong, Bendigo, Ballarat, Shepparton, Warrnambool, Albury, and so on, and Melbourne, with time on all the leading radio and television stations. We class that as one tour. We have done Darwin and Perth. We have done Manila and Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaya. We have repeated these tours for five years. For the purpose of this speech, I checked the total cost of these tours with the office and the Committee may be interested to learn that the total cost of the whole "shooting match" over the five years has been \$80,000.

Mr. Baldwin: Is that why the Japs are going to take over Yeppoon?

Mr. BRUCE SMALL: Probably that has something to do with the attraction of Yeppoon. There is no question that the Japanese are fascinated with the benefits and attractions that we have to offer. I believe that there is a colossal tourist potential in the Japanese people.

I talked with the managing director of J.A.L., the Japanese airline, for a couple of hours whilst I was in Japan, and he told me that he was preparing a package deal in which all people in permanent jobs could have trips anywhere in the world, with their families, for which they pay nothing till they return. The cost would then be paid off over three years, interest free. I gasped and said, "What about the bad debts?" He said, "There is a state of affairs here with which you may not be familiar. We do not have bad debts in Japan in cases like this. If any man reneged on an account of this type, he would be sacked, without a reference, and the only

job that he would be able to get would be on a much lower stratum than the one for which he was qualified. He would not be employed." They have apparently got the psychological problem well under control. He said that he was prepared to offer that deal to Japanese workmen at large, without any restrictions.

Wherever I have gone, I have invariably been asked, "We are proud of the attractions we have here. We are impressed with the way that you are selling the attractions of the Gold Coast. Will you please make a suggestion? What do you feel that we must do to similarly promote our tourist resorts?" I have given a very simple answer, probably an over-simplified one but one that I think has an in-built, sound doctrine of truth. I say, "It is a very simple matter. All that you have to do is get somebody to light a torch. When the torch is alight, you get somebody to 'take the message to Garcia'. You carry the torch."

I believe that that tells a psychological truth. I believe that tourism has to be promoted on flesh and blood lines. It has to be done by an appeal to the people. It has to be sold by salesmen who believe in their product. It has to be put across with enthusiasm, fervour and earnestness. Of course, you must have a good product. And where would you find a product that could compare with the Gold Coast, with its 26 miles of glorious beaches, and the lovely McPherson Ranges in the background, only 15 miles away as the crow flies, with their cascades, gardens and lovely rain-forests? Five rivers run from the McPherson Ranges down to the surf and create free space and green belts. Where else does one find similar facilities and climate—287 days in the year with temperatures ranging between 48 and 85 degrees Fahrenheit; only four times a year when the thermometer touches 90 degrees? Adding up all these amenities and attractions, is it any wonder that investors have come there and spent colossal sums of money in catering for the tourist trade?

One of the most extraordinary features of the promotion of tourism, and a by-product of it—I confess that when I began the campaign I had nothing in mind other than getting the tourists back—has been the amazing way in which the confidence of investors has returned. Last year the Gold Coast City Council issued permits for buildings worth \$38,450,000, which was \$10,000,000 more than the previous record. In the first four months of this financial year the council has already issued permits for buildings worth \$15,000,000, which is at a rate of \$45,000,000 for the year. That shows how financial confidence in the Gold Coast has been developed as a by-product of the promotion of tourism.

However, the story does not stop there. The population of the city of Gold Coast, which was 30,000 in 1960, is now 70,000,

and the council has a real town plan that forecasts what will happen in the years to come. It is estimated that by 1975 the population will reach 100,000, that by 1983 the permanent population of the Gold Coast will be 150,000, and that by 1990 the permanent population will have reached 200,000. Because of that, the plan demands that the council build dams, roads, parks, gardens and other facilities, and introduce by-laws and regulations that are in keeping with a city of that magnitude, and worthy of it.

The present dam impounds 2,000 million gallons of water. It was considered adequate to carry the growth of the city till 1985, but it is already inadequate and each summer the council faces either the certainty or the dread of imposing restrictions. Therefore, a new dam is being built at Advancetown, at the junction of the Little Nerang and Nerang Rivers. It will impound 20,000 million gallons of water in its first stage; in the second stage—we are looking forward—it will impound 47,000 million gallons; and 69,000 million gallons will be impounded in stage 3. So the growth, the planning and the vision go on.

Because I believe in the city of Gold Coast, perhaps I have laid myself open to the charge of having attempted to give the saga of the Gold Coast. Let me tell honourable members that time does not permit me to do so, because the end of the saga of the Gold Coast will never be known.

Mr. BOUSEN (Toowoomba North) (5.8 p.m.): It was rather amusing to hear the honourable member for Surfers Paradise refer to the wizardry of the Treasurer and to his Budget as a "wizard" of a Budget. There is not very much wizardry about the honourable member for Surfers Paradise, because on the only two occasions on which he has spoken in this Chamber previously he has brought the problems of the Gold Coast City Council here and asked the Government to solve them for him.

Mr. Bruce Small: We are doing it in spite of that.

Mr. BOUSEN: I hope the honourable member does. When he speaks about the wizardry of the Treasurer, I think he must have in mind the creature created by Walt Disney—the Wizard of Oz.

During the Budget debate, honourable members on this side of the Chamber have exposed the Budget's many inadequacies and have torn it to pieces in many respects.

Mr. Ahern: You be careful. The Treasurer is taking notes.

Mr. BOUSEN: I realise that. The honourable gentleman has that privilege, of course.

I should like to adopt the phrase used by my leader, Mr. Houston, who referred to the Budget as a "budgerigar" Budget. The chattering budgerigar is noted for singing

its own praises ad nauseam, and this meaningless, endless song of self praise from every Government member has bored us all. They have vainly attempted to conceal the Budget's failures under volumes of verbiage.

In 15 years of government by the present coalition we have experienced false promises and wrong decisions, as well as an inability on the part of the Government parties to associate promises and principles with the awareness of the danger of the rural situation. There is now a growing threat of further displacement of many of the families that are the foundation of rural industries, which have made this State what it is. No Government party can survive such a crisis.

This Government has become a disaster Government, a Government that was founded on the disaster of the Labor split in 1957. It is continuing disaster to the primary industries; it is a wrecking disaster to our economy by continuing and growing inflation. Its waste of mineral wealth will prove to be a disaster to the State. The final disaster was its return to the Treasury benches in 1972. It is now notorious that this was achieved by the most blatant gerrymander this State has ever been subjected to.

Queensland has paid a terrible price for the so-called affluence that the Government boasts about. It certainly can be called its *dolce vite*—the good life! To conceal its gross inefficiency, and to smother the odium of "selling off the farm", this Government has forced up costs and increased some bad forms of taxation, and then urged restraint on the unions and the workers. The logical reaction of that portion of the public which has money to invest has been to put it on fixed deposit. Such is the confidence that many of the Government's own supporters have in this craven coalition!

The Government has failed miserably to recognise the full importance of the wool industry, its real value to the Outback, its strong effect on the employment prospects of a large number of workers of the State, and its full importance to the economy generally. Although there have been faint glimmers of light at the end of the dark tunnel, there is still a very long way to go to the return of prosperity in the wool industry. This industry is in urgent need of a sound stabilisation scheme that will give the many small farmers who are its real backbone hope for the future. The Sir William Gunns and the other big operators have demonstrated their alleged loyalty to the industry and the State by cashing their chips with the Government to help them. For years ahead breeders and growers will need a long-term plan of re-establishment of flocks, and they will also need to prepare a long-term plan for the future protection of their industry against overseas wolves and sharks who, with the connivance of this "big-man" Government and

the synthetics industry (alias oil) have brought all aspects of industry to poverty for the many.

The battered primary producer is hamstrung by crippling taxes, and in many cases by falling prices and rising costs, but he is ignored by Governments and dismayed by the terrific wall of tariff protection given to some secondary industries, efficient and otherwise. The mineral wealth which the primary producer helped to establish during his years of prosperity, and which now could and should be returned to assist him in time of drought and unfair competition, is now being bled off to the benefit of the very countries that battered on the primary producer in his peak years. This is not an exaggerated picture; it is not a pretty picture; nevertheless it is a very truthful picture.

Mr. R. E. Moore: You had stand-over tactics in your day.

Mr. BOUSEN: Wait until we come back again. Then we will show the honourable member how things should be done.

Today's living standards are being eroded, and persons on fixed incomes and pensions cannot stand the pace of Government neglect. Let us remember that markets that are becoming available are not being met by Queensland. Farmers have left the land and young people are becoming discouraged and will not take their places on the land. This applies particularly to the dairy industry. The Government seeks control of wages and would dearly like to introduce wage fixing. However, it dare not because of the political consequences. With costs of all kinds sky-rocketing, it is left to the primary producer, who does not control any price-increasing machinery, to bear the whole brunt.

The Government has not been the least bit successful in stopping inflation, and it never will be while it allows unrestricted price increases on basic products such as steel and oil. The Brisbane abattoir has increased handling charges by 10 per cent. Agents' charges have been allowed to rise, although their profits were already high and still rising. This year, stock-selling charges actually doubled. Such occurrences are hardly incentives to the repopulating of the West. On the contrary, they are deterrents of the worst kind.

Japan has a population of 100,000,000 in an area equal to less than one-sixth of that of Australia, with almost 680 people to the square mile compared with Australia's meagre four. Yet look at what defeated Japan has done for her people in health and education services, and look at what Japan has been allowed to take from this great country of ours!

At this stage of the Budget debate, it is my intention to review in a general way, in my capacity as chairman of the Labor Party's lands committee, some of the figures given

on land development and forestry expansion. However, as honourable members are aware, the Lands and Forestry Estimates are to be debated this year, so I will leave the greater part of my detailed comment on these matters until then.

It is often overlooked by this Government, as is demonstrated by its ruinous land policies, that land is the chief basis of our existence. We live on it, and off it. Without good land there is no life. Our fathers and grandfathers established this land following the squatters' take-over. This Government, a legacy of the squatters' days, has virtually reversed the process by handing the land back to the "big boys". Under the Government's handling of the State's economy, the Lands Department is made responsible for the provision of funds for all kinds of purposes connected with land and land tenure, but little of the huge amounts spent by that department goes towards benefiting the actual workers on the land. Rural reconstruction expenditure is up by almost 18 per cent on last year, while assistance to dairymen and woolgrowers has decreased.

This Government must cease its shameful policies of short-term palliatives, which are merely weak bolsters against recurring crises, and come up with some real long-term plans before this traditional Australian industry also passes into the history of foreign take-overs.

At least one activity at which this Government is adept is division. It survives on the fragmentation of workers' institutions and the creation of divisions between town, urban and country areas. The people of Brisbane and other large towns in Queensland know that the very basis of life—food and clothing, and to some extent shelter—has its beginning in the country areas. Bitumen and concrete are not the be-all and end-all of city living.

The members of this Country Party-dominated coalition continue to try to cloak the Government's failures by blaming city and town workers for cost inflation, when they are the ones who have set the pattern. Despite the powerful propaganda machines—radio, television and Press—at their beck and call in the city, they have not concealed the fact that it is the middleman—the foundation of their Liberal Party partners—who are most often getting the rake-off from inflation. It is not the producer, as they would have the city worker believe it is.

Labor is the only party that stands for unity between the country and the city. When we get this unity, it will mean the demise of the coalition Government for ever. The Government has failed to recognise its responsibilities to all sections of society. It is, as its name implies, a sectionalist Government that looks after the interests of the big man and, at the same time, leaves the country and city workers to wallow in an ever-deepening mire of despair caused by inflation and rising family costs.

Unfortunately, today, efficiency and quality in farm production has only accidental association with profitability. Instead of encouraging real efficiency, this Government has allowed a widening of the price gap from the farm gate to the front door of the consumer. The imminent entry of Britain into the European Economic Community in typical Tory haste has plunged Australia, particularly Queensland, into a new crisis. No-one can now be sure of the ultimate effects of Britain's panic in protecting itself on our fruit, sugar, dairy products, grain and meat. In January of next year Great Britain will be a member of the E.E.C., so I hope that by then Queensland's ostrich-headed Government will have plans ready to counter the ill-effects of this move by finding alternative markets. The E.E.C. boasts that it can capture and control 40 per cent of the world's trade, so I hope that Dr. Delamothe fully realises his responsibilities to the State that sent him to England to watch its interests.

Recent developments in the wool industry strongly suggest that the time has come for Australia to process an ever-increasing proportion of its wool clip and to embark on direct selling to consumer countries in order to protect its assets against the inroads and exploitation of foreign countries, particularly Japan and America.

I intend to deal generally with some of the most important land problems that confront Queensland and are related to current economic trends. I shall leave a more detailed examination of these problems until the Estimates for the Department of Lands and Forestry are under debate.

Whereas this coalition Government safeguards the interests of the absentee landlords and foreign investors, the Labor Party, of which I am proud to be a representative, safeguards the rights of the ordinary man. I therefore wish to deal with some of the basic philosophies and principles underlying land tenure, land development and the responsibilities of the Lands Department.

When we have doubts about the real meaning of what is happening at present and whether we are following the right path into the future, we should look at the history of the development of land tenure in Australia. A brief look at this history will show that in many instances the ownership of land has been the root cause of family squabbles, tribal fights and global wars. As populations increased from the 15th century onwards, all the usable land in Europe and Great Britain was occupied. It was virtually impossible for the ordinary person to come into possession of any land other than by a fluke. A landed gentry thus became established. Land did not become available for ownership by ordinary persons until after the 200 years of the great overseas land discoveries, when, for the first time in centuries, there was more land than enough for the people.

Nowhere was this phenomenon more noticeable than in early Australia, where land was available virtually for the taking. Many freed convicts—and, as well, escaped convicts—took up land and formed a group known as “squatters”. Plenty of land was available in Australia until after the gold had petered out, and tens of thousands of workers on the goldfields and in the towns found themselves stranded. They could not get either work or housing. Their only immediate hope of survival lay in the cultivation of crops around the goldfields or in more distant areas. Many took advantage of this opportunity.

Mr. R. E. Moore: You should have got the Railway Department shadowship, or something like that.

Mr. BOUSEN: The honourable member for Windsor will not get the shadowship of any portfolio.

The sheer weight of numbers of these workers and the right to vote, gained for them by the miners and shearers' unions, forced the introduction of new land laws and closer settlement.

Workers and their families often went to the Outback with only a couple of horses, a wagon, tools and food for a few weeks to carve out a home and a living. Men, women and children toiled from daylight till dark to clear the land and establish crops and grow animals for food. Those people were the real founders of our primary industries. They had no Government money to help them. There were no bulldozers in those days, nor were there any scientists to help them become established at the taxpayers' expense, as is the case today. They either established themselves or went broke—or they were taken over by the banks and other finance companies.

Mr. Ahern: Who wrote this for you?

Mr. BOUSEN: The honourable member certainly did not. He would not know how to.

Mr. R. E. Moore: Are you setting yourself up against a Bachelor of Agricultural Science?

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! All comments will be directed through the Chair.

Mr. Davis: He is only a glorified farmer.

Mr. BOUSEN: It is a case of a glorified farmer against a good trade unionist.

Ever since the 1850's the same kind of war has been clearly observable between the small landholder, the family-unit farm and the property worker. But a new kind of land war has now come into being. Today, a class land-war is proceeding everywhere around us, not only in country areas but in the city as well, where the right of the ordinary family man to really be the owner of his house allotment is continually being challenged by the landlord developer

class, aided and abetted by Governments such as the one in Queensland. Under the guise of giving ownership by the offer of conversion to freehold tenure from perpetual lease, this Government is rendering the family landowner vulnerable to Government-assisted take-overs by developers and others.

Labor's policy promotes perpetual-lease tenure because the titular owner has Government protection while his lease is current and while he wants to retain it. If any wrong is done, the Government must take the blame and face the ballot-box at the next election. Today, under the illusion of freehold ownership, the Government does not have to be responsible. When things go wrong, responsibility can be off-loaded onto drought, markets, local government and the requirements of private enterprise.

A classic example of the Government's action in using one situation to advance the interests of those who reward it was the 1965 Act, which was introduced ostensibly to allow migrants in certain categories to own land in fee simple. On the surface, that principle is fair and just. No-one would deny genuine migrants who are actual users of the land the right to a title of some kind or another. However, under cover of this Act, we now find that foreigners from U.S.A. and Japan can move in and buy up millions of acres. Even that might not be so bad if other laws had been enacted to ensure that Queensland got a fair share of the profits from these undertakings. But that is not so. Such companies, formed as consortiums, can buy their own products at cost, or even below cost to effect a taxation loss. The products are then exported overseas and sold at a profit. This practice is now the rule in the coal, alumina, mineral sands and various other industries. It is also becoming the rule in the beef industry, and it will become the rule in our lucrative tourist industry, too, if this Government and the Japanese get their way in the scandalous Yeppoon proposal.

All these things are very relevant to land policy. If the proposed policy was established by the Government, these foreign companies could never get a foothold in our profitable industries. The final thrust at the working man is that it is his purse that is robbed to meet the cost. The same situation applies in the cities and towns. Foreign and southern-owned speculative companies rob the parents of today and filch the rightful inheritance of tomorrow's children. They get cheap land from the Government through the Lands Department, acting for the Department of Industrial Development, and cheap buildings from the Works Department, acting for the Department of Industrial Development. They set up industries whose profit leaves this State to benefit others. While this help is given to those companies in this way, the price of land for the family man has increased at the rate of 50 per cent a year. Labor's planned policy to put an end to this thralldom

by robbery is the only policy that will save the family man and the State from bankruptcy. Ours is a fair and just policy to all.

The Treasurer has called his Financial Statement an "achievement" Budget. To prove his point, he has measured this year's expenditure, again based on his own figures, against what has been spent in previous years. The Treasurer, if he does know how such measurement is validated, is careful to avoid showing it. He is aware that a person cannot set up his own standards, regardless of what is happening elsewhere, and is careful to avoid mentioning this.

The Treasurer made reference to special assistance to wool-growers in the disaster areas of Central Queensland, yet he points out in his Financial Statement that, of the \$10,000,000 originally allocated for this purpose, \$3,723,290 is left unspent. One might well ask why this is so. Why was it not used for the purpose for which it was granted? During my Address-in-Reply speech, I spoke of the hardships experienced by landholders in these areas and of the people who have approached me for assistance. Why was this \$4,000,000 not used? If the Government was sincere in its professed desire to assist these people, that money would not have been unspent.

On 30 August last I asked the Premier if all the money allocated had been expended. He informed me that over \$3,000,000 had not been. That coincides with the statement made by the Treasurer. It is obvious that no attempt has been made by the Government to use the money on the purpose for which it was granted, that is, to serve the people who are badly in need of it and to prevent their walking off their properties. This is a clear indication that the Government is not concerned about the man on the land.

I shall quote an article in "The Courier-Mail" of 8 September 1972, in which the Minister for Lands appealed for instant relief for graziers. What prompted him to make that belated plea? At that time the people had been in the grip of drought for more than 10 years! Evidently he was not concerned about them. The article reads—

"Instant grazier aid plea by Rae"

"The Lands Minister (Mr. Rae) yesterday criticised grandiose long term 'political plans' to assist Queensland's drought hit graziers.

"What is needed is instant recognition of the desperate plight of many now facing the dismal prospect of walking off their properties," he said.

"Official statistics from the Agricultural Economics Bureau showed that 83,000 people had left their rural occupations in the last five years," Mr. Rae said.

"At the same time, 1,300 abandoned their properties and 50,000 left country towns."

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"Mr. Rae commended the Federal Primary Industry Minister (Mr. Sinclair) for his efforts to establish a Rural Bank.

"But his efforts, plus the \$20 million allocated as a cornerstone for the bank by the Federal Government, would count for nothing if the big financial institutions did not give the idea substantial backing.

"Even if this happened it would take too long to be of any value to the people who wanted help now.

"Mr. Rae said that had not the tremendous inflow of foreign capital cushioned the shock in the last few years, Australia would have experienced a depression as grim as in the 1930's."

The Minister for Lands was calling for instant relief for people who had been in the grip of drought for over 10 years. Nothing has been done to assist them, although there was \$4,000,000 in the Treasury that could have been used for this purpose.

Mr. Sullivan: I suggest you inform yourself on what has been done over the past few years.

Mr. BOUSEN: I heard what the Premier said in reply to my question.

Mr. Sullivan: You are talking a lot of rot.

Mr. BOUSEN: I am not. The Minister knows as well as I do, the number of people who have walked off their properties. And here is another Minister saying that over 50,000 people walked off their properties because they could not get assistance from the Government. Surely the previous Minister for Lands and the present one could have got together and done something about this.

I now wish to refer to the case of Mr. Ranald Thompson of St. George. He made eight applications to the Government for assistance, and each one was refused. It was only after the honourable member for Wavell brought up his case in the House and asked for immediate assistance to save him, his wife and eight children, from walking off the property that he was given financial aid. Why did his case suddenly warrant the granting of \$26,000 assistance to pay off the bank when he had been in debt for so long and the property was to be sold the next day? Why was it that it was not till the honourable member for Wavell raised the matter that Mr. Thompson was told that the Government would pay out the debt of \$26,000 by means of assistance from the State Rural Reconstruction Board? If this case does not have political implications, I do not know anything. Action was taken only to save the face of the Government.

"The Courier-Mail" of 28 September contains this report—

"Grazier is helped at last minute"

"St. George.—Local grazier Mr. Ranald Thompson and his family will not be homeless tomorrow, thanks to last minute

negotiations on his behalf by the State Rural Reconstruction Board.

"His property Rossmore, was to have been sold at 11 a.m. tomorrow, on the order of a bank to recover a \$26,000 overdraft."

Mr. R. Jones: Which electorate is that?

Mr. BOUSEN: It could be Carnarvon or Condamine. I am not sure.

Mr. Sullivan: Don't you know where St. George is?

Mr. BOUSEN: After the gerrymandering of boundaries last December, who knows where the boundaries are? I hardly know where the boundaries of my electorate are. The Government had to have one of the boundaries of Yeronga shifted in the last five minutes so that Clem Jones would not win that seat. Let me hear no talk from honourable members opposite about boundaries! The Government took Rocklea out of Yeronga at the last minute in order to defeat Clem Jones.

The Press report continues—

"But the Rural Reconstruction Board was still considering Mr. Thompson's eighth application, for reconstruction and restocking assistance.

"Yesterday, after negotiations with Mr. Thompson's major creditor, the bank, the Lands Minister (Mr. Rae) said the board had been successful in stopping the sale."

Again there are political implications because the case was raised in this House and the Government was so embarrassed that it had to do something about giving this person the relief that he sought—after he had already made eight applications.

Mr. Jensen: Do you think Mr. Sullivan was lax before they replaced him?

Mr. BOUSEN: He probably was not able to cope with the job and had to be replaced.

There is another matter that I wish to raise in the time still available to me. As the Transport Estimates will not be debated this year, I raise now the number of taxi-cab licences in Toowoomba. I asked the Minister for Transport a few weeks ago a question concerning the number of taxi-cab licences allotted to the main provincial cities. I mentioned specifically Ipswich, Rockhampton, Townsville, Toowoomba, and Brisbane. Only last Thursday, 19 October, taxi-cab drivers at Toowoomba held a meeting at which it was proposed that surplus taxi licences be transferred from provincial cities to metropolitan or other areas. The programme and agenda for the eighth annual State conference of the Taxi Council of Queensland lists a notice of motion for the conference in Ipswich on October 26 and 27 as follows:—

"That the council appoint a committee of five members (two at least from provincial cities) to prepare a case and present it to the Minister for Transport for the

transfer of taxi licences from provincial cities or areas, where too many licences have been issued for drivers to make a reasonable living with reasonable working conditions, to metropolitan or other areas when these areas have a need for more licences to be issued."

A newspaper report said that delegates from all provincial cities from Mt. Isa to Cairns and the Gold Coast will attend the conference, which will be officially opened by the Minister for Transport, Mr. Hooper, at 9.20 a.m. on Thursday, 26 October, which is today.

Mr. Frawley: How many taxis are there in Toowoomba?

Mr. BOUSEN: If the honourable member will be patient, I shall tell him where the taxis are and the average number of people for each taxi.

As the Minister for Transport is not in the Chamber, I hope that the Treasurer will take note of what I am saying and that something can be done to assist these people in Toowoomba. I have taken the population figures from the latest Year Book and ascertained the number of taxi licences and the number of people for each licence. The figures are—

City	Population	No. of Taxi Licences	No. of People per Licence
Ipswich	61,514	44	1,398
Rockhampton ..	49,141	62	792
Townsville .. .	71,109	99	718
Brisbane .. .	699,371	1,245	561
Toowoomba .. .	59,476	106	561

Toowoomba has the highest number of taxi licences of any provincial city and the lowest number of people for each taxi licence. There are three companies in Toowoomba—Black and White, Blue and White and Yellow Cabs—and they have now amalgamated and are able to operate a roster. However, taxi-cab owners still have to work 12 or 14 hours a day to earn an average of about \$50 or \$60 a week. I do not believe that a cab driver should have to work those hours. From the safety angle, I am sure that a man who has been sitting in a cab for 12 or 14 hours a day is not in a fit state to drive a taxi late at night.

Mr. Jensen: What do people pay for taxi licences in Toowoomba?

Mr. BOUSEN: About \$4,000 for the goodwill.

Mr. Jensen: It is about \$15,000 in Brisbane.

Mr. BOUSEN: It is a lucrative business in Brisbane.

I do not know whether the taxi-cab owners saw the Treasurer, but I arranged a deputation to the former Minister for Transport last year, with a view to getting something done. The taxi-cab owners in Toowoomba

also wrote to the Minister for Transport and asked for some assistance. However, on each occasion a deaf ear was turned to their requests. I ask the Treasurer and the Minister for Transport to look into this matter and see whether something can be done for the people concerned. I am sure that neither of them would like to perpetuate a situation in which men have to work 12 or 14 hours a day to make \$50 or \$60 a week.

There is one further point that I wish to make in this debate. In recent days, both in this Chamber and through the news media, we have heard and read a great deal about problems associated with babies that have been injured at the Southport hospital. The matter was raised in this Chamber by the honourable member for Albert. At that stage it concerned six babies—I understand it is now seven, another one having been located—who were injured after birth at the Southport hospital. In my opinion, this matter deserves the attention of all members of this Parliament.

Although there probably has been a hospitals board inquiry to some extent, I believe that the only way of satisfying the people of Queensland and the parents of the children concerned is to have a Royal Commission into the working and functioning of the Southport hospital. If the injuries sustained by the babies prove to be of a permanent nature, I, like every member of the public, am wondering what the Government will do to assist the families. I am sure they would be entitled to some form of compensation. Something will have to be done if the injuries do prove to be of a permanent nature.

The public are asking: how could these injuries occur in a fully-staffed hospital? The Southport Hospital regularly makes front-page news, and is being constantly talked about on radio and television. Now this accident has occurred. The children may be permanently maimed. The honourable member for Albert has raised this issue on a number of occasions but he has not received any satisfaction from the Minister for Health. Today we heard that a nurse at the Southport Hospital had been sacked, but surely one particular nurse is not going to be blamed for what happened. Surely there must be some shortcomings on the part of the hospital generally for such a thing to happen. People are asking what is going to become of the children if they are permanently maimed. I hope that something will be done for them.

I think the Treasurer has some knowledge of the matter I am now going to raise. I refer to the provision of land and a building for the use of the Police-Citizens Youth Welfare Association in Toowoomba. That organisation has been functioning for about three years, and presently it occupies a temporary building. It has done a marvellous job for the youth of Toowoomba, both male and female. It engages in various sporting activities such as judo, boxing,

wrestling, gymnastics, ballet dancing and marching girls. Unfortunately the association is becoming financially embarrassed. It is looking for new premises and it is looking to the Treasurer for financial assistance.

As the Police Estimates will not be debated this year, I take the opportunity now to raise this matter. The association asks that land be made available to it on a long-term lease. I believe that nothing short of a perpetual lease would prove satisfactory to the Police-Citizens Youth Welfare Association in Toowoomba. The association also asks for financial assistance to build a clubhouse. At the present time it has to pay \$2,037 a year in rent. Travelling expenses ran into \$171 last year. Repairs to equipment cost \$55, light and telephone \$300, and insurance \$80. Last year the association was faced with an expenditure of \$2,643.

The club is doing a very good job on behalf of the public generally. It is a source of worry to parents when their teenage sons and daughters go out at night and, naturally, they want to know where they are going. The Police-Citizens Youth Welfare Association in Toowoomba has set up premises where teenage boys and girls can take part in active sport. When parents know that their children are so engaged, they are relieved of worry, because they know their children are in good care.

The Police Department is not allowed to make available any of its own funds or vehicles to assist the Police-Citizens Youth Welfare Association in its work for the youth of Toowoomba. Of course, that would apply to similar associations throughout Queensland.

Mr. Wright: In Victoria the Police Department supplies the accommodation, equipment and everything.

Mr. BOUSEN: That is what we are looking for. Apparently it is not done in Toowoomba. When this organisation was first formed in September 1970, it recruited 1250 young members of both sexes. Today, because of shortage of space and finance, it has to turn people away. It is not recruiting any new members. I should say that membership would only be a couple of hundred rather than in the thousands. Naturally, a request has been made by these people for financial assistance. We want the Government to provide them with land and a building. If this is done, I am sure it will make everybody happy, and the activities of this association amongst our young people will meet with the success they deserve.

Mr. DAVIS (Brisbane) (5.51 p.m.): While waiting to speak in this Budget debate, I have listened to speaker after speaker from the Government side applauding the Treasurer and patting him on the back, the exception being the honourable member for Somerset, with whom I wholeheartedly agree. The

point he made was that the Laidley Race Club, which was formerly in the Treasurer's electorate but is now in Somerset, is to be virtually disbanded on the Treasurer's decision. The reason I am buying into this matter is that I have many relatives and friends living in the area, and, in addition, I have a soft spot for the Laidley Race Club. The Treasurer seems to be very keen to abolish it. Why does he not close the Gatton club?

This so-called amalgamation will undoubtedly be similar to that between the Oxenford and Southport Race Clubs. One of the clubs will be completely abolished. A couple of its committee members will be put onto the committee of the other club and, as the honourable member for Somerset said, that will be the finish of the Laidley club.

It is interesting to note that no other member has commented on this. I can vividly recall a cave-in on the Laidley race track 18 months to two years ago. There was some criticism of the club at the time and the Treasurer, who was then a member, declared himself violently opposed to any suggestion that the club should be closed. Now, however, it has been taken out of his electorate.

I should also like the Treasurer in his reply to comment on the Redcliffe Trotting Club.

Mr. Frawley: What is your interest in the Redcliffe Trotting Club?

Mr. DAVIS: I do not mind members talking about things in my electorate, such as the Royal Brisbane Hospital. I do not yell and put on a turn every time anybody asks a question about something in my electorate, and I do not think anybody should do so when I wish to comment on other areas.

Now that the Redcliffe Trotting Club has been granted a licence for night trotting, I should like to know if the Government's policy on trotting has changed. I have no objection to Redcliffe Trotting Club being granted a night-trotting licence. As a matter of fact, I will be there when it commences.

Mr. Frawley: I will get you a free ticket.

Mr. DAVIS: I always pay my own way.

I recall that about two and a half years ago the Queensland Turf Club applied heavy pressure to the Treasurer, and there was much comment in the sporting Press to the effect that trotting would have to stand on its own feet. They picked on one trotting club which is now in the electorate of my friend and colleague Mr. Kevin Hooper, the honourable member for Archerfield. It was previously in the electorate on the honourable member for Yeronga, who, unfortunately, is not in the Chamber. He did not do one thing to assist this club to retain local betting. One club was picked on in the Treasurer's pay-off to the racing clubs.

He decided that betting on metropolitan races would be allowed at Rocklea only when a meeting was held at Bundamba.

As Redcliffe will have a night-trotting licence, and punters will still be allowed to bet on Saturday, what position is Rocklea in? Because I like the amenities offered at Rocklea and the people associated with the club, I visit it quite often and, naturally, have a vested interest in it. It serves the whole of the south side of the city, so I should like the Treasurer to tell us whether he will make fish of one and fowl of the other. Alternatively, will he say that trotting should stand on its own feet?

Last year I was severely criticised for being straightforward in exposing Mrs. Gabby Horan.

Mr. Wright: Courageous.

Mr. DAVIS: That is a better word, and I shall use it. I was courageous in exposing Mrs. Gabby Horan's endorsement of Supa Save. Recently the honourable member for Toowoomba West exposed her for endorsing Farmer Greenfield products. As I have said on previous occasions, I do not object to any person endorsing certain products, even for payment; however, I do not think that it is right for a person to endorse products and, at the same time, be a member of the Consumer Affairs Council. I had asked the then Minister in charge of consumer affairs (Mr. Herbert) to have her dismissed from that body, and tonight I renew my request.

Mr. Hughes: What about Mrs. Ward?

Mr. DAVIS: If Mrs. Ward endorses certain products, that is her business; but at least she is not doing so while she is a member of the Consumer Affairs Council, which receives complaints from the housewives and other members of the community.

I now wish to answer some of the comments made by the honourable member for Merthyr.

Mr. R. E. Moore: You have waited until he was called to the telephone.

Mr. DAVIS: It is nearly 6 o'clock, and, as I wish to refer to the speeches made by both the honourable member for Merthyr and the honourable member for Surfers Paradise, I will acknowledge seniority and deal, firstly, with the honourable member for Merthyr.

Since his election to Parliament he has constantly criticised trade unions and working-class organisations. He has shown a great hatred for them. Of course, we know that his speeches are written for him by Kevin Cairns, the D.L.P. member for Lilley and a close friend of the honourable member for Merthyr. The other garbage that he delivers comes from the News Weekly

organisation. Like other so-called experts on the Government side, he buys into industrial matters.

[Sitting suspended from 6 to 7.15 p.m.]

Mr. DAVIS: Before the dinner recess I was saying that in the 12 months the honourable member for Merthyr has been in this Assembly he has spoken very vindictively against trade unions and working-class organisations.

Mr. Lane: Would you like to say something constructive?

Mr. DAVIS: He, and approximately five other Government members—

Mr. Lane: Would you mind saying something constructive?

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! I do not intend to tolerate cross-firing.

Opposition Members interjected.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! When I call for order, I mean it.

Mr. DAVIS: They pride themselves on being experts in industrial matters.

I recall that, two weeks ago, when the honourable member for Merthyr spoke about A.C.T.U. applications, he showed just how ignorant he is of union affairs. He conveniently overlooked that the employer organisations were responsible for having the total wage introduced. In this way, the cost-of-living adjustments, which were a big factor in raising the standard of living of the lower-paid workers, were discontinued—by the actions of the very people who support the honourable member. The closest the honourable member for Merthyr has ever been to a trade union meeting was when he was outside the Trades Hall, as a security policeman, peering at, and pinging on, the workers. That would be about his limit—his form.

Mr. LANE: I rise to a point of order.

Opposition Members interjected.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! I cannot hear the point of order being taken by the honourable member for Merthyr.

Mr. Sherrington interjected.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! I am trying to hear the honourable member's point of order.

Mr. LANE: The honourable member's remarks are both offensive and untrue. I ask that he withdraw them.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Merthyr has asked for a withdrawal of the statements. I ask the honourable member for Brisbane to withdraw them.

Mr. DAVIS: Mr. Hewitt—

Honourable Members interjected.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! The Chamber will come to order and the member for Brisbane will withdraw the comments.

Mr. BROMLEY: I rise to a point of order.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! I am dealing with one point of order. The member for South Brisbane will resume his seat, and the member for Brisbane will withdraw the comments.

Mr. DAVIS: I withdraw the remark.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Brisbane will resume his seat while I deal with the point of order taken by the honourable member for South Brisbane.

Mr. BROMLEY: My point of order is that despite the withdrawal of the honourable member for Brisbane, everything he said was completely true.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! I have given my ruling.

Mr. DAVIS: I recall that on 16 September 1970 I asked this question of the Minister in charge of police—

“(1) Is one of the members of the Special Branch of the Queensland Police Force an official of a Brisbane suburban branch of the Liberal Party?”

“(2) What checks, if any, are made on the political affiliations of members of the Police Force assigned to duties in the Special Branch?”

The answer I received was to the effect that the political affiliations of members of the Police Force are of no interest to the police organisation. The person to whom I was referring at that time is now the member for Merthyr. He was then a member of the special political branch of the Queensland Police Force and an official of the Ashgrove branch of the Liberal Party.

Mr. LANE: I rise to a point of order. The statement by the honourable member for Brisbane that I was an official of the Ashgrove branch of the Liberal Party is untrue. I ask him to withdraw it.

Mr. BROMLEY: Mr. Hewitt—

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for South Brisbane will resume his seat while I am dealing with one point of order. The honourable member for Merthyr has denied a statement and asked for its withdrawal.

Mr. DAVIS: I withdraw the remark.

Mr. BROMLEY: I rise to a point of order. It is a fact—

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member can only take a point of order in personal terms. What is his point of order?

Mr. BROMLEY: My point of order is that at that particular time—

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member cannot take a point of order on that matter.

Mr. BROMLEY: At that particular time—

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for South Brisbane will resume his seat. There is no point of order.

Mr. BROMLEY: The honourable member for Merthyr—

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! There is no valid point of order. I ask the honourable member for South Brisbane to resume his seat.

Mr. BROMLEY: The honourable member for Merthyr was not an official—

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for South Brisbane will resume his seat and will obey instructions from the Chair. The honourable member for Brisbane will resume his speech.

Mr. DAVIS: I withdraw the remarks that are offensive to the honourable member for Merthyr, but he was president of the Brisbane Federal Division of the Liberal Party. Let him deny that one!

Mr. Lane: That is true and I am proud of it.

Mr. DAVIS: There you are. He was a member of the Liberal Party, Brisbane Federal Branch, and at the same time was a member of the political branch of the Police Force.

Mr. Lane interjected.

Mr. DAVIS: He doesn't go spying on the Opposition as the honourable member for Merthyr does. That indicates the set of values adopted by the honourable member for Merthyr in this Chamber.

I also take exception to the unfounded and untruthful statements made by the honourable member for Merthyr when he attacked the Trade Union Building Society.

Mr. Lane: When did you give up stealing hub caps?

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. Lane: He has a garage full of them at home.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. DAVIS: That is a stupid, inane remark from somebody who is just a pimp and a police stooge.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! Honourable members on both sides of the Chamber are indulging too much in personalities. The honourable member for Brisbane will continue with his speech.

Mr. Marginson: What about sending the honourable member for Merthyr out? We are tired of listening to him.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! The Chair will decide when a member is to be sent from the Chamber.

Mr. DAVIS: Before I was so rudely interrupted by the honourable member for Merthyr, I was about to read a letter refuting his unfounded and untruthful remarks about the Trade Union Building Society. The honourable member for Belmont wrote to the Minister for Works and Housing the day after he was tossed out of the Chamber because of the interjections and unfounded allegations of the honourable member for Merthyr. The reply is from the Minister for Works and Housing, so it might pay the "galah" to listen to it. It reads—

"Dear Mr. Newton,

"I refer to your Question in the House on October 18, 1972 concerning the Trade Union Building Society.

"I am advised by the Registrar of Co-operative Building Societies that Messrs. Brown Patrick & Co., Chartered Accountants, are the auditors for the Trade Union Building Societies, and have certified that the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account of the society are properly drawn up in accordance with the Act and give a true and fair view of the society's affairs at 30th June, 1972.

"They also reported that the register of members and other records were properly kept and that the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account are in agreement with the books and records of the society."

Mr. Lane: I hope they never let you near the till.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Merthyr will contain himself.

Mr. DAVIS: The letter continues—

"They further commented that the rules relating to the administration of the society have been observed and the provisions of the Act relating to the making of advances have been observed.

"Yours sincerely,

"A. M. Hodges,

"Minister for Works and Housing."

I should like a chartered accountant to go through the books of the spec. building operations of the honourable member for Merthyr.

Mr. Lane: Why not talk about the Budget while you are at it.

Mr. DAVIS: I shall talk about the budget of the Trade Union Building Society and one of the unfounded statements of the honourable member for Merthyr. Fancy telling me to talk about the Budget; he restricted

his comments in this debate to slapping Sir Gordon on the back and saying what a mighty Budget it was.

I take umbrage at the fact that the honourable member for Merthyr attacked the board members of this co-operative society of which I was a foundation member. I am proud and happy to be associated with a group that has given workers an opportunity to purchase goods at the prices paid by some of the rich Liberals and Country Party members.

I should now like to deal with another member who in the Address-in-Reply debate and again yesterday had the audacity to use this Chamber to attack his fellow aldermen. I refer to the honourable member for Surfers Paradise. You, Sir Gordon, will remember him because before the election last May you made a few—

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member will address his remarks to other members through the Chair.

Mr. DAVIS: I shall direct them through you, Mr. Hewitt.

I wish to refer to the comment of the Leader of the Liberal Party in this Assembly, Sir Gordon Chalk, concerning the Mayor of the Gold Coast when he said that an individual such as Alderman Bruce Small, who wanted to be a one-man band, could never find a place in an area where teamwork counted.

Since this Parliament assembled, it has been seen that some members will use this place to raise any issue at all. All members know that in the Gold Coast City Council the mayor, because of his nasty ways, is nearly always outvoted. Yesterday in this Chamber a member—I think the honourable member for Townsville South—asked the honourable member for Surfers Paradise if his opposition of 10 out of 11 in the Gold Coast Council were A.L.P. members. The honourable member said, "I think they are."

Mr. BRUCE SMALL: I rise to a point of order. I did not say, "I think they are." That is entirely erroneous, and I ask that that statement be withdrawn.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Surfers Paradise has asked for a withdrawal in those terms.

Mr. DAVIS: I accept his explanation.

Sir Gordon Chalk: I wish I knew what you were talking about.

Mr. DAVIS: For the benefit of the Committee, I propose to enumerate the members of the Gold Coast City Council. I would have expected that the Leader of the Parliamentary Liberal Party would have been the first to come to the defence of a member of the council who was an endorsed Liberal candidate at the last election. The election is over, so we hear nothing from the Treasurer.

Let us look at the political affiliations of members of the Gold Coast City Council. The Mayor is Alderman Bruce Small, a member of the Country Party. The Deputy Mayor and chairman of the Works Committee is Mr. R. Neumann, who is an Independent. Alderman V. Laws, chairman of the Health Committee, was also a Country Party member, but I am led to believe that he resigned from that party because of the actions of the member for Surfers Paradise.

Mr. BRUCE SMALL: I rise to a point of order. The statement that there has been any resignation for that reason is entirely untrue, and I ask for its withdrawal.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Surfers Paradise asks for a withdrawal of that statement.

Mr. DAVIS: I withdraw it. Alderman Jack McIlwain was the endorsed Liberal candidate for Surfers Paradise at the last election. He is the chairman of the Finance Committee. We all remember Alderman Ern Harley, because he was another Liberal. He is also chairman of the Industrial Promotion Committee, and he was mayor for nine years. He was a Liberal candidate for the seat of Albert. This is the so-called Left Wing that is supposed to be interfering with the Gold Coast City Council.

There is then Alderman K. Hunt. He is a personal friend of mine, and a Labor member.

Government Members interjected.

Mr. DAVIS: That is right; he is a friend of mine. I do not duck away from friends, and I am not frightened to defend them. Alderman Keith Hunt is a Labor member. Alderman H. Bloyce is a member of the Finance Promotion Committee, and he is also a member of the Liberal Party.

Alderman Denis O'Connell is a Labor man. Alderman Colin Cox is a conservative and an Independent. Alderman N. Anderson is a member of the Country Party. He was a candidate in the plebiscite that was won by the honourable member for Surfers Paradise. Alderman J. Fradgley is a member of the Works and Industrial Promotion Committees. He is also the council's representative on the Southport Hospitals Board and a Country Party member. I think it is fair to show just where 10 of the 11 aldermen on the Gold Coast City Council stand.

I should like to make a couple of other comments relative to Alderman Andrew Small. I shall be reading something to the Committee, and I expect that there will be a few "ifs" and "buts" about this, too. However, since Alderman Small has made comments about his council colleagues, I think it also is fair for me to make some comments. I know only two people on the Gold Coast City Council. As I said earlier, Alderman Keith Hunt is a personal friend

of mine, and I met Alderman Neumann during the by-election campaign that was won by the late Mr. Heatley.

In the last few days I have carried out an investigation into Alderman Bruce Small himself. Concerning his comments regarding the construction of a civic and cultural centre by the Gold Coast City Council, I ask these questions, which the honourable member for Surfers Paradise might like to answer:

1. Is it not a fact that Andrew Bruce Small is a director of Bruce Small Enterprises Pty. Ltd.?

2. Is it not a fact that Bruce Small Enterprises Pty. Ltd. offered to sell land to the Gold Coast City Council for the construction of a civic centre?

3. Was this offer made on behalf of various companies for which Bruce Small Enterprises Pty. Ltd. operates as agent?

4. Did not the Gold Coast City Council refuse Bruce Small Enterprises Pty. Ltd.'s offer, and did Andrew Bruce Small vote on this and other issues relating to the civic centre site?

5. Is the Parliament aware of the matter that was before the Gold Coast City Council last Friday, in which a firm of solicitors representing Bruce Small Enterprises Pty. Ltd. and Edmonds and Small were acting with regard to a town-planning matter that is currently before the courts?

Parliament must be made aware that in this matter the council is acting at the request of, and in co-operation with, the Main Roads Department. In fact—and this is very important—the Main Roads Department has offered to pay 80 per cent of the costs associated with this case.

This local government appeal could involve multi-millions of dollars, yet we find this man Andrew Bruce Small, in his capacities of mayor of the Gold Coast and member of Her Majesty's Legislative Assembly, endeavouring by every means within his control to vilify and destroy the reputations of aldermen and council and governmental officers.

In support of this man's endeavours to gain the maximum financial benefit for his masters, namely, Industrial Acceptance Corporation, who operate in this area under the name of Riviera Pty. Ltd., in which they own 99 per cent of the shares—the other 1 per cent is owned by their managing director, Milverton Edmonds—this company, which is dominated by overseas banks, has seen fit to establish as a stooge in the Gold Coast City Council and this Parliament this man who, since his assumption of office, has done nothing but consistently endeavour to destroy the good name and reputation of people whose sole efforts have been dedicated towards the preservation of decency and the Australian way of life.

Documentary evidence is obtainable to support all these statements. Searches of the office of the Commissioner of Corporate

Affairs and Gold Coast City Council files will reveal the facts, and I suggest that nothing less than a royal commission of inquiry will suffice to investigate the whole sordid spectacle of the take-over of land development in the Gold Coast area by foreign companies who operate through various stooges, first among them being the said Andrew Bruce Small, who today has deceived the Committee with regard to the facts of last Friday's council meeting. The council then stood firm in its endeavours to protect this State's and this nation's taxpayers' funds from attack.

The method of fixing compensation for land resumption is well known to the Committee—compensation is paid at the current market value. The Committee would be interested to know that various sales of land that have taken place in the region of this freeway and civic centre at Benowa were fictitious and well above the current market value, and certain groups have been used quite innocently in the establishment of these false values.

Mr. BRUCE SMALL: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member's remarks are entirely and utterly untrue. I ask for their withdrawal.

Opposition Members: Which ones?

Mr. BRUCE SMALL: The ones concerning the freeway, particularly, but the majority of them are inferences and innuendoes that are false, and I ask for a withdrawal.

Mr. DAVIS: Whatever he wants withdrawn, fair enough!

Mr. BROMLEY: I rise to a point of order—

Government Members interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wharton): Order! When the Committee comes to order I will hear the point of order raised by the honourable member for South Brisbane.

Mr. BROMLEY: It is a fact that, within the council, the honourable member for Surfers Paradise votes on matters in which he has an interest.

Mr. DAVIS: The council stood firm in its endeavours to protect this State's and this nation's taxpayers' funds from attack. The method of paying compensation for resumed land is well known to this Committee. Compensation for land is paid at the current market value.

Mr. BRUCE SMALL: I rise to a point of order. The statements of the honourable member are entirely untrue. I have no interest whatsoever in any of the land he is referring to, nor did I have at the time he refers to. What the honourable member is saying is a pack of lies, and I ask for its withdrawal.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! I ask the honourable member for Brisbane to accept the denial and withdraw the statement. I also ask him to keep to the debate on the Budget.

Opposition Members interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! Parliament cannot be used as a vehicle for that kind of talk during a Budget debate.

Opposition Members interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! When the Committee comes to order I will ask the honourable member for Brisbane to continue his speech on the Budget.

Mr. DAVIS: I am speaking on the Budget. What I am dealing with is relevant to the allocation of the Minister for Local Government.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I rise to a point of order. I did not hear the honourable member for Brisbane withdraw the statement that was objected to by the honourable member for Surfers Paradise.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! I ask the honourable member for Brisbane to accept the denial of the honourable member for Surfers Paradise.

Mr. Sherrington: What's it got to do with the Premier?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! I warn the honourable member for Salisbury.

Mr. Sherrington: The honourable member for Merthyr has been interjecting all night. He can do as he likes.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. Sherrington: There are two rules in this Chamber.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! Under Standing Order 123A, I now order the honourable member for Salisbury to leave the Chamber.

Mr. Sherrington: You allow the honourable member for Merthyr to get away with anything.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! I have ordered the honourable member to leave the Chamber.

Whereupon the honourable member for Salisbury withdrew from the Chamber.

Opposition Members interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! I now ask the honourable member for Brisbane to continue with his speech. Before he does, however, I ask the Chamber to come to order.

Mr. DAVIS: I withdraw whatever it was you asked me to withdraw.

Mr. BRUCE SMALL: I rise to a point of order. The withdrawal has not yet been forthcoming.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Surfers Paradise has asked for a withdrawal. I ask the honourable member for Brisbane to withdraw the remark.

Mr. DAVIS: I withdraw for the third time.

I think we have to get a couple of things quite clear, Mr. Wharton. You have asked that I address my remarks to the Budget. I am talking about grants to local authorities. The Minister for Local Government is very keen and quick to "buy into" Brisbane City Council matters, but when it comes to another council he does not "buy into" it at all. I am speaking to the Budget. As far as I am concerned, this is part of the Budget.

Mr. McKechnie: My interest is with all local authorities.

Mr. DAVIS: Listen to gullible old Henry.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. DAVIS: The method of determining compensation for land is well known to this Committee. It is assessed at the current market value. The Committee will be interested to know that various sales of land that have taken place in the region of the freeway and civic centre at Benowra were fictitious and well above current market value.

Mr. BRUCE SMALL: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member is persisting in making untrue references to land matters. I have no interest whatsoever, nor have I ever had any interest, in the land that he is referring to. He has withdrawn the statement, but he persists with these inferences and innuendoes. His reference to compensation has nothing whatever to do with me.

THE TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Surfers Paradise has asked for a withdrawal. I ask the honourable member for Brisbane to do this. There is no need to repeat it once he has withdrawn it.

Mr. DAVIS: I withdraw.

Now, to continue, certain groups have been used quite innocently in the establishment of these false values. Since the sales I mentioned took place, very large cash donations have been made to hospitals and schools under the control of certain groups.

Mr. BRUCE SMALL: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member is persisting in reading from a prepared statement—

THE TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! Under Standing Order 126, the honourable member will resume his seat while I am

standing. The honourable member for Brisbane has made statements that are particularly offensive to the honourable member for Surfers Paradise. He continues to make those statements. I ask him either to continue with the Budget or to resume his seat.

Mr. DAVIS: I now refer to a statement dealing with someone other than the honourable member for Surfers Paradise. I am referring to land sales. Subsequent to these sales, very large cash donations have been made to hospitals and schools under the control of these groups, which have reimbursed them and made the original purchase a reasonable one. These groups were unaware of the implication.

On other occasions land has been sold, at high values, to private purchasers. At the same time, a house and land on the Isle of Capri changed hands at a nominal price. This matter of the Local Government Appeal Court and these false values being established right under the nose of this Government calls for urgent and thorough investigation. It is hoped that the Government will take the necessary action—and I refer particularly to the Local Government Minister—against any person or body which deliberately sets out to deceive the State and its people. Is the Government aware that Andrew Bruce Small has never declared an interest in any matter brought before the council and has voted on all of them?

Mr. BRUCE SMALL: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member is reading from a prepared statement which, on four counts, has already been declared to be a pack of lies. I ask that he be directed to desist.

Opposition Members interjected.

THE TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: The Committee will come to order. I warn the honourable member for Brisbane that, if he continues making accusations that are offensive and untrue, he will be ordered to resume his seat.

Mr. DAVIS: I wish to continue my speech, Mr. Wharton, and I draw another point to your attention. You would not know what I am going to say, but I intend to point out that what I am saying constituted a complete avoidance of the Local Government Act. I will tell the Committee something about Andrew Bruce Small right now.

Honourable Members interjected.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! The Chamber will come to order and will hear the honourable member for Brisbane in silence. I warn honourable members on both sides of the Chamber.

Mr. Tucker interjected.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! The Deputy Leader of the Opposition will not reflect on the Chair. I make my rulings

impartially. I call the Chamber to order, and ask the honourable member for Brisbane to continue with his speech.

Mr. DAVIS: I should like to make the comment that during the Address-in-Reply debate the honourable member for Surfers Paradise attacked one of his aldermen over the supply of gravel to the council. The honourable member for Surfers Paradise is also a director of a company that supplied gravel to the Gold Coast City Council.

Mr. BRUCE SMALL: I rise to a point of order.

Mr. DAVIS: The name of the company is—

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Brisbane will resume his seat while I hear the point of order. While I am listening to the point of order, honourable members will remain silent. If they persist with their rowdy conduct I will invoke Standing Orders. I call upon the honourable member for Surfers Paradise to state his point of order.

Mr. Burns: He's still an old crook.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! I warn the honourable member for Lytton.

Mr. Burns: He's the mayor of the Gold Coast, and—

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Lytton will leave the Chamber.

Mr. Burns: He's still an old crook.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! I have already ordered the honourable member for Lytton to leave the Chamber.

Whereupon the honourable member for Lytton withdrew from the Chamber.

Mr. BRUCE SMALL: The statement of the honourable member for Brisbane that I am a director of a company supplying gravel to the Gold Coast City Council is entirely untrue, and I ask that it be withdrawn.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Surfers Paradise has asked the honourable member for Brisbane to withdraw the statement.

Mr. DAVIS: I do not know if I can.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member will withdraw the statement.

Mr. DAVIS: Very well, Mr. Hewitt, I withdraw the statement.

Mr. R. Jones interjected.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Cairns will hold his peace.

Mr. DAVIS: I conclude on this note, Mr. Hewitt. I shall abide by the agreement arrived at between the two Whips. Even though Government members have tried to interrupt my speech, the name of the quarry is Ted Brown's quarry, and it does supply gravel to the Gold Coast City Council.

Mr. Jensen: Keep going.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Bundaberg will cease interjecting.

Mr. DAVIS: As I said, that quarry does supply gravel to the Gold Coast City Council.

Sir GORDON CHALK: Mr. Hewitt,—

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: I call the Treasurer.

Mr. N. F. JONES: I rise to a point of order. This is supposed to be the Budget debate, in which we are each allotted one hour. The honourable member for Brisbane has spoken for only 40 minutes, and I—

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member can only take a point of order in personal terms.

Mr. N. F. JONES: I am taking a point of order, Mr. Hewitt. The Treasurer is applying the gag.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! The gag is not being applied, and there is no valid point of order. The honourable member for Brisbane resumed his seat, and the honourable member for Everton will now resume his.

Mr. N. F. JONES: I have sat in this Chamber for—

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Everton will leave the Chamber.

Mr. N. F. JONES: I will leave the Chamber in a minute. I have sat in this House for three weeks and have not been allowed to open my mouth to say anything about the Budget.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! If the honourable member for Everton does not leave the Chamber, I will name him.

Mr. N. F. JONES: Name me.

NAMING OF MEMBER

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: I name the honourable member for Everton for disregarding the authority of the Chair.

Mr. Lane: Why don't you go out and sit on the bitumen?

Mr. N. F. Jones: I won't go and sit on the bitumen. You should go and sit in the gutter.

The House resumed.

SUSPENSION OF MEMBER

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Mr. Speaker, I have to report that in Committee I named the honourable member for Everton for disregarding the authority of the Chair.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Chairman reports that in Committee he named the honourable member for Everton for disregarding the authority of the Chair.

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

“That the honourable member for Everton be suspended from the service of the House for seven days.”

Mr. Davis interjected.

Mr. Tucker: You're joking!

Question put; and the House divided—
In division—

Honourable Members interjecting—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I remind honourable members that, even though a division is being taken, they are still under the control of the Chair, and I expect each and every one of them to observe the usual decorum of the House.

Honourable Members interjected.

Mr. Bromley interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! If the honourable member for South Brisbane continues to put on an act, I will deal with him under Standing Order 123A after the division. I would not like to send him out.

AYES, 33

Ahern	McKechnie
Alison	Miller
Armstrong	Murray
Bjelke-Petersen	Neal
Chalk	Newbery
Chinchen	Porter
Crawford	Rae
Edwards	Row
Fletcher	Small
Frawley	Sullivan
Gunn	Tomkins
Hewitt, N. T. E.	Tooth
Hewitt, W. D.	Wharton
Hinze	
Hooper, K. W.	<i>Tellers:</i>
Hughes	Moore, R. E.
Kaus	Müller
Lane	

NOES, 26

Aiken	Melloy
Baldwin	Moore, F. P.
Blake	Newton
Bousen	O'Donnell
Bromley	Tucker
D'Arcy	Wallis-Smith
Davis	Wood, B.
Dean	Wood, P.
Hanlon	Wright
Inch	Yewdale
Jensen	<i>Tellers:</i>
Jones, N. F.	Jones, R.
Jordan	Marginson
Leese	

Resolved in the affirmative.

Whereupon the honourable member for Everton withdrew from the Chamber.

SUPPLY

COMMITTEE—FINANCIAL STATEMENT—
RESUMPTION OF DEBATE

Honourable Members interjected.

The **ACTING CHAIRMAN**: Order! I intend to maintain decorum in the Chamber and, if necessary, enforce discipline to that end.

Hon. Sir GORDON CHALK (Lockyer—Treasurer) (7.59 p.m.), in reply: The conduct of the Committee, during the past 40 or 50 minutes, was not in the best interests of this Parliament. A deliberate attempt was made by the honourable member for Brisbane to repeat certain allegations which, without doubt, were being read from prepared material. The honourable member for Surfers Paradise very clearly indicated to the honourable member for Brisbane that the notes from which he was speaking were offensive to him and were based on false premises, and he sought a withdrawal. I think it ill behoves the honourable member for Brisbane to ignore a principle which has been accepted in this Parliament for a long time.

Mr. Davis: Rubbish!

Sir GORDON CHALK: That shows the calibre of the man. He is prepared to use this Chamber for the purpose of making remarks that are nothing more than defamatory statements about other members.

Mr. DAVIS: I rise to a point of order. The Treasurer's remarks are offensive to me, and I ask that they be withdrawn.

The **ACTING CHAIRMAN**: Order! The honourable member finds the Treasurer's comments offensive and asks for their withdrawal.

Sir GORDON CHALK: I have been in this Parliament long enough to know that if an honourable member takes a point of order on the ground that a remark is offensive to him, the remark must be based on false premises. I have repeated exactly what the honourable member said, and, consequently, I suggest to you, Mr. Hewitt, that there is no point of order because there is nothing incorrect in what I have said. There is nothing for me to withdraw.

The **ACTING CHAIRMAN**: Order! The Treasurer must not debate my ruling. I have ruled that his comment should be withdrawn, and I ask him to withdraw it.

Sir GORDON CHALK: I bow to your ruling, Mr. Hewitt. Having said that, let me return to the Budget debate, because I have a limited time in which to reply.

The **ACTING CHAIRMAN**: Order! The honourable gentleman will formally withdraw.

Sir GORDON CHALK: I withdrew.

The **ACTING CHAIRMAN**: The honourable gentleman did not.

Sir GORDON CHALK: I said I withdrew that remark.

The **ACTING CHAIRMAN**: Thank you.

Sir GORDON CHALK: I now return to what I hope will be the more serious side of the debate (if one can describe it as a debate) that has taken place in this Chamber over the last seven days.

Mr. Bromley: Excuse me while I go out and vomit.

Sir GORDON CHALK: You would be a dirty old man even without vomiting. You are like the person on the bus.

Honourable Members interjected.

The **ACTING CHAIRMAN**: Order!

Sir GORDON CHALK: Has the honourable member left the Chamber?

Mr. Bromley: I have not left yet.

The **ACTING CHAIRMAN**: Order! I warn the honourable member for South Brisbane.

Sir GORDON CHALK: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member's remark is offensive to me, and I ask that it be withdrawn. He said he had not left the Chamber. Now he has "dingoed" and walked outside. Is he in the Chamber, Mr. Hewitt?

The **ACTING CHAIRMAN**: Order! The honourable member will withdraw.

Whereupon the honourable member for South Brisbane withdrew from the Chamber.

Sir GORDON CHALK: I still say he is a dingo, because he has left.

I now turn to the more serious side of this debate. We have listened for the last seven days to the remarks of the 55 members who have spoken in this debate. I have endeavoured to analyse the speeches made on the Opposition side and, quite candidly, I feel that there is really very little that I, as Treasurer of Queensland, am called upon to reply to. I looked carefully through not only the speeches as recorded in "Hansard" but notes that I took during certain portions of honourable members' speeches.

There has been no indication by the Opposition of any real condemnation of the Budget. To me, as I believe it should be to all members, the Budget is the most important issue debated in this Chamber. It sets out in broad principles, and in detail, the programmes that the Government proposes for the next 12 months. It shows quite clearly the particular services, and the extent of those services, that the Government intends to provide. The Budget is of particular concern to all members, whether they be in Government or in Opposition, for it sums up what

the Government is about to do. It gives the reasons for governmental action, and it indicates when the proposals will be carried out.

Each member has a responsibility to express his views on what might be achieved, and I believe that the Government is entitled to hear from the Opposition its collective views so that the people of Queensland have a clear indication of what would be the position if the Opposition were the Government of this State.

What alternative services would the Opposition provide for Queensland? I think that every Queenslanders is entitled to know that. What, in its view, should the Government have done in the Budget? What should the Government have left undone? These are the challenges that are before the Opposition when the Budget is being debated in this Chamber. I have listened to the debate over the past seven days, and although, as I said earlier, 55 honourable members have taken part in the debate, I can find little condemnation by the Opposition of the policies that have been advanced by the Government.

Apparently honourable members opposite have no original financial views of their own. They cannot suggest any basically different course of action that they would have taken. Apparently Labor would have instituted the same fiscal policies. Perhaps they are envious of the Government's financial record and the way in which it has secured financial stability in the State's account and the relative prosperity of its economy that permits such a progressive fiscal policy. They did not appear to be in a position at any stage to trot out their own policies for comparison. That is what I believe they should do; that is what the people of Queensland expect from an Opposition. If the Opposition finds nothing to criticise and has no alternatives to suggest in basic Budget policy, surely it must endorse it. I believe that members of the Opposition generally have endorsed it, because there have not been any remarks to the contrary.

Firstly, Mr. Hewitt, let us look over all at the relative position in which the Government now has this State's finances. No honourable member can deny that Queensland is now in the best position of any Australian State. There was no real criticism of the Government's policy of attaining a healthy and stable position for the finances of the State, other than from the honourable member for Baroona. I shall always differ from him on this question, because he has consistently advocated, over the years that I have been Treasurer, what might be termed "better deficits". His argument is that it is better to plunge this State into some form of bankruptcy than to continue the basic policies that the Government has followed. I am sure that all reasonable men will be satisfied with the Government's policy of solvency in this State. It is far better than having a deficit.

Mr. HANLON: I rise to a point of order. I do not wish to interrupt the Treasurer, because I had an hour in which to speak, but I find it offensive of him to suggest that I would want to plunge the State into bankruptcy. I did suggest that the Opposition might have found better use for \$750,000 than to put it aside in a fund—

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable gentleman has made his point.

Mr. HANLON: I suggested that there were urgent things on which a surplus could have been spent.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Baroona has taken exception to the statement that he would plunge the State into bankruptcy.

Sir GORDON CHALK: I accept the assurance of the honourable member for Baroona that he would not plunge the State into bankruptcy. I say that he has advocated year in and year out that Queensland should go into heavy deficit, and I shall leave the people of the State to judge whether or not that would mean heading for bankruptcy.

Apparently the Opposition would have adopted the policies that the Government has adopted, because, as I said earlier, it has not indicated otherwise. When we think of the major strategy of the Budget, Mr. Hewitt, a strategy of no increases in taxation or charges and a reduction in some other directions, is it any wonder that the Opposition did not try to climb onto that band wagon?

I refer the Committee to the comments of the honourable member for Ipswich West, the shadow Treasurer, the honourable member for Isis, the honourable member for South Brisbane, and several other honourable members, that the Budget did nothing to stem inflation. That was the argument they advanced.

Firstly, let us be honest and note that the cost factor was the main note of caution that I sounded when presenting the Budget. Secondly, let us realise that the control of the economy of this country is basically a Commonwealth responsibility. Then let us acknowledge that, as far as a State Budget can help, this Budget has done so in this year. It has not increased imposts, and has actually reduced them in some areas. At the same time it has greatly increased expenditure in those areas where pockets of unemployment were showing up.

Opposition members who spoke on this subject were obviously jumping on the band wagon, but they were boarding it for the wrong reasons. They made out that their prime concern was the effect of rising costs on the purchasing power of wage and salary-earners, whereas their real concern should have been for the effect on the export industries that could be priced out of overseas markets. If ever there was

a time in the history of Australia, and of Queensland in particular, when we must secure every export market we can, it is now. We have secured that export market to build up our own productivity. We have secured it for a purpose, and that purpose was to ensure continuity of employment for those engaged in the export industries.

Despite the efforts of the Opposition to spread gloom and doom, I am pleased to say that the standard of living and the purchasing power of our average salary and wage-earner have never been so good.

The honourable member for Redlands laughs. He was a school-teacher. He laughs at the fact that the worker is getting a fair deal in this State. Let us have a look at the wage-earner's position in the last year. His earnings increased by 11.83 per cent.

Mr. BALDWIN: I rise to a point of order. I did not laugh at the fact that the worker is getting more money. I laughed at the Treasurer's twisted statement.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! There is no valid point of order.

Sir GORDON CHALK: Let me explain to the honourable member for Redlands that in the last year the wage-earner in this State has received an increase of 11.83 per cent in his pay envelope. At the same time the consumer price index in this State increased by only 6.48 per cent. Obviously the man in the street has more in his pocket today than he had 12 months ago. His wages have gone up by 11.83 per cent and the consumer price index has gone up by only 6.48 per cent.

It is a matter of fact and no doubt of clear concern to the prophets of doom opposite that since the Country-Liberal Government came to the Treasury benches in Queensland in 1957-58 average wages have increased by 143.7 per cent, while the consumer price index has increased by only 53 per cent. The average salary and wage-earner can now clearly buy more with his pay-packet than he could when Labor was in office. What I have given are the Commonwealth Statistician's figures. They show quite clearly that the average pay-packet today buys 59.2 per cent more than it did in the dying days of Labor in this State. Those are facts and figures that cannot be denied.

Of course, this is one of the reasons why Labor will continue to wander in the wilderness of Opposition in Queensland for many years to come. Not only are the people's standards of living higher, not only do their pay packets buy more, but the average man can see also that the facilities now provided by this Government are for the betterment of the people as a whole. We have better conditions for Crown employees. We have a soundly based economy. Whoever would want to change over to the rabble we have seen demonstrating in the Chamber tonight?

The next major policy point in the State's finances is our approach to the Commonwealth Grants Commission. This is an important feature of our present financial policy. It has made it possible for Queensland to really leap ahead with its services to its people in the coming period. What is Labor's real view on this policy?

We have had barrels of Opposition opinion on this matter—empty barrels—but no really clear criticism of the Government's approach to the Grants Commission. The honourable member for Baroona feels that perhaps we should have gone to the Commission sooner, while the honourable member for Townsville West, the honourable member for Cairns and others, still reading from the Commonwealth Government case presented to the Grants Commission, trotted out the A.L.P.'s threadbare, hackneyed and inaccurate arguments on the Grants Commission that had already failed them when they tried to use this type of propaganda at the last State election.

In the debate on the Appropriation Bill in August last, I explained the ramifications of our Grants Commission application fairly and fully, and I suggest to the honourable gentlemen that they take a period off to re-read what was said at that time.

I again refute most emphatically any statement by the A.L.P. that the Queensland submission was a poor one. I say categorically that it was expertly prepared and, there is no doubt, most successful. It has meant an additional \$9,000,000 as an advance for 1971-72 and an additional \$10,000,000, also as an advance only, for 1972-73. Furthermore, it does not mean, as some of these honourable gentlemen would have us believe, that this Government has bankrupted the State and that this is the reason for the approach to the Grants Commission. I am sure that any reasonable person who can read and understand a set of figures will agree that Queensland's finances are in the soundest position of any State in Australia.

Once again it was very hard to follow the Opposition's argument on this question of bankrupting the State. There seems to be no single A.L.P. policy on these major issues. They speak with many tongues. First, I listened to the honourable member for Salisbury and the honourable member for Cairns both saying that we had bankrupted the State and had gone begging to the Grants Commission. Then we had the honourable member for Baroona, the former shadow Treasurer, expounding the theory of bigger deficits and earlier application to the Grants Commission. Which of these opposite points of view is the A.L.P. policy on the State's application to the Grants Commission? They both cannot be right. Therefore, I say that the Opposition is nothing more than a rabble.

What is Labor's view on the record increase in spending from our Consolidated Revenue Fund—a record in amount and a

record in percentage increase, all achieved with no increase in taxation? This was a major matter of financial policy that escaped all Opposition comment. There was no criticism by the Opposition that the Government was spending too much.

What of the Government's policy with respect to financial allocations to education? Opposition members apparently now agree with the Government's policy of increasing the priority for education in the allocation of our resources, despite their own contrary and shocking record during the time they were in office. Except for a query on the calculation of percentages—which I will clear up when I refer particularly to the honourable member concerned—there was no real criticism of the Government's policy of giving education 33 per cent of funds available to it, compared with Labor's 25 per cent.

There was no criticism of the Government's policy of increasing teacher strengths at such a rapid rate as a net 1,000 a year, thus reducing our class sizes to acceptable levels from the overcrowded conditions under the previous Labor regime. True, there were criticisms of some aspects of our education programme and some of the methods of implementation of this programme, to which I will refer later. But the basic policies of the Government with respect to its allocations and appropriations to education are apparently quite acceptable to the Opposition.

For example, there has been no objection to the major expenditure effort we now plan for our new pre-school service, and no fault has been found with our policy of substantially increasing subsidies to kindergartens and charities that are providing services for afflicted children. Whether there is basic objection or not to the Government's realistic policy of financial assistance to non-State schools, the A.L.P. certainly avoided any criticism of it in public. We are not wrong, apparently, in increasing our subsidies to school transport services or in substantially increasing our grants in support of cultural activities in this State—a service which, of course, was simply non-existent during the time of the previous Labor Government.

As far as our health and hospital policies are concerned, there is no criticism of the Government policy of substantially increasing the staff strengths in our hospitals by a total of 1,124 this year. As a matter of fact, despite Mr. Hayden's proposal to bill the Queensland public for the use of hospital facilities, which they presently get free of cost, the State Labor policy apparently runs along with the Government policy of free public hospitals. Let members of the Opposition deny that—if they are game.

Mr. Jensen interjected.

Sir GORDON CHALK: All right, Labor denies a free hospital system to the people of Queensland.

Mr. JENSEN: I rise to a point of order. The Labor Party introduced this scheme.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! There is no valid point of order.

Sir GORDON CHALK: The new Government scheme for assisting charitable organisations to provide private and intermediate hospital facilities was not really welcomed by the members of the Opposition, and I could only presume that their policy would be that this assistance should not have been granted. The Leader of the Opposition and the honourable member for Ipswich West said that the Government should have been providing these facilities from the Budget, which, of course, would have had to be at the expense of some other facility or some other service. They do not say which they would have cut out. The fact is, however, that something would have to be eliminated elsewhere in the programme, whereas the Government policy, with which the Leader of the Opposition disagrees, is that we have a new scheme that will allow us to have our full programme and the new private and intermediate hospitals as well. The charitable organisations who want to provide these facilities can now do so with the Government assisting with interest as provided for in this Budget.

There is apparently nothing really wrong with the financial policies of the Government. No real alternative policy has been submitted by either the Leader or the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

The Leader of the Opposition and several other members of the Opposition held themselves out as the champions of the cause of electrification of the Brisbane suburban rail system. Once again members of the Labor Opposition are hopping onto the Government band wagon in an effort to claim for themselves credit for what the Government is about to do. The Government has accepted in broad principle the Wilbur Smith plan for public transport in the metropolitan area. This plan will be implemented in stages. The first three, involving the provision of a cross-river bridge linking the north and south rail systems, the electrification of the system itself, the provision of modern stations and bus terminals and car parks at those stations, are about to commence. These first three stages are expected to cost in the vicinity of \$108,000,000 and to be completed over the next 10 years.

The Government is now in the process of examining plans and programmes in some detail so that their implementation can proceed with the least delay and the maximum benefit for the money to be expended. We have already commenced the planning of the Merivale Bridge, the first project in the whole plan, and it is expected that work will commence on this bridge during the current financial year. If the present studies

show that the commencement of the electrification is the next project to get under way, funds will be made available to allow this work also to commence during this financial year.

The Government's policy for the management and co-ordination of urban transport is under active consideration. Obviously some control has to be exercised over the various forms of public transport. Various alternatives, ranging from a co-ordinating authority to outright ownership and management by a transport authority, are being examined. I expect that, within this financial year also, the powers and responsibilities, and the constitutional framework of the authority, will have been determined and the personnel appointed.

On the question of flood control in the Brisbane area, I can now announce that the initial study by the Government's engaged consultants has advanced to the stage where it is clear that, in the Enoggera, Breakfast Creek and Ithaca catchment areas and the surrounds of Kedron Brook, a viable scheme can be proceeded with. A programme of works of a permanent nature is now being drawn up for these catchment areas, and methods of finance are being examined.

When these plans are completed, every opportunity will be afforded the Brisbane City Council to co-operate with the Government in the ultimate implementation. It is expected that certain work of a substantial nature will be commenced during this financial year. The flooding of these areas has been a feature of Brisbane since it was first settled, and it is clearly evident to those who have examined the position clearly that to proceed with any temporary works pending the commencement of the major scheme itself would only be a waste of financial resources.

Unfortunately, one of the costly features of this work will be the resumption of certain properties. These will be required not only to permit of the flood-mitigation works themselves; they will also involve those cases where properties are so situated that no mitigation scheme could possibly protect them from flooding.

It is my intention to propose in the first instance that the State Government contribute 33½ per cent of the cost of the works as a subsidy to the Brisbane City Council, and then to ensure that the council is provided with sufficient loan money to finance the remainder. On the other hand, the State Government is prepared to approach the Commonwealth Government to have the scheme recognised as a flood-mitigation scheme attracting Commonwealth financial participation. If the scheme is accepted by the Commonwealth Government, I would then expect that the Commonwealth and State Governments would each contribute 40 per cent of the cost. That would leave the rate-payers of Brisbane with only 20 per cent to find.

Mr. Hanlon: Will you indicate whether you intend to give any single body authority to take action in an emergency situation?

Sir GORDON CHALK: At present we have made certain arrangements about general flooding. I make it quite clear that under this scheme we propose to get on with the work as quickly as we can. I do not believe that we should attend to a small job in one particular place, which would perhaps relieve the situation for only half a dozen properties while 100 properties close by would not be helped. I believe that we should spread our money to benefit the greatest possible number of people. I hope that the money spent this financial year and next financial year will bring relief not to one or two people situated in a particular area, but right across the board.

Mr. Hanlon: Do you intend to have one particular department looking after this problem?

Sir GORDON CHALK: We will certainly have it controlled by one department when we are ready to proceed.

I now turn to some points of detail that were put forward by the various honourable members who contributed to the debate.

The Leader of the Opposition, who of course led the debate, set the pattern for most of his colleagues. He jabbed and sparred through his round, but so far as I could see there was not one telling punch. Half way through his little joust he needed a breather, and he took up quite a deal of what could be regarded as very valuable Budget-debate time—time that could have been spent in critical analysis of the Budget—in continuing a personal and internal controversy with two former members of his party, namely, the honourable member for Mackay and Mr. Colin Bennett, the former member for South Brisbane.

The honourable member made the point that our financial assistance grants payments from the Commonwealth were the State's by right, and that these grants from the Commonwealth should be bigger and should be untied. I am sure all honourable members would agree that we should get more money. Every Queensland would welcome such a situation.

I wonder, however, whether the honourable member first checked this argument with his Federal parliamentary leader. What would Gough Whitlam, probably the most ardent centralist the A.L.P. has had to endure, give to the States in untied grants? A.L.P. Federal policy is very clear on this point if one takes the time to read it. The A.L.P. does not want the States. It seeks to concentrate power in Canberra where it would need only a few Hawks to control the lives and destinies of every Australian from Perth to Cooktown. A Federal A.L.P. would not give the State larger unconditional financial assistance grants. It would tie up the funds with so many strings that the States, and the

people who live in them, would be mere puppets on those strings with no say whatever over their own destinies.

The Leader of the Opposition also presented points of view on succession and probate duties. The honourable members for Roma, Baroona, Windsor, Fassifern, Kurilpa and others also spoke on this vital issue. I propose not to discuss these points at this stage. I shall leave them for further debate when legislation is introduced shortly to reduce these duties.

The Leader of the Opposition has again raised the question of the value of mining royalties to the Queensland community. This matter has been explained so often that I am sure the honourable gentleman believes that if he repeats an inaccuracy often enough he may eventually believe it himself. I said in my Budget speech that, in the year 1971-72 alone, the net profits accruing to our rail system from mineral haulages was \$11,100,000. Clearly, then, the royalty alone is not the total value to the total State Budget. To the royalty receipts must be added the \$11,100,000 in clear profit to the rail system, plus the benefits of a booming economy that flow into the State Treasury in the form of increased stamp duty, payroll tax, licence fees, etc. In addition, of course, we have the new rail asset to the State's account. We have the new towns, new ports, new support industries, increased employment opportunities, increased pay-packets in the pockets of those employees, increased overseas balances to the benefit of the whole Australian economy, and so on.

My colleague the Minister for Mines and Main Roads has also spoken on this matter, and has explained quite fully the benefits accruing to the State from our mining operations. Of course, with the A.L.P.'s vested interest in unemployment and discontented employees, this sort of development and these types of benefit to the workers and the people of Australia clearly rankle with them. They score their votes from depression and discontent, and this they must attempt to foster, whether real or imagined.

The Leader of the Opposition also made charges of empire-building in his reference to the increased staff for the Public Service Board. Once again he has missed the vital point in the whole issue. One of the functions of the Public Service Board is to administer and control the size and disposition of the Public Service strength. A pinch-penny attitude towards the body that is working to promote the efficiency of the service, and that examines, controls and determines staff complements needed to carry out the expanding Government services, is a short-sighted one indeed.

Without a full complement in the board's staff, this essential control on Public Service staff complements and efficiencies would suffer, and a consequential wastage of funds would be the result. The Public Service as a whole has expanded in recent times with

the growing complexity of public administration and the introduction of new schemes and policies of the Government. I am satisfied that the increase in staff within the Department of the Public Service Board has been essential to ensure economy and efficiency within the expanded responsibility of the Public Service generally.

In his attack on the greatly increased budget for the Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs, the Leader of the Opposition asked for officers of the department to be identified by race. This the Government will never do. It has been policy, stated in this Chamber, that the Government regards its employees as public servants irrespective of colour, race or creed.

On this point, however, if the honourable member were to move around the State and observe what is happening, he would see ample evidence of the very positive and real approach by the department in encouraging Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders to share in the responsibilities of departmental administration.

The significant increase in staff numbers that he queries is simply explained, in the main, by the transfer of Torres Strait Islander teachers (who provide a splendid service to their own people) from the wages staff paid from Contingencies Vote to the Salaries Vote. A similar situation exists in regard to the clerical staff and clerk-typists in the Thursday Island office. This also applies to those Islander and Aboriginal girls who have pioneered pre-school education for the children on the reserves. Managers, assistant managers, and liaison officers, of course, refer to personnel employed on the various communities throughout the State. Thus any actual significant increase in staff is in the field, and operating at "grass roots" level.

With the considerable expansion in social welfare, health, housing, employment and education, all directed towards encouragement of Aboriginal Queenslanders, further offices have been opened at Cunnamulla, Normanton, Mareeba, Maryborough and Mount Isa. Provision is being made for an office at Mackay, as well as for the upgrading of the Normanton and Mount Isa offices.

By the appointment of Aboriginal rangers—the first in the Carnarvons and the second soon to be appointed for Cape York at Laura—Queensland leads the way in attempting to preserve the culture and heritage of its Aborigines. This is not being done, however, without an increase in the staff of the department.

Finally on this point, let me say that a close liaison and duality in both administration and training programmes exist between the Departments of Education and Aboriginal and Island Affairs. At the most appropriate time, a transfer of all schools and their functions to the Education Department will be made.

The Leader of the Opposition and the honourable member for Isis attempted to score a point on the percentage of total Consolidated Revenue Funds expenditure that this Government devotes to education. To illustrate the priorities the Government gives to education compared with those of the previous Labor Government, I stated in my Budget speech that, whereas the Labor Government allocated 25 per cent of its resources to education, the Country-Liberal Party has, in a decade and a half, increased the proportion to 33 per cent.

Both members to whom I referred queried the 33 per cent figure that I had used. In explanation, I point out that in both years, namely, the 1957 Labor year and the 1972 Country-Liberal Party year, I excluded revenues that under no circumstances would be available for education, such as specially provided drought-relief funds and the earnings of the railways. Quite understandably, the railway earnings are used primarily in the payment of wages and operating costs of the railway system itself, and a fair assessment of the resources available for allocation to education and other services must exclude rail-freight revenues.

The honourable members who advanced this argument included rail revenues, and came up with the answer that only 25 per cent of total revenues, not 33 per cent as I had mentioned, was presently being allocated to education. They can use these figures if they wish, but if we go back to the 1957 Labor year and include rail revenues in that calculation also, we find that the comparable percentage allocation to education under Labor then was only 14.2 per cent. On this basis, using the same figures that Labor wishes to use, we find that the Government allocates 25 per cent of its total revenues to education, whereas Labor made a provision for education of only 14.2 per cent. This, of course, from my point of view is a worse indictment of the Labor Party than the figures I had used. I repeat that these showed that Labor in its last year allocated 25.68 per cent of its resources to education, whereas the Government, because of the increased priority it gives to education, is now allocating 33 per cent of its total available resources to education.

Let me also correct the Leader of the Opposition and the honourable member for Isis in their use of percentages to attempt to show a reduction in primary industry allocation from 6.49 per cent in 1970-71 to 3.53 per cent in 1971-72. I wonder if the honourable members were aware of the significance of the figures on which they were working. They should have been, because the statement in the Auditor-General's report from which they took the figures had sufficient footnotes to be fully explanatory, and those footnotes pointed out that in both years the payments to primary industry included drought relief payments. The first year that the honourable gentleman used—1970-71—was a year of severe drought

and included payments of drought assistance to primary industries totalling \$15,200,000. In 1971-72 drought conditions had eased and the payments for drought relief assistance totalled only \$2,800,000. Now, if one wished to see just how much of the State Budget is allocated to primary industries, it would be reasonable to exclude both these drought relief payments when making a comparison. I will leave the honourable members to do the sum themselves on realistic figures, but I will tell them that it shows an increase in proportions allocated in 1971-72 over 1970-71.

I point out, however, that the allocations from Consolidated Revenue Fund are not even half the story of the assistance that the Government affords to primary industries. The major support to these industries comes from the Agricultural Bank, the new State dairy scheme, the Commonwealth-State marginal dairy scheme, rural reconstruction, farm water supplies, and the Woolgrowers' Assistance Fund, all of which this year amount to \$34,000,000, in addition to the allocations out of Consolidated Revenue Fund.

The Leader of the Opposition attempted to score also from the figures showing a reduced allocation this year to the Commonwealth Marginal Dairy Farms Reconstruction Scheme. The facts are that the Commonwealth scheme involved a provision of \$25,000,000 to the States. By 30 June 1972, total Commonwealth advances were \$10,700,000, of which Queensland has secured \$8,300,000. A further \$2,000,000 is expected to be received by Queensland in 1972-73, and this will virtually complete operations in this State under the scheme.

This is a truly remarkable effort by the Queensland Department of Lands. It is a job well done and we should commend all those responsible for it—the Commonwealth Government; the State Lands Department, which is administering the scheme; and the Commonwealth and State officers who have assisted in the negotiations and those who have now implemented the scheme so successfully and expeditiously. It is something of which the Government is proud. The new State scheme announced in the Budget is, firstly, a supplementary one to take care of those areas not covered by the Commonwealth scheme and, secondly, to provide funds to assist dairy producers who wish to convert to bulk-milk supply.

On the question of housing balances at 30 June each year, I point out that these are committed funds for contracts already let and in many cases for houses under construction. The funds carried forward at 30 June are utilised the following financial year and are all spent in the first few weeks of the new year.

I shall now proceed to deal briefly with the comments of a number of honourable members who took part in the debate. The honourable member for Roma gave an

enlightened commentary on the Budget generally and obviously was sincere in his concern for the problems of primary industry. He concentrated mainly on probate and succession duties and, as I said earlier, these matters can be debated at some length when I introduce legislation in the near future.

I think I should draw the attention of the Committee to the fact that probate and succession duties contribute \$20,000,000 per annum for State services. There are arguments for and against their retention, but no honourable member on either side of the Chamber has suggested a satisfactory alternative means of raising an equivalent amount of revenue.

The honourable member for Townsville West introduced his speech on the Budget with a long, heart-rending lament about his lack of understanding of the financial documents, his inability to analyse them, and the frustration felt by him and his colleagues because, as he claimed, there was no-one to explain to them the "ins and outs" of Governmental financial policies and accounting procedures. He then went on to demonstrate just how great is his need for tuition in these areas, not only as regards research into the published documents but also in relation to the rudiments of State financial management and the Commonwealth-State relationship.

I should have thought that the man the Opposition apparently puts forward as the alternative Treasurer of the State would have sufficiently understood State finances to at least interpret the significance of the various items in the Budget. I point out to the honourable member that the financial affairs of the State Government are complex. They cover expenditures in excess of \$1,350 million, and no matter how many supplementary explanatory documents were submitted, it would be impossible to make them as simple to understand as the financial affairs of a football club.

His admitted ignorance of the financial affairs of the State may explain why he was so far astray in the rest of his contribution to the debate. I have already corrected his inaccuracies and misconceptions about royalties, the State's application to the Commonwealth Grants Commission, his education miscalculation and his inflation theory with respect to this Budget.

The honourable member referred to this Budget as a "hand-out Budget" or a "Billy McMahon Budget" or a "Gordon Chalk swan-song Budget", and said that it was quite out of character with the usual Budgets. Has he not noticed the trend of improvement in State finances and Budgets over recent years? Apparently he could not understand last year's Budget either. Did he not appreciate the tremendous improvements made in that year in our education system, in our kindergarten grants, in our assistance to charitable institutions, our major increase in State aid to non-State

schools, and in special grants to primary industries with the \$10,000,000 wool-growers scheme?

I have been trying to point out to honourable members opposite that as a direct result of the policies of this Government the finances of the State are the healthiest of any State in the Commonwealth. The fact that we could make all these improvements in last year's Budget and this year's Budget without recourse to increased taxation proves surely beyond doubt that the Government's financial policies in the past have been the correct ones.

Once again the honourable member for Toowong made a worth-while contribution to the debate. He dealt with his subject with customary eloquence. His comments are always well considered and to the point, as they were on this occasion. I now wish to refer to several issues the honourable member raised. He felt that the allocation of \$250,000 for sporting subsidies could have been more. I would point out that this is a new venture, and \$250,000 is seen as an adequate sum to get this new Government scheme established and under way. There will certainly be increased allocations in succeeding years when our experience in this field will enable the Government to pinpoint the areas of real need.

The honourable member was also concerned that the new Government pre-school programme might be confined to a few showplaces. The Government's policy is that the pre-school system will be implemented right throughout the State as quickly as it is physically and financially possible, having regard also to the high standard that is intended for this service. I repeat that our aim is to make certain that the programme is completed within three to five years.

I have already corrected the misunderstandings of the honourable member for Isis on the issues of the relative position of the wage-earner in our present economy, and shown by irrefutable figures that he can now purchase 59.2 per cent more with his pay-packet than he could when Labor was in power.

The honourable member for Landsborough referred to the report of the Grants Commission and I would refer the honourable member for Townsville West to the very simple explanation given by the honourable member for Landsborough in his contribution to this debate. He showed that he had a clear appreciation of exactly what was involved in the application to the Grants Commission. His description was simple and to the point, and I am sure that the honourable member for Townsville West could understand what he said. I inform the honourable member for Landsborough that his comments on the fishing industry have been referred to the Minister for Primary Industries for his consideration.

The honourable member for Sandgate discussed several very worthy causes in which he has a particular interest. Many of them were matters associated with his own electorate. I compliment him for putting forward argument in that direction. I recognise his sincerity in representing his area.

I was interested to hear the remarks of the honourable member for Maryborough on the question of local government finance. I agree that there is clearly room for improvement in the efficiency of many of our local authorities. In supporting the new Government scheme for additional assistance to public libraries run by our local authorities, the honourable member made a plea for increased Government contribution for the purpose of reducing the cost of this service to the local authority itself. This matter was examined very closely at the time the new scheme was being determined, as it was recognised that the local authority contribution is relatively high. This imbalance, however, will be substantially adjusted by the new "Government only" contribution in the new scheme. It was considered also that a greater benefit would accrue by earmarking the additional Government contribution for improvements in book stocks and equipment, and the encouragement of qualified staff, than by simply reducing the local authority contribution and thus leaving the library service itself at its present standard.

The honourable member for Redlands put forward his own peculiar brand of public financing when, in one breath, he complained at the size of the Public Debt and then, in the next, sought greater capital expenditure for the replacement of school buildings. Obviously, these statements cannot be reconciled. We cannot have our buildings and still have our money. We still have not devised the system whereby the honourable member for Redlands can eat his cake and still have it left in his hand.

Both statements, of course, were far removed from reality. The Public Debt of the State is not high relative to the other States of Australia, and, secondly, with the massive expenditures on new school buildings, it is obvious that his assertion that school-children are being housed in 75-year-old buildings is the exception rather than the rule.

Mr. BALDWIN: I rise to a point of order. If the Treasurer reads my statement he will see that I made no comparison on relationship; I simply made an absolute statement with respect to the percentage increase in the Queensland State Debt.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member has no valid point of order.

Sir GORDON CHALK: His assertion that the Budget pandered to the profit sector of our community at the expense of needed social services is, of course, just as far off

the beam. A calm and unruffled reference to the Budget provision for education, for health and hospital services, for those charitable people who are providing sterling service for the community at large, for our ambulance brigades, for the assistance of those of our primary industries who from time to time go unrewarded for their toil, and so forth, would surely convince even the honourable member that he is again on the wrong track.

I thank the honourable member for Mansfield for his support of the Budget and I am sure that the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Welfare Services would have taken due note of the suggestions put forward by the honourable member. The honourable member for Belmont made a great "hoo-hah" about some alleged juggling of figures for the housing programmes. I just cannot understand why some people persist in leading with their chin. When they base an argument on figures, surely they should check their facts. As the shadow Minister for Housing, he should have been aware of the facts and appreciated the figures he was using.

The figure of \$31,500,000 that I quoted in my Budget speech was the total sum available for housing construction during 1972-73. The honourable member took this figure and compared it with the 1970-71 total expenditure of the Housing Commission, which, in addition to housing construction expenditure, includes moneys spent on debt charges, maintenance and administration.

Instead of the \$35,880,000 that the honourable member quoted, the comparable figure for new house construction for 1970-71 was \$21,900,000, and the real movement in fund allocations for new house construction over the two-year period is \$21,900,000 in 1970-71 and \$31,500,000 in 1972-73, or an increase of approximately 44 per cent in only two years.

The honourable member for South Coast must be accepted, both in this House and outside, as a man who speaks his mind. For this reason, his appreciation, commendation and compliments of the Budget are fair proof of its real worth. He spoke on various matters of particular concern to his electorate, and I have no doubt that he will put these forward to the relevant Ministers with his customary vigour.

As usual, I listened with interest to the speech by the honourable member for Baroona. I respect his appreciation of the subject of public financing, and I acknowledge the deep thinking he gives to it. However, I do not agree with many of his conclusions and policies. I have referred earlier to a fundamental difference in policy. Whereas the honourable member would send this State broke—he took exception to this a few moments ago—I feel that, as a State Government charged with the responsibility of administration, we must strive to attain a balanced economy.

Mr. Hanlon: You will admit that you have been criticised for turning money given to you, when you have claimed you have a deficit, into a surplus?

Sir GORDON CHALK: The honourable member can argue that the State has been criticised because it has had a surplus. On the other hand, we have proved our ability to refute such an argument. I think that has been shown by the revenue we received from the Grants Commission.

In continuing this line of argument, the honourable member can see advantages in the New South Wales Budget, which relies on substantial Commonwealth special short-term loans, to the extent of \$15,000,000 this year, to finance its running costs. He saw an advantage in this sort of financing by repayable loans over the Queensland approach to the Grants Commission. It is difficult to follow his line of reasoning. One of his points was that the New South Wales repayments could be suspended during the five-year period in any Budget deficit year. Of course, the fact remains that the debt will still be there for New South Wales to repay at some time within the five-year period, whereas in Queensland, with the money received from the Grants Commission, no debt at all accrues.

I was somewhat shocked at the suggestion of the honourable member that we should provide cheap temporary housing for rent defaulters and others in the community who are unable to meet their financial commitments. This is completely contrary to the policy that I feel any progressive Government would follow. The construction of barracks in which to concentrate the unfortunate in the community would do nothing more than create new slums and places of squalour.

The honourable member for Mt. Gravatt obviously put a fair amount of research into his address. Many of his ideas are admirable but, unfortunately again, from a Treasurer's point of view they would be impracticable of implementation. I was particularly interested in his comment on the presentation of the printed Estimates, and I have taken note of some of his suggestions.

I also assure the honourable member that the presentation of this document is not a simple matter. Its form and method of compilation have evolved over a great number of years, during which time they have been constantly under review. The finished document is the result of many weeks of careful assessment of needs and the evaluation of priorities in all areas. However, I am sure that the explanation that the honourable member is seeking would be so voluminous that it could not be contained in the one document, which I imagine he sees as the solution.

I share with the honourable member for Port Curtis some of his views on Commonwealth-States financial relationship, but I wonder if he is really not talking of the

situation as it was several years ago. I am sure that if he would bring himself up to date he would appreciate that the present Federal Government has succeeded in its efforts to make these arrangements work.

As far as our education system is concerned, I would be the last to claim that there were no problems in this service. On the other hand, I am sure the honourable member would agree, if he were sincere, that this Government has done more to improve the standards of education in Queensland than the so-called visionaries of the Labor Party did in all their years in office. We have lifted the system from the horse-and-buggy methods under which it languished for half a century into what might be described as the modern jet-age.

I agree with the honourable member for Mulgrave that the amount of money spent on education is not the main measure of the standards of education attained by our children. Our standards of education at all levels, right up to matriculation, are high, and have always been recognised as such by educationists, employers and parents who are in a position to judge these things.

As far as the Palmerston Highway is concerned, I advise the honourable member that the Main Roads Department is fully aware of the problem and intends to spend, over the next five years, in excess of \$1,000,000 on the reconstruction of 15 miles of this highway.

The honourable member for Nudgee spoke mainly on health matters, which can be debated more fully when the Health Department Estimates are being discussed.

The honourable member for Merthyr made the pertinent points that unemployment figures were highest in all States controlled by Labor Governments, and that cost-of-living figures are also highest in these Labor-controlled States, with the highest increase going to the South Australian Labor Government—the only Government in Australia with price control. He also pointed out that the Budgets of the Labor States this year were either of a stay-put nature or were noted for their increased charges.

The honourable member for Townsville South did not direct his remarks to the Budget. He concentrated on issues that concerned him most, such as the universities, the judiciary and the supremacy of Parliament. Any outstanding matters that he has raised I am sure will be debated at a later time.

I assure the honourable member for Burnett that the Government shares his desire to see the completion of the entire Bundaberg irrigation scheme. Phase I includes the construction of the Monduran Dam, as well as two tidal barrages and associated irrigation channels, and it is scheduled for completion early in 1975 at a cost of over \$21,000,000. Negotiations are now proceeding with the Commonwealth Government concerning finance for phase II

of the scheme, which is expected to cost a further \$30,000,000. Like the honourable member, I am hopeful that the Commonwealth Government will come to our assistance in this matter.

The honourable member for Mourilyan spent so little time on the Budget that he apparently could find little wrong with it. He devoted quite a deal of his speech to problems he is having with the National Civic Council. He had a theory about the Government's new pre-school education system which he based on the provision of only \$330,000 during this financial year. I point out to him that he forgot to add the \$1,000,000 that is also being provided for capital works. I feel that I am therefore justified in assuming that if he is so far out in his basis of calculation, then his whole theory falls down.

The remarks of the honourable member for Townsville on health and hospital administration matters were very much appreciated. He is a man who has spent many years working within the State's health and hospital administration, and his views are valuable and appreciated by the Government.

The honourable member for Cairns somehow or other always manages to get himself shunted onto the wrong track when he speaks on the subject of railways. He made much of what he called a lack of Commonwealth assistance towards the financing of Queensland's railways. Does he not realise that Commonwealth assistance to other States for railways is confined to gauge standardisation or for work associated with Commonwealth railways only? Neither of these criteria exists in the case of the Queensland system.

I agree with the honourable member that the Commonwealth Government has provided large amounts of funds for road works, and for sea and air transport—and it should be commended for that. In addition, all States have now requested the Commonwealth Government to contribute financially to the major problems of urban transport which are being faced by every State, and for some sort of financial contribution towards the major capital renewal programmes being undertaken by each State.

The honourable member for Mirani clearly saw the benefit to the local districts in Queensland of the large coal developments at present going on in this State. He can see more such developments coming in this field, and welcomes them for the benefit both of the district he represents and of all Queenslanders.

I have already corrected the misunderstanding of the honourable member for Ipswich West with respect to her theory that standards of living are decreasing and that the purchasing power of wages has decreased. I often wonder what criteria people use as the basis for their argument when it is so far removed from, and often contrary to, the facts of the matter. As I

explained earlier—and it bears repetition—the average pay-packet today will purchase 59.2 per cent more than the average pay-packet did in the last years of a Labor Government in this State.

The honourable member was on more secure ground when she responded to interjections and presented, in a very forthright manner, her views of the role of "Father" in present-day family life.

Like her Leader, the honourable member also saw something wrong in charitable organisations assisting the sick and the afflicted in our community. They seek to nationalise even these very commendable services, which are carried out by very dedicated charitable citizens. All I can say is that it will be a sorry day for Queensland when its people are discouraged from helping those worse off than themselves.

In the same way, I suggest that the Leader of the Opposition would benefit by reference to and revision of the remarks made by the honourable member for Wavell concerning the new Government scheme of assistance to charitable organisations that wish to provide private and intermediate hospital facilities. The honourable member for Wavell, from experience and close association with the subject, can appreciate the worth of the new proposal, while the Leader of the Opposition, of course, sees it as something sinister and would have the Labor Party dissociate itself from it. This scheme will produce one or two rather large hospitals in Brisbane. I believe that the Government's offer is worth while, and is appreciated by those associated with charitable organisations.

The honourable member for Belyando asked for a further \$6,000,000 worth of work for his electorate. No doubt he will continue his representation on each item he raised with the respective Ministers during the Estimates debate.

The honourable member for Windsor spoke, among other things, of the flooding problems of Brisbane, and I am sure he will have been interested in my earlier announcement in this regard. On the Budget generally, he compared and contrasted Queensland's financial position with those of the other States, particularly those that are labouring under Labor, where high unemployment and high costs are now showing out. I thank him for his contribution.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for South Brisbane was ordered to withdraw from the Chamber earlier this evening. I now ask him to leave the Chamber.

Mr. Bromley: I was outside the Chamber.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! I ordered the honourable member to withdraw, and I stand by my ruling.

Mr. Bromley: I disagree, Mr. Hewitt. I was outside the Chamber.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! I do not intend to debate my ruling. My interpretation is that I ordered the honourable member to withdraw, and I now ask him to leave the Chamber.

Mr. Bromley: I was outside the Chamber.

Sir GORDON CHALK: I do not propose to speak on this matter.

Mr. Bromley: You can't throw me out.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! I ordered the honourable member to withdraw earlier in the evening. I again order him, for the last time, to withdraw from the Chamber.

Mr. Bromley: I will withdraw, but I don't think you did order me out of the Chamber.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! I do not intend to debate my ruling. Will the honourable member leave the Chamber, or do I have to name him?

Mr. Bromley: I don't care what you do.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member will leave the Chamber.

Whereupon the honourable member for South Brisbane withdrew from the Chamber.

Sir GORDON CHALK: The honourable member for Windsor drew attention to the fact that it is the States, the area of Government with limited access to the financial resources of the nation, that bear the very high debt loads, while the Commonwealth is virtually a net creditor. The present Commonwealth Government has made an effort to do something about the inequity, but so far has only scratched the surface.

The honourable member for Toowoomba South spoke exclusively on the needs of education within this State. On every topic he raised, he cried out like a tom cat in the night—"not enough; not enough". He apparently would be in another splinter group of the Labor Party that would advocate an allocation even in excess of the Government's 33 per cent to education. Or would he? For he then goes on to assert that we have provided too much for teachers, and too much for teacher-scholarships. He says, "You won't get them. The resignations are too high, and you can't recruit them."

Just what would he have done with respect to the allocation of funds to education? Surely if he expects a short-fall in spending in the existing Budget, he would not provide greater allocations. I can see what he is attempting to do, and that is to criticise destructively the good work being done by the Government. I can see his motive, which is to "stir", but I can give him no credit for the logic of his arguments.

He then takes the Education Department's own survey of needs as the criterion of the education requirements of this State. Let me say to him that I am satisfied that these surveys are faithfully and sincerely compiled. But let me also say to him that he should look at the figures in perspective. There

is not one department of Government in any other State in Australia—for that matter, there would not be any section of local authority, company or firm—which, if it were asked for its assessment of its own requirements, would not come up with figures that available resources just could not meet. This is not an unusual situation, either, for I am sure that the football club of the honourable member for Townsville West, individual members of a family, or even the honourable member himself, if asked what their needs were, would set a figure higher than could be realistically satisfied.

I sincerely thank my colleague the Minister for Mines and Main Roads for his contribution to the debate. Before he spoke I discussed with him the matters that he should raise, and he made a valuable contribution in which he indicated to the Chamber what has been achieved in recent years in the mining industry.

The honourable member for Mackay was concerned at the amount of direction that comes with some of our Commonwealth grants. I agree with him on this point, and I have always argued that the expert on the spot should have more discretion in the provision of these services than the man sitting in Canberra. But, somehow or other, it was always thus. The man with the money wants his say. I must confess that I have followed that line of thought to some extent myself in my administration.

I congratulate the honourable member for Ipswich on his first contribution to a Budget debate. I am sure that the Government can look forward to many years of valuable service from this member. His professional opinions on the functions of the Health Department will also be welcome at any time. His suggestion that community health centres be attached to public hospital facilities has been referred to the Minister for Health for consideration.

The honourable member for Pine Rivers delivered a forceful and enthusiastic speech, but unfortunately it was not based on facts. The main part of it related to workers' compensation benefits, and he spoke of these benefits as being based on the basic wage and as being insufficient. He apparently was unaware that major changes had been brought into force as from 1 August 1972, and I refer him to what I said in this Chamber this morning in answer to a question.

The honourable member for Hinchinbrook made some interesting remarks about rural industries, and particularly about sugar marketing and the wool industry. I am sure that he will do his utmost to assist these industries during his period in Parliament.

The honourable member for Stafford dealt with a wide range of subjects, many of which had come within his experience in the field of local government. A number of them had been covered earlier in the debate, and they have already been dealt

with by me in my reply. Many of the honourable member's comments relative to public transport in the city and electrification of our transport system were fair and have been noted.

Another new member to speak in his first Budget debate was the honourable member for Murrumba, and his appreciation of what the Budget meant to the people of Queensland generally, and particularly to the people in his own electorate, was quite commendable.

The honourable member for Cook spoke mainly on issues affecting the Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs, and for his information, and to assist him to really assess what the Country-Liberal Government has done for the State's Aboriginal people, I shall mention some comparisons of expenditure.

In 1950-51 Labor provided an amount of \$988,902, and this increased progressively to \$1,800,000 in 1957. Expenditure by the Country-Liberal Government in 1965-66 was \$2,900,000. By 1971-72 it had jumped to \$10,400,000, and the total amount provided this year is \$14,700,000. I remind honourable members that this expenditure is all related directly to Aboriginal welfare and signifies a very real and positive approach by the Government to the well-being of these people.

The honourable member for Ithaca was able to analyse critically the ramifications of the relatively lower unemployment rate in Queensland from detailed knowledge gained from his own practical experience of the situation. He illustrated the devastating effects of industrial stoppages upon the growth of the State and demonstrated that there is a real need in Queensland's economy for a greater spirit of co-operation between workers and employers.

The honourable member for Barron River did not raise any Budget issues but devoted his time to what he saw as the shortcomings in the facilities and the functions of Parliament. Surely he is aware of improvements that are at present under review in this field.

The honourable member for Fassifern acknowledged the benefits that will flow from the Budget. In relation to succession and probate duties, I say to him that further legislation will be introduced shortly, again reducing the incidence of these duties, and I will reply then to the arguments he has raised.

I often wonder on whom the honourable member for Albert relies for his distorted information. I have heard him on other occasions in this Chamber put forward incorrect and damaging figures and stories obviously fed to him by his pukka-sahib friend from the sandhills of South Australia. The Premier of South Australia is, of course, pushing his own State's barrow at the expense of Queensland. It is a shame that a young, immature new member of

this Assembly such as the honourable member for Albert should be led up the garden path by a professional such as Mr. Dunstan.

I have seen published in the local Gold Coast newspaper remarks attributed to the honourable member which are very disparaging to Queensland and to the Queensland Government's case to the Commonwealth Grants Commission, again obviously emanating from his pukka-sahib friend from South Australia. The fact that his head was being filled with false propaganda to the benefit of South Australia did not register with him. It is obvious that he accepts, believes and promulgates guff of that type irrespective of the detrimental effect that it will have on his own State.

The honourable member referred to what he thinks are comparable Queensland and South Australian figures for police-to-population ratios. He cited the figure for South Australia as 1 for 497 and for Queensland as 1 for 598, and added that for the Gold Coast it was 1 for 731. I do not know where he got his figures from, but I assume he again got those from his friend. Quite obviously he has taken the 1970 figures, and for South Australia he has included cadets although he left them out of the Queensland figures. The true comparison for the year he has taken, for active police only, is, in the case of Queensland, 1 policeman for 598 of population, and, for South Australia, 1 policeman for 621 of population. I need say no more in reply to the honourable member than point out the inaccuracy of his information.

The honourable member for Kurilpa also was opposed to succession and probate duties as a form of taxation. No doubt he will pursue his argument in the debate on the forthcoming legislation.

The honourable member for Lytton was obviously speaking as the Federal president of the Australian Labor Party rather than as a member elected to this Parliament. His guff on free hospitals was as great a load of rubbish as he has produced in the Chamber—and he has produced a lot of rubbish since he has been here. He knows quite well that under the present Governments, at both State and Federal levels, the State's free hospitals will survive, but if a Federal Labor Government were elected everybody would have to pay the Whitlam-Hayden tax of 1.35 per cent of his income for medical benefits.

I can assure the Committee, and the people of Queensland, that whilst we have a Liberal-Country Party Government in the Commonwealth and State spheres we will continue our free hospital scheme.

The honourable member's attack on the cost of the Premier's plane was a cry in the wilderness. The people of Queensland have indicated by the return of the Premier and his Government that they accept the basis on which the plane was purchased

and on which it operates. They realise that it operates for the benefit of the people of Queensland.

We had the usual lot of hot air from the honourable member. Where does he stay when he goes to Melbourne? Does he stay in some little tin-pot hotel? Not on your life! He stays at the Windsor or one of the other large hotels. What has he got down at the Coast? A spacious house, a nice yacht, a dinghy and all the things that go with it! He is the person who stands up here and tells us that he represents the worker. He criticises the Premier for the part he is playing in an endeavour to take government to the people of this State and for endeavouring to place himself at the disposal of the people.

The honourable member is a hypocrite who comes into this Chamber and condemns. I leave it as a matter for the people. He is the person who has condemned the Budget. He is the one who wears the badge on his lapel, "It's time". He referred to the Budget as a "not yet" Budget. I believe in his expression of "not yet". "Not yet, Jack Houston! Not yet, Percy Tucker!" That is what he is saying, but it won't be long!

Tonight we saw the honourable member and his mate the honourable member for Everton in their true colours as they tried to take over control of the Chamber and endeavoured to dictate to the Government of the day. I cannot understand why the honourable member for Everton did not sit down in the middle of the Chamber before he left. Apparently he was not game to do tonight in this Chamber what he has done in other places.

The honourable member for Cooroora spoke with sincerity. Considering the many years he has been a member of this Parliament, I am sure he has a full appreciation of the significance of the Budget. His main theme throughout his commentary was a comparison of the State as it is today with the way it was under a Labor Government. He found it very easy to demonstrate that the State is much better off under this Government.

The honourable member for Wolston kept up the Opposition's bleating chorus about the State's approach to the Commonwealth Grants Commission and the value of mining royalties, both of which points I have adequately answered earlier and both of which have been approved by the people of Queensland.

I was somewhat upset when I learnt that the honourable member for Somerset had imputed some motive to my action in connection with the allocation of racing dates. All I want to say is that in doing what I did I accepted my responsibility as the Minister in charge of racing. I called the provincial clubs together and discussed with them all the possible alter-

natives. They themselves were not prepared to adjudicate on the matter. It was my responsibility, and I accepted it.

Whilst I can appreciate the feelings of the honourable member for Somerset, I say that I have had nothing but approbation from the racing industry generally on what has been done. I believe that those in the industry will benefit as time goes on, and that the community as a whole will also benefit by the system of racing that will operate during the next 12 months.

What the honourable member for Salisbury was really concerned about was the improvement in the State's finances, the forward policies introduced in the Budget, and the fact that I was bold enough to mention them. Apparently the honourable member's attitude is that the Government should not tell the people of Queensland about the success we have achieved. With all the honourable member's talk of shrinking violets, Cassius Clays and quotes of Latin, we found within half an hour that he, in his own little way, was not hiding his light under a bushel either. He was the person who accused me of claiming so much good in the Budget, but he then proceeded to tell everyone what he had been able to achieve. He told us of how he twisted the arm of the department and secured an extra 2½ acres of land for the Woodridge school. In his own little way he also has had an occasional success. Good on him! And doesn't he tell the world of these little successes! He criticises the Government for saying what it has achieved, and then by self-praise condemns his own argument.

The honourable member for Burdekin spoke of the confidence that the people of Queensland have shown in the Budget. We can see a reflection of the economy of Queensland in what we have been able to achieve.

I thank the honourable member for Chatsworth for his remarks, especially his suggestions for audit improvements. I propose to examine them and see if we cannot overcome some of the issues he has raised.

The honourable member for Bundaberg, in addition to his usual misconceptions on costs and standards of living, got further off the track when he referred to repayments of \$16,000,000 to the Agricultural Bank compared with advances of \$12,000,000. He came to the conclusion that the bank was \$4,000,000 in front. It is quite obvious that, included in the repayment figure is quite a sizeable amount for interest that had to be paid on money borrowed by the Bank. As a matter of fact, the interest paid by the bank on its loans last year totalled \$6,600,000, which, of course, was the first call on the \$16,000,000 of repayments.

(Time expired.)

Item (Salaries—His Excellency the Governor) agreed to.

Progress reported.

The House adjourned at 9.29 p.m.