

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 9 OCTOBER 1973

Electronic reproduction of original hardcopy

TUESDAY, 9 OCTOBER 1973

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

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

PAY-ROLL TAX ACT AMENDMENT
BILL

Assent reported by Mr. Speaker.

ERROR IN DEPARTMENTAL REPORT

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that my attention has been drawn to an error in the Annual Report of the Agricultural Bank, which was tabled in the House on 20 September, and that I have authorised an erratum slip to be issued by the Government Printing Office to all recipients of the report.

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table, and ordered to be printed:—

Reports—

Agent-General for Queensland, for the year 1972-73.

Registrar of Co-operative and other Societies, for the year 1972-73.

Department of Works, for the year 1972-73.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Orders in Council under—

Liquor Act 1912-1972.

Forestry Act 1959-1973.

Harbours Act 1955-1972.

Regulations under—

Legal Assistance Act 1965-1971.

Liquor Act 1912-1972.

Apprenticeship Act 1964-1972.

Fire Brigades Act 1964-1971.

Reports—

State Stores Board, for the year 1972-73.

Queensland Coal Board, for the year 1972-73.

Books and Accounts of the Queensland Coal Board, for the period 29 July 1972 to 1 August 1973.

Brisbane Milk Board, together with the Report of the Auditor-General on the Books and Accounts of the Board, for the year 1972-73.

Queensland Law Society Incorporated under the Legal Assistance Act 1965-1971.

Legal Assistance Committee of Queensland, for the year 1972-73.

Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account of Queensland Trustees Limited for the year 1972-73.

QUEENSLAND PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY

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

(1) How many permanent building societies have been taken over by way of amalgamation by the Queensland Permanent Building Society?

(2) What was the value of the assets, including property, held by the societies, and how many investors and borrowers were registered with each at the time of the amalgamations?

(3) What was the cost of the Queensland Permanent Building Society building, 161 Queen Street, Brisbane, and what was the cost of converting the building to the new offices now occupied by the society?

(4) For what are the four floors to be used?

(5) When a society is able to purchase and renovate such an elaborate building for administration purposes, are the costs involved passed on by way of interest increases to borrowers?

(6) Where amalgamation of permanent building societies outside the metropolitan area occurs, will he amend the Permanent Building Societies Act to ensure that money invested in country districts is spent in those districts?

Answers:—

(1) "No societies have been taken over by the Queensland Permanent Building Society since its formation. However, the Queensland Permanent Building Society was formed by the amalgamation of the following societies:—(a) Queensland Permanent Building Society Ltd.; (b) Southern Brisbane Permanent Building Society; (c) North Brisbane Permanent Building Society; (d) Sturt Permanent Building & Investment Society."

(2) "Funds of the four societies at the time of amalgamation were:—(a) \$21,583,999; (b) \$15,301,089; (c) \$876,282; (d) \$1,042,857, and the whole matter of this amalgamation was carried out to the satisfaction of my registrar."

(3) "The capital expenditure on office space is within the 5 per cent. limitation of the Building Society Act."

(4) "Office accommodation."

(5) "Interest rates are controlled by the Act."

(6) "There is no need for such an amendment as suggested by the Honourable Member as all building societies are well aware of their obligations to cater for housing needs in all localities."

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST GRASS FIRE HAZARDS

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

(1) As late summer and unusually good winter rains have built up grass and foliage which will soon dry off and become a fire hazard, what special precaution and protection policies have been devised by his Government to combat the hazard?

(2) As lightning from storms is possible early in October and as the man-power situation on western properties is at a very low level, have arrangements been made to utilize resources such as the Army, Air Force and helicopter facilities, to assure potential danger victims of the Government's concern?

Answers:—

(1) "There is a moderate fire risk at present but the risk could increase as a result of the growth encouraged by continued rains. The major part of fire protection is by hazard reduction burning or breaking-up areas to ensure that such fires as do occur are contained. In addition, the provision of adequate equipment and proper organisation are important. The application of these principles in various rural localities is achieved through the organisation of bush fire brigades. An officer of the Rural Fires Board has been working in south-western districts where he has formed four new bush fire brigades. He has also re-organised five brigades which had not functioned for some years owing to drought, and has nine more in the process of re-organisation. Since July 1 ten brigades have been registered to bring the State total to 1,149."

(2) "The Rural Fires Board could, in an emergency, seek assistance from the armed services. In addition, the State Disaster Relief Organisation could initiate action. However, the availability of local co-ordinated fire-fighting services to deal with small fires is worth unlimited manpower, if such were available, once a major fire becomes established. For this reason, rural fire protection is based on local organisation, with the State Disaster Relief Organisation taking action in a major emergency."

EMPLOYMENT OF GRAZING INDUSTRY LOBBYIST IN U.S.A.

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

As Queensland is the largest cattle State of the nation, has his Government considered employing a lobbyist in the United States of America to protect and further the interests of Queensland's beef, wool and mutton, and will he endeavour to remove the severe 25.5 cents per pound tariff on clean apparel wool?

Answer:—

"No."

MICRON AND MECHANICAL TESTING OF WOOL

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

(1) Is the much-advertised technique of micron-testing of wool completely reliable and accurate to guarantee an overall yield of fibre fineness?

(2) Will core testing of bales provide sufficient wool to present a true average of each bale and as a wide variation of fibre diameter can exist in an individual fleece, will the woollen trade be satisfied with sample testings to identify length and soundness of staple, noil, yield, elasticity, softness and crimp?

(3) What has been the trade reaction to micron and mechanical testing when the final analysis has been taken after wool is visually sorted from the bale prior to scouring and manufacture?

Answers:—

(1) "The accuracy of the measurement of wool fibre fineness as normally performed including the effects of sampling, for merino wool is within the limits of ± 0.8 microns from the true value. The procedure therefore must be considered highly reliable and certainly more so than subjective appraisal."

(2) "The international wool textile organisation at its April 1973 meeting accepted sale by certificate and sample. The certificate gives average fibre diameter, yield and colour only. Buyers in Australia currently exclude certain types of wool from sale by this method."

(3) "Post sale tests are accepted by overseas principals."

PRISON WELFARE OFFICERS

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

(1) How many welfare officers are employed on a full-time basis in the Brisbane, Townsville, Wacol and Rockhampton Prisons?

(2) What is the inmate/welfare officer ratio in the prisons?

Answers:—

(1) "Brisbane, 3; Townsville, 1; Wacol, nil; Rockhampton, nil. The welfare officers at Brisbane perform duties at Wacol when required."

(2) "363 prisoners to 1 welfare officer. It is proposed to appoint an additional 5 welfare officers in the current financial year."

FIRE PRECAUTIONS IN SCHOOLS

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

(1) As the time element is a critical factor in dealing with a fire, will he provide direct fire-alarm systems in schools throughout Queensland?

(2) Will he have fire hydrants provided on all school reserves in districts where mains water supply is available?

Answers:—

(1) "The Honourable Member's suggestion is appreciated but there are some problems associated with the installation of direct fire alarm systems in schools. In some cases costs would be extremely high. In others, the distance between the school and the fire station and the time that would be taken by appliances to reach the school could obviate any advantage in having a direct alarm system. This is underlined in cases where my Department has schools in outlying suburbs, which are considerable distances from fire stations. In such cases the costs of direct alarms would be high. In country areas where fire stations are not manned, alarms would, of course, not be of any benefit. The Honourable Member may be interested to know that the whole matter of fire protection in schools has been the subject of a conference between representatives of my Department, the Department of Works and the Fire Services Council. It was decided, among other things, that each school should make its own arrangements concerning the sounding of a fire alarm. This is, of course, during school hours. The alarm in each case should be the one most appropriate to the circumstances existing at the school. The first requirement, in the event of fire, is that all pupils be safely evacuated and that none be permitted to return to the school until it is safe to do so. All other considerations, such as fighting the fire or preventing it from spreading, are secondary."

(2) "An inter-departmental committee is presently considering all aspects of the provision of fire hydrants in close proximity to departmental schools. It is anticipated that the report of the committee will be ready for submission to Cabinet during November next."

PRE-SCHOOL CENTRES, PINE RIVERS ELECTORATE

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

What are the expected completion dates for State pre-school centres at Ferny Hills, Albany Creek, Strathpine, Petrie, Zillmere North and Boondall?

Answer:—

"Ferny Hills—Building plans are at an advanced stage of preparation and it is anticipated that the centre will come into operation during the second half of 1974; Albany Creek, Petrie and Boondall—Preliminary investigations have been completed and it has been ascertained that there are suitable sites in each of the three school reserves. Work towards the establishment of centres at each location will be undertaken as funds become available; Strathpine—A report on this school has indicated that land will have to be acquired. This matter is being reviewed in relation to other developments with regard to this school; Zillmere North—Funds have been allocated and the building should be completed during 1974."

REMOVAL OF IMMOBILISED VEHICLES, HORNIBROOK HIGHWAY

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

(1) Is he aware that the worst hold-up of traffic ever to occur took place on the Hornibrook Highway on the evening of September 26, causing two to three hours delay?

(2) Was this delay caused by a fatal accident which took place about 2.30 p.m.?

(3) Did the vehicle involved remain on the highway until 6.30 p.m. while police investigated and took measurements, etc.?

(4) Was further delay caused by police having to travel from Brisbane to take photographs, etc. at the scene?

(5) How many police attended the scene and how many police traffic motorcyclists were directed to move the traffic?

(6) Were two traffic policemen attached to the Redcliffe Station recently transferred and have they not yet been replaced?

(7) Is he aware that many bus passengers left the buses and walked home from Sandgate to Redcliffe?

(8) Will he have this matter fully investigated and advise what action is being taken to avoid any further delays of this nature by having the investigations, etc., carried out other than at peak periods?

(9) Will he see that traffic police are available to enforce the traffic laws in this area?

Answers:—

(1 to 5) "At 2.15 p.m. on September 26, 1973 a fatal accident involving a motor vehicle and a bridge painter

occurred on the Hornibrook Highway. All police action including the taking of photographs was completed by 4.30 p.m. when the vehicle was removed. Although a police photographer had to be called from Brisbane, this procedure did not unnecessarily delay completion of police action. In all, nine police were in attendance at the scene of the accident at different times. At no time were police not in attendance. As a consequence of the accident traffic necessarily moved slowly with delays up to two or three minutes. As police attending the scene had the situation under control it was not considered necessary to call for the assistance of traffic motor cyclists. After the police left the scene at 4.30 p.m. a vehicle which ran out of petrol was abandoned on the highway. Information to this effect was received by Redcliffe police by telephone at 4.40 p.m. The Hornibrook Highway toll master was immediately contacted and he advised that he was aware of the abandoned vehicle and was taking appropriate action. It has since been ascertained that the vehicle was towed from the highway at 6.55 p.m. No further information was received by Redcliffe police that there was any holdup in traffic on the Hornibrook Highway although it now appears that during the period the abandoned vehicle remained on the highway there was some general disruption of traffic aggravated by two other vehicles which broke down."

(6) "Two police engaged on traffic motor cycle duty were transferred from Redcliffe. Two other members have been transferred to Redcliffe station strength. In accordance with existing police departmental policy, where traffic police are transferred and replaced, the replacements are not necessarily detailed for full time traffic duty. Members at the station are allocated to perform traffic duty as a primary function on a rotational basis."

(7) "Although it is possible that some bus passengers may have walked from Sandgate to Redcliffe, police observations at the scene do not confirm this."

(8) "The matter has been fully investigated. Where a serious injury or a fatality occurs and criminal negligence may be involved, it is vital that investigations be carried out immediately on the spot while all material evidence is readily available. It is regrettable that these investigations may cause some traffic delays but I suggest that justified criticism could and would be levelled at police if priority were given to smooth traffic flow over the preservation of evidence in order that, in the interests of justice, a proper assessment can be made of the facts of the matter."

(9) "See Answer to Question (6)."

INCLUSION IN COMPANY PROSPECTUSES OF DIRECTORS' NAMES AND COMPANY INTERESTS

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

(1) Have submissions been made to him to amend the Companies Act to have included in various prospectuses, the names of the directors and the names of all companies and subsidiaries in which each director has an official position?

(2) As malpractices sometimes associated with inter-locking companies and take-overs have received considerable attention in recent years, has the suggestion ever been discussed at meetings of Attorneys-General?

Answers:—

(1) "No."

(2) "Not to my knowledge."

NOISE NUISANCE FROM NIGHT OPERATION OF HEAVY MACHINERY AND VEHICLES

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

(1) Has he recently received complaints concerning the noise emanating from compressors, concrete trucks and other machinery, some of which are operating as early as 4 a.m.?

(2) As there are a number of firms which have a blatant and arrogant disregard for the feeling, safety and well-being of citizens, what safeguards and corrective action may be taken by aggrieved persons to obtain relief from these nuisances?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "The matters to which the Honourable Member refers are for the consideration of my Colleague, the Minister for Local Government and Electricity, and I suggest he address these enquiries to him."

STAFF SHORTAGE, ROCKHAMPTON BRANCH, S.G.I.O.

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

As he agreed during the last Session that there could be a staff shortage in the S.G.I.O., Rockhampton and indicated that the matter would be investigated, how far has this matter progressed and what action is being taken to relieve staff shortages and the backlog of claims?

Answer:—

"The matter was investigated as I indicated to the Honourable Member on March 30, 1973. Overtime was worked and the backlog has been eliminated. Additional staff has been approved to keep the work up to date without undue overtime."

OPERATIONS, TUAN FORESTRY RESERVE;
SOFTWOOD FORESTRY AGREEMENT

Mr. Ahern for **Mr. Alison**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Lands,—

(1) With reference to his recent advice that the proposed planting programme for Tuan forestry is 3,000 acres for 1973-74, what was the actual planting programme for Tuan for 1970-71, 1971-72 and 1972-73, and if the area planted for 1972-73 was greater than the proposed programme for 1973-74, what is the reason for the reduction?

(2) What area of softwood was planted by the Forestry Department throughout the State in each of the years 1968-69 to 1972-73, and what area is proposed to be planted for 1973-74?

(3) Has the new Softwood Plantation Agreement been ratified with the Commonwealth Government and, if so, what funds will be allocated to Queensland?

(4) What restrictions are placed on the Queensland Government by the Commonwealth Government under this agreement, including restrictions on the area to be planted during each of the ensuing five years, and what areas are proposed to be planted during each of the years?

(5) What areas are to be planted with softwoods under this agreement by each of the other States?

Answers:—

(1) "1970-71, 3,380.6 acres; 1971-72, 4,106.8 acres; 1972-73, 4,640.8 acres. These areas are for the planting year April 1–March 31 in each case. The annual planting at Tuan was increased in anticipation of an increase in the approved programme for Queensland in the second 5-year period. This increase was not realized and the reduction is necessary to bring the planting programme into line with that approved."

(2) "1968-69, 12,202.8 acres; 1969-70, 12,539.6 acres; 1970-71, 15,106.7 acres; 1971-72, 15,596.6 acres; 1972-73, 16,799.3 acres; 1973-74, 12,500 acres (Proposed). The acreages listed above are for yearly periods, April 1–March 31."

(3) "Yes. Under the *Softwoods Forestry Agreements Act 1972* the amount contributed by the Commonwealth fluctuates from year to year in accordance with a formula which involves the cost and extent of annual plantings and the maintenance of areas planted under the agreement. The claim on the Commonwealth in respect to 1971-72 was \$1,014,628. For 1972-73 it is expected that the claim will be about \$1,200,000 and this should increase for the remaining 3 years of the second period."

(4) "The Commonwealth Government has not as yet placed any restriction on Queensland in respect to area planted or

to be planted in each of the two 5 yearly periods. For the remaining three years of the current agreement proposed plantings are—1973-74, 12,500 acres; 1974-75, 12,500 acres; 1975-76, 10,000 acres."

(5) "The approved programmes of each of the other States for the current 5-year period are—New South Wales, 18,510 acres; Victoria, 11,580 acres; Western Australia, 5,790 acres; South Australia, 4,500 acres; Tasmania, 4,600 acres."

SUBSIDIES TO PARENTS AND CITIZENS'
ASSOCIATIONS

Mr. Ahern for **Mr. Alison**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Education,—

What amounts were paid during 1972-73 as subsidies to parents and citizens' associations for purchases of school equipment and supplies for (a) State high schools, (b) State primary schools, (c) private high schools and (d) private primary schools?

Answer:—

"Subsidies paid by my Department in the year ended June 30, 1973 were as follows:—State high schools, \$5,834.11; State primary schools, \$57,201.17; Non-State high and primary schools, \$7,783.47. In a growing number of areas, my Department is undertaking the direct provision of finance and equipment to schools without requiring any contribution by parents and citizens' associations. Local contributions to library development in State schools are no longer required and special equipment grants are being made to schools to enable them to purchase equipment outright at full cost to the Department. Per capita grants paid to non-State schools in partnership with the Commonwealth Government have a subsidy component, with the effect that the schools no longer are required to claim subsidy from my Department in respect of each item purchased."

LACK OF ACCOMMODATION, INNISFAIL
COURT HOUSE; NEW GOVERNMENT
BUILDING

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

(1) Is he aware of the overcrowded situation in the office and court sections at the Innisfail Court House?

(2) In view of the overcrowding, and as the police station is situated on the adjoining block, will he investigate the problem and encourage the Government to consider a new building which could accommodate all governmental departments?

(3) As this is Innisfail's centenary year, will planning of this nature and, if possible, a start on the work, be undertaken as a

Government gesture to what is possibly the most beautiful town in Queensland, if not in Australia?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) "The provision of a new police station at Innisfail is included in the forward planning program for the 1975-76 financial year. However, no provision has been made to date in any forward planning program for a new court house building or a new Government office building at Innisfail by the relevant client departments. The priorities allocated to major building projects must be determined in relation to available finance and the needs of all centres throughout the State."

SURVEYS OF HEALTH OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

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

(1) Are surveys of the health of school children carried out frequently by officers under the auspices of his Department?

(2) Are these surveys geared to investigate specific diseases such as asthma and other processes which have allergic bases?

(3) Is there detailed co-operation between his Department and the Institute of Medical Research in these matters, especially as they apply to asthma and mite disease?

(4) As a 1961 survey conducted by the Queensland Institute of Medical Research showed a 9.4 per cent. incidence of asthma in grade 1 children at school in Gladstone who were born in that town, what measures have been taken to combat this situation?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) "In addition to routine examination of school children, the Division of School Health Services regularly conducts surveys into various aspects of health. The 1961 survey referred to by the Honourable Member was actually carried out by the Division of School Health Services at the suggestion of Dr. E. H. Derrick, Director of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research. Whilst that survey indicated a 9.4 per cent. incidence of asthma in grade I children at school in Gladstone, an examination of school health records for the year 1970 indicates an incidence of 6.3 per cent. for the same disease in grade II children. The Honourable Member will be aware that there has been considerable research into the causation of this disease and many theories propounded. Dr. Derrick in the Annual Report for the Queensland Institute of Medical Research for the year ended June, 1972, stated that 'Brisbane is near the centre of a high asthma area that extends from Gladstone to Grafton' and 'further investigations are called for to determine

why asthma is highly prevalent in this type of climate'. It would be unwise to make any recommendations in respect to particular areas in Queensland until the results of these investigations are finally known."

NEW FACILITIES PROVIDED BY CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS APPEAL

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

(1) How many new facilities have been provided at the Royal Children's Hospital and the Mater Children's Hospital as a result of the continuing public appeal?

(2) What are the details of the new facilities and how much did each cost?

(3) Is it the intention of the organisers of this appeal to continue it beyond 1973?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) "The Chairman of the North Brisbane Hospitals Board has advised that the Children's Hospital Appeal Organising Committee will meet the full cost of the provision of a waiting area, cafeteria and alterations and improvements to consulting and other rooms at an estimated cost of \$59,000 in the outpatients' department of the Royal Children's Hospital. Major equipment costing \$8,796 has already been provided by the committee and the cost of further equipment on order to the value of \$8,800 will also be met by the committee. In addition, the Children's Hospital Foundation provided an amount of \$50,000 towards the total cost of \$85,464 for the provision of day hospital facilities and the balance was met by the appeal committee. Information is not available in respect of the assistance given by the committee to the Mater Children's Hospital and I suggest that the Honourable Member direct his enquiries to the Chairman of the Children's Hospital Appeal Organising Committee."

(3) "I am unaware of the intentions of the Organising Committee in respect of the continuation of the current appeal."

ANAESTHETISTS AND RADIOLOGISTS, ROYAL BRISBANE HOSPITAL

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

(1) What is the current situation at the Royal Brisbane Hospital regarding the senior anaesthetic and radiology staffing?

(2) What measures have been taken or are being taken to secure adequate permanent appointees to these important senior positions?

(3) As there has been very grievous dissatisfaction with regard to the conditions of service but not to the salaries offered to these anaesthetists and radiologists, have the conditions of service been reviewed and anomalies corrected?

Answers:—

(1) "Despite the efforts of the North Brisbane Hospitals Board to recruit specialists to fill positions on the approved establishment there are still some vacancies."

(2) "In addition to advertising, personal representations have been made to leaders in the field of anaesthetics, both in England and southern States of Australia. There has been one recent appointment to the radiology staff. As a result of the above representations, there have been two firm enquiries for the anaesthetic staff. The hospitals board has been advised of a new salary range and is currently advertising for vacancies at the new rate."

(3) "Two important conditions of service are conference leave and study leave. During discussions between the Professional Officers' Association, the Public Service Board, and Departmental officers, it was apparent that the officers concerned did not understand the existing conditions relating to conference leave. When the interpretation of conference leave conditions was explained to representatives, the Secretary of the Professional Officers' Association stated that they were liberal. The conditions of study leave have been varied and specialist medical officers who are eligible for study leave may apply for six months leave on full pay after seven years service, or three months leave on full pay, plus around the world economy air ticket, accommodation expenses and a personal allowance. I should be surprised if the Honourable Member would not agree that such conditions are most generous."

CYCLONE-PROOFING OF HOUSING COMMISSION HOUSES AND GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

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

(1) Is he aware of a statement by Professor D. H. Trollope, which was in *The Courier-Mail* of September 1, that the average house could be cyclone-proofed for \$200?

(2) Has consideration been given to incorporating the engineering recommendations made by Professor Trollope, especially those relating to fastenings, in the plans for houses constructed by the Queensland Housing Commission in areas affected by cyclones?

(3) What consideration is given to cyclone-proofing Government buildings, e.g. schools, hospitals, etc., in areas affected by cyclones?

(4) If provision has not already been made, will he consider adopting such practices to protect the lives of the inhabitants of these areas?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "The Queensland Housing Commission has had long and extensive experience of houses in areas prone to cyclonic winds and the system of anchorage evolved from this experience has proved completely adequate. The present requirements of the commission for houses constructed in cyclone areas are similar in principle to the recommendations by Professor Trollope."

(3) "Provision has for many years been made in Government buildings for cyclone proofing in the areas of the State affected by cyclones, by adequate bracing and cyclone bolting between bottom plates and roof battens."

(4) "The minimal damage to Government buildings and Queensland Housing Commission houses by cyclone 'Althea' is proof that existing practices are adequate."

CONTRAVENTIONS OF UNORDERED GOODS AND SERVICES ACT

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

(1) In view of legislation introduced in this Chamber relating to the sending of unordered goods, the making of charges for directory entries and the rendering of certain unrequested services, is he aware that International Cables and Telegraphic Register and Australian Classified Business Directory are still sending invoice-type notices to business and professional organisations?

(2) What can be done about this practice as the notices are being mistaken for accounts?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "This is being examined."

ERADICATION OF HYACINTH, FITZROY RIVER, AND SALVINIA AURICULATA, NANKIN CREEK

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

(1) In view of his welcomed statement in this Chamber on September 25 that the Government will assist the Rockhampton City Council in eradicating the hyacinth in the city reaches of the Fitzroy River, why were representations made by the Honourable Member for Callide and myself for similar action to be taken to eradicate the major infestation of salvinia auriculata, in nearby Nankin Creek, refused?

(2) Is he aware that when Government assistance to combat the problem was requested on November 2, 1972, the Premier stated that the problem must be handled at a local level?

(3) Will he clarify on what basis assistance is given to local authorities who are faced with similar problems within their areas of control?

(4) What type of assistance is contemplated to combat the present hyacinth problem?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) "The question of the weed infestation in Nankin Creek was raised in this House by the Honourable Member in November, 1972. It had previously been raised directly with the Honourable the Minister for Lands and Forestry by the Honourable Member for Callide. Following full consideration of the situation and as indicated previously to the Honourable Member, the co-ordinating board set up under the Stock Routes and Rural Lands Protection Acts was of the opinion that the most effective control method would be for the Livingstone and Fitzroy Shire Councils and the Rockhampton City Council to declare the plant noxious within those respective Local Authority areas and deal with it terms of their By-laws. In all the circumstances, it was considered at the time that the matter would be best dealt with at local level."

(3 and 4) "Generally the cost of clearance of hyacinth and salvinia from rivers by Local Authorities is not included in the State Subsidy Scheme. However, the existence of water hyacinth in the Fitzroy River area at Rockhampton is a unique situation, in that it is attributable to, or has been aggravated by, the construction of the barrage for the water supply augmentation scheme for Rockhampton, which was subsidised at the rate of 33½ per cent. I had the opportunity of personally inspecting the situation and seeing the amount of hyacinth in the Fitzroy and concluded that the circumstances required special action. Accordingly, as Treasurer, I informed the three Councils involved that I would favourably consider an application for a subsidy allocation of 33½ per cent towards the estimated cost of \$83,920 to be spent this financial year on an eradication scheme. The position for future years will be reviewed after there is an opportunity to see just what effect the Councils' eradication measures achieve in the first year."

WATER POLICE, BRISBANE

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

(1) What area is covered by the activities of the Brisbane Water Police and what are the localities?

(2) How many thefts and break-ins have been reported from boats in the Doboy, Wynnum, Manly and Cleveland areas in 1972-73 and 1973 to date?

(3) Will consideration be given to the setting-up of a water-police station near the mouth of the river or at Manly Boat Harbour?

(4) How many boats are provided for use in the Brisbane Water Police area and what is the size, speed and construction material of each craft?

(5) Did a body lie for three days on a bay island whilst local police were unable to obtain a water-police vessel to remove it, and were requests for permission to hire a boat refused?

Answers:—

(1) "The south east coast of Queensland extending from Caloundra to Southport, and extending eastwards for a distance of 16.093 kilometres (10 miles) beyond the outlying islands of Moreton Bay, i.e. Bribie, Moreton, North Stradbroke and South Stradbroke Islands. Water Police personnel perform duty in various other areas of the State as required."

(2)—

"—"	1972-73	1973 to date
Reported thefts from boats ..	38	3
Reported breaking and entering boats	21	Nil "

(3) "It is not considered that a water police station near the mouth of the river or at Manly Boat Harbour is warranted at this stage."

(4)—

"Type"	No.	Length	Beam	Construction	Speed
Launches	1	m	m	Timber	18 knots
	1	12-19	4-57	Timber	16 knots
Speed boats	1	9-14	3-05	Glass	35 knots
	1	5-49	2-03	reinforced plastic	
Dinghies	1	4-57	1-82	Aluminium	18 knots
	4	3-66	1-52	Aluminium	*
Dinghies	1	3-05	1-25	Timber	*

* Speed is related to loaded weight and outboard power used. 5 outboard motors provided ranging from 6 h.p. to 9½ h.p."

(5) "No information is available to support the allegation. If the Honourable Member supplies details of such an occurrence, the matter will be promptly investigated."

MOTOR-CYCLE TRAFFIC PATROLS, WYNNUM POLICE DISTRICT

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

(1) Was a police officer, whose duties involved motor-cycle traffic patrols, recently transferred from Wynnum Police Station?

(2) Was his position filled by a police-woman and were the motor-cycle patrols suspended?

(3) Have police from Hemmant Station been subsequently required to carry out a minimum of eight hours' traffic work in addition to their normal duties and has a minimum number of charges been set for traffic work?

(4) What are the monthly traffic bookings in the Wynnum district before and after this transfer?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes, on July 30, 1973."

(2) "Yes. Enforcement of the traffic laws is now carried out by all members in conjunction with other duties."

(3) "Police from Hemmant Station have been instructed to carry out a traffic patrol from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Sunday. No minimum number of charges has been set for traffic work."

(4) "During July, 1973, 100 enforcement actions were taken by police from Wynnum and Hemmant. For the month of August, 1973, 126 enforcement actions were taken by police from those Stations."

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDIES, DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

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

With reference to environmental impact studies required by the Government on proposed development projects—

(1) Will commercial firms be given accreditation as suitable to conduct environmental studies and, if so, what criteria will be used?

(2) Which projects are regarded as of sufficient importance to merit impact studies?

(3) Who will evaluate the studies for adequacy?

(4) What methods will be used to weigh social and environmental costs and benefits?

(5) Who will approve or disapprove the projects?

(6) What rights will the public have in evaluating the statements and in challenging the ultimate decision to proceed?

Answers:—

(1) "Commercial firms which indicate capability and willingness to undertake environmental studies are invited to register credentials with the Co-ordinator-General's Department for general release. No official accreditation of such firms is proposed at the present time."

(2) "All projects that may be expected to have a significant effect on the quality of the environment."

(3) "Administering authorities in the first instance, aided by experts from other appropriate Departments. Controversial projects may be referred to the Environmental Control Council."

(4) "Various methods are used, e.g. ranking, overlay mapping, and subjective matrix assessment. A suitable method is being studied in association with the Australian Environment Council."

(5) "The administering authority is responsible."

(6) "The question of public participation is being studied by the Director (Environmental Control) who is closely collaborating with Environmental officers of all States and the Commonwealth through committees of the Australian Environment Council. Some administering authorities, e.g. Department of Local Government, Local Authorities, Mines Department, etc., already have machinery for public participation."

IMPROVEMENT IN RAILWAY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM, CAIRNS

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

With further reference to my Question of November 10, 1971, concerning increasing demands and the need for improved railway communications at Cairns, will the three-channel carrier system and teleprinter service be installed this financial year, as was indicated at that time?

Answer:—

"It is anticipated the three-channel carrier telephone system between Townsville and Cairns will be operative during the current financial year and that teleprinters will be installed late in 1974."

HOUSING COMMISSION OPERATIONS, CAIRNS

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

(1) How many applications for housing accommodation are at present registered as outstanding with the Queensland Housing Commission through the Clerk of the Court, Cairns, for (a) rental and (b) ownership?

(2) For the year ended June 30, 1972 and to date, how many applications were allotted and how many new houses were erected for (a) rental and (b) ownership?

(3) How many outstanding applicants, in their respective categories of priority, applied for rental housing?

(4) How many applications for units are registered under the Dwellings for Aged Pensioners Scheme for (a) single and (b) married pensioners?

(5) How many building lots (a) for which tenders have been let and (b) purchased for future housing requirements, are presently held by the Queensland Housing Commission in (i) the Cairns city area and (ii) Division 1 of the Mulgrave Shire?

Answers:—

(1 and 3) "(a) 100 points, 3; 40 points, 2; nil priority, 49. (b) 135 including 18 duplicated in rental figures.

(2)—

"	(a) Rental		(b) Ownership	
	1971-72	1-7-72 to 30-9-73	1971-72	1-7-72 to 30-9-73
Applications allotted ..	3	8	16	14
Houses erected ..	..	3	4	7

A further 15 houses were constructed with finance provided direct to the Northern Co-operative Terminating Housing Society."

(4) "(a) 50; (b) 13."

(5) "(i) In respect of Cairns—(a) Tenders have been let for 86 houses and 15 aged persons units not yet completed; (b) A further 7 building sites are on hand. Of these 5 are required for housing for Servicemen. (ii) The Commission does not have statistics for internal Divisions of Local Authority areas. The Commission is investigating further possible areas for development and if the honourable member is aware of suitable land available at reasonable prices the owners could contact the Housing Commission."

TEACHER RESIGNATIONS

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

(1) How many teachers resigned in (a) 1972 and (b) 1973 to date from the Southport, Miami, Beenleigh, Brisbane, Rockhampton, Bundaberg, Longreach, Mackay and Cairns State high schools?

(2) What is the usual staff establishment at those schools?

Answer:—

(1 and 2)—

State High School	Normal Staff Establishment (1973)	Number of Resignations	
		Last day of duty in 1972	Last day of duty in 1973
Southport ..	85	13	10
Miami ..	71	9	11
Beenleigh ..	32	2	2
Brisbane ..	97	8	7
Rockhampton ..	70	16	4
Bundaberg ..	88	9	7
Longreach ..	16	1	2
Mackay ..	65	7	1
Cairns ..	60	5	2

RELEASE OF SEWAGE INTO SCRUBBY CREEK, KINGSTON

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

(1) Has his Department given approval to the Albert Shire Council to site a rubbish tip by Scrubby Creek, Kingston?

(2) Has his Department given permission to the Albert Shire Council to release sewage from the Woodridge Sewerage Works into Scrubby Creek at the same place?

(3) Is he aware that sewage has been discharged into this creek for twelve months and is running across open ground for approximately a quarter of a mile before entering the creek?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes. The disposal of non-putrescible refuse on land described as Portions 139 and 140, Parish of Mackenzie, County of Stanley, was approved on June 12, 1973."

(2) "No."

(3) "Departmental officers are aware that sewerage effluent is being discharged into Scrubby Creek. I am advised that the Water Quality Council of the Local Government Department has taken this matter up with the Albert Shire Council."

STAFF ESTABLISHMENT, POLICE DISTRICTS

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

(1) How many police were stationed, as at June 30, 1970, 1971, 1972 and 1973, in each of the police districts of Brisbane, Bundaberg, Cairns, Charleville, Fortitude Valley, Gold Coast, Innisfail, Ipswich, Longreach, Mackay, Maryborough, Mount Isa, Rockhampton, Roma, South Brisbane, Toowoomba, Townsville and Warwick?

(2) What was the rank structure of the districts at the same dates?

(Originally asked on September 20)

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "I lay on the Table of the House the information requested by the Honourable Member."

Paper.—Whereupon Mr. Hodges laid upon the Table of the House the information referred to.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

FATAL MAULING OF ATTENDANT AT AFRICAN LION SAFARI, BEENLEIGH

Mr. BROMLEY: I ask the Acting Premier: Will he immediately have instituted a full inquiry into yesterday's fatal tragedy at the African Lion Safari, Beenleigh? In view of this tragedy and previous instances

where lions have attacked persons in similar so-called tourist centres—incidentally, I do not approve of such centres—

Mr. Aikens: It is a pity the lion didn't have a go at you.

Mr. BROMLEY: Why don't you shut up?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. BROMLEY: . . . will he ensure that safety regulations are tightened up and enforced?

Sir GORDON CHALK: I read the account of this fatality in this morning's Press, but beyond that I have no personal knowledge of the incident. Undoubtedly, there will be a coronial inquiry and if, leading from that, any action is regarded as necessary, I am quite certain that the Government will take all appropriate steps.

**ALLEGED SWALLOWING OF INJURIOUS
OBJECTS BY ACCUSED PERSON, J. A.
STUART**

Mr. DAVIS: I ask the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Welfare Services: Did John Andrew Stuart, a defendant in the Whisky Au-Go-Go murder trial, claim yesterday in the Royal Brisbane Hospital that he had swallowed some more metal objects? Has his stomach been X-rayed and/or operated on? If so, what objects, if any, were found?

Mr. HERBERT: The honourable member should be aware that I cannot answer questions in this House in relation to a trial that is presently in progress.

**GRASSHOPPER PLAGUE IN BALONNE AND
WAGGAMBA SHIRES**

Mr. NEAL: I ask the Acting Minister for Primary Industries: In view of the present grasshopper plague in both the Balonne and Wagamba Shires and as the grasshoppers are still in the hopper stage, what is the position of those local authorities in obtaining financial assistance to fight the plague and what redress have local landholders in respect of the cost of fighting the plague?

Mr. CAMM: The combating of grasshopper plagues is primarily the responsibility of local authorities. Officers of the Department of Primary Industries have declared these areas as being infested. The local authorities concerned can form control committees, which will have made available to them the services of an officer of the Department of Primary Industries, purely in an advisory capacity. The landholders can purchase insecticides, I understand at a reduced price, from the respective local authorities or the control committees. If the local authorities incur expenditure which is beyond their budgetary provisions, I am sure that the Treasurer would be sympathetic if an approach was made for a Treasury loan, which, in the circumstances outlined, would certainly not be very large.

**RURAL FIRES ACT AMENDMENT
BILL**

INITIATION

Hon. W. A. R. RAE (Gregory—Minister for Lands and Forestry): I move—

"That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill to amend the Rural Fires Act 1946–1970 in certain particulars."

Motion agreed to.

**LICENSED VICTUALLERS' LICENSES
(VALIDATION OF REMOVALS) BILL**

THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Mr. Knox, read a third time.

**SUPREME COURT LIBRARY ACT
AMENDMENT BILL**

THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Mr. Knox, read a third time.

SUPPLY

**COMMITTEE—FINANCIAL STATEMENT—
RESUMPTION OF DEBATE**

(The Chairman of Committees, Mr. Lickiss, Mt. Coot-tha, in the chair)

Debate resumed from 27 September (see p. 739) on Sir Gordon Chalk's motion—

"That there be granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1973-74, a sum not exceeding \$80,787 to defray Salaries—His Excellency the Governor."

Mr. HOUSTON (Bulimba—Leader of the Opposition) (12.10 p.m.): At the outset, let me use the words "curious" and "inexcusable" with regard to the Treasurer's new concept in the presentation of his Budget—a concept which, I hope, we have seen here for the first and last time. I refer to the Treasurer's refusal to make available to honourable members a copy of his Budget speech just prior to its delivery. I do not know what exactly was the reason for this changed procedure, but it was most inconvenient for all members of the Chamber.

When a speech such as the Treasurer's Financial Statement is made, it is helpful to have a copy of the printed words, tables and Estimates so that references can be made to them and the speech followed in more detail and with greater interest. In fact, the refusal of the Treasurer to make copies available to honourable members was a sad reflection on all members, particularly as it was noticeable that the Press, and perhaps others, had copies of the speech while the Treasurer was reading it.

If Government members concur in the cant and hypocrisy of this procedure, then I hasten to assure them that the Opposition does not. I recall that a group of four Government members, three of them

medico-Liberals, decided that the only thing to do with the Budget was to sleep on it. Perhaps they were implying that the Treasurer was really daydreaming or were, in fact, showing the natural reaction to a ritual recital of propaganda spliced with figures. For the benefit of any honourable member who has not seen the photograph that appeared in the Press, I have a copy of it here. It was well done. The remaining member of the four was more wide awake, but the Treasurer's words still could not make his hair stand up.

While expressing a view on some aspects of disrespect for Parliament, let me recall the Treasurer's recent speech in which he made a plea for greater dignity and decorum in the Parliament. In effect, he said that the business of the House was being continually disrupted by personal attacks, and attacks by innuendo, on individuals. On behalf of the Opposition, I express strong support for more dignity in the proceedings of this Chamber. There should be a more austere approach to debate and less of the atmosphere that gives rise to honourable members on either side roaring like bulls. Straightforward logic is still the shortest way to creative conclusion.

The Treasurer branded the Budget with a name. I reject his thought and call the Budget an "expressive, carry-on-inflation exercise". The Budget relies on a generous Federal Government, a continuation of high land prices and an escalation of inflation. The estimate of expenditure (all funds) amounts to an increase of \$310,000,000, or 22.7 per cent, on last year's figure. It is a Budget that relies on Commonwealth-State co-operation, and the great weakness in it is the unreliability of the State's willingness to co-operate with the Federal Government.

To finance this Budget, the Treasurer must hope for a continuation of the inflation that his Government deplores, and a maintenance of the relationship with the Whitlam Labor Government, the existence of which his Government denies. It is a Budget framed and financed on ever-increasing land prices and the subsequent stamp duty revenue to the State. It is a Budget framed and financed on the generosity of the Commonwealth Government in fields such as urban development, education, health and others, which the Government refuses to acknowledge and denounces. The Budget does not announce one major new State developmental project based on State Government initiative. It implies that rail freights and fares could rise early next year, according to the whim of the Treasurer or the political and economic circumstances of the Government.

I doubt if I have heard delivered a State Budget that depends to such a degree on the co-operation of a generous Federal Government. The financial aspects of the Budget document show far more faith in the Federal Government than the Treasurer's words would lead one to believe.

Another matter of some curiosity surrounding the Budget is the publicity that preceded its introduction. Trying to reconcile statements such as "darker days ahead on the economy front" with the Treasurer's stressing that Queensland's economy generally is in a most healthy position must have caused confusion in the minds of many of the Liberal-Country Party supporters—assuming, of course, that they do think deeply about such matters.

As the Treasurer went through the Budget, he recited on more than one occasion the healthy state of the economy. The Opposition applauds this situation. Labor wants Queensland to progress and would not want its economy to be in any state other than a healthy one.

Listening to the Treasurer's many other words brought the realisation that he may have been inviting another head-on financial clash with the Federal Government. One of my reactions to the Treasurer's words was this: is he, in fact, trying to tell the Grants Commission to hold back the grant for this year? Is he telling the Commission that the grants received previously were wrong? After all, we may recall that the day of reckoning as to the justice of Queensland's becoming a claimant State is in the 1973-74 financial year, because this is the year in which the complete grant will be determined.

It is the year in which the Grants Commission will make its final adjustments, and naturally the Commission will take into account and prepare in detail the Budget results, standards, efforts and services provided in the last year for both Queensland as a claimant State and the States that are taken as standard. From the rosy picture presented and flowery language used by the Treasurer, I fear that the Grants Commission may consider that Queensland was not entitled to be a claimant State.

In the light of the continuously unpromising and unco-operative attitude of the Queensland Government to anything Federal, there may be an ulterior motive on the part of the Treasurer, because such a decision would give the Queensland Government an opportunity again to attack the Australian Government.

The Grants Commission is, of course, a completely separate identity from the Federal Government, but from previous Statements made by Government members it appears that they regard the accuracy of any statement as only secondary to an opportunity to attack the Federal Labor Government. One statement by the Treasurer merits repeating, because it clearly indicates the Liberal and Country Party Government's thinking with regard to the real welfare of our people. The Treasurer said this—

"Many of the welfare services which involve heavy expenditure programmes and which are being introduced at the

Commonwealth level are desirable improvements, but they should be brought in only as they can be afforded. They obviously cannot be superimposed on an already fully employed economy without severe detrimental effects on that economy."

In other words, the Treasurer believes that the social service improvements proposed by the Federal Government should be stopped, but other statements that have been made by the Treasurer and the Premier advocate that the employment-demanding industries that want to start here with foreign capital behind them should be proceeded with.

Surely at a time when we have near-full employment we should not go looking for further fields of employment. It is at a time of large unemployment that State Governments should be searching for, as well as creating, additional avenues of employment.

It is also significant that, on the one hand, the Treasurer complains about rising inflation and costs of commodities and, on the other, welcomes the increase in the export price of our primary products. I, too, welcome the increase in such export prices, but in doing so I expect that under the present circumstances the producer will also sell his home-consumption product at a high price.

So, in reality, where a commodity is sold both on the home and overseas markets, the tendency is for the home price to be related to the export price, and when the export price is high the home price is also high, and this adds to the rising cost of living. The current prices of meat, particularly beef, are a very clear example of this situation.

Both State and Federal Governments could well study the principle adopted in the sugar industry of having a two-price structure, one for home, the other for export. A similar principle could possibly be applied to other primary products that have a very significant bearing on the cost of living in our nation.

Let us now consider some of the financial aspects of the Financial Statement for the last year's operations as well as the Budget for the coming year.

It is significant that, in the 1972-73 Budget, the estimate of revenue available was as follows:—

Consolidated Revenue ..	\$679,100,000
Trust and Special Funds ..	\$670,600,000
Loan Fund Account ..	\$141,800,000
Total ..	\$1,491,600,000

However, as there is an interchange of moneys between Consolidated Revenue and the Loan Fund into Trust Funds, and even a shift in the Trust and Special Funds themselves, the total amount of actual money available was less than the sum of the three funds by \$134,900,000, which brought the

actual amount available to \$1,356,700,000. In dealing with State expenditure, that is the amount which has to be taken into account.

The actual expenditure from Consolidated Revenue was \$702,900,000, or \$23,700,000 more than the appropriation. However, this was counterbalanced by increases in income.

The actual expenditure from Trust and Special Funds was \$632,100,000, which was \$38,500,000 less than anticipated. One of the main shortfalls in estimated expenditure was \$2,100,000 on the University's Capital Works Fund. I do not think I would be wrong if I were to surmise that this drop in expenditure had a direct relationship to the change in Federal Governments and the knowledge that the A.L.P. Federal Government would be interested, in the future, in university capital works.

The Wivenhoe Dam Construction Fund was underspent by \$1,500,000, and the amount of \$750,000 set aside for the Computer Replacement Account was not spent at all. The expenditure from the State Service Superannuation Additional Benefits Fund was overestimated by \$1,700,000. The Estimate for Conservation, Marine and Aboriginal Affairs—mainly weir and dam construction—was \$4,650,000 above the actual expenditure.

The Estimate for Education and Cultural Activities was \$24,400,000. However, only \$19,800,000 was spent, which means that there was a shortfall in expenditure of \$4,600,000. The situation was reversed on the Health Estimate. An amount of \$94,600,000 was appropriated, but \$101,500,000 was spent. The appropriation for Land and Forestry was \$41,400,000 and expenditure was \$36,800,000, leaving \$4,600,000 unspent. The sum of \$113,500,000 was allocated for Mines and Main Roads, but this allocation was underspent by \$2,000,000. Virtually the same story can be told about Primary Industries. The allocation was \$36,900,000, but only \$34,200,000 was spent.

Under the general heading of Works and Housing, the Commonwealth-State Housing Fund was allocated \$34,200,000, but expenditure totalled \$33,200,000. An amount of \$5,200,000 was allocated for the Approved Housing Institution Advances Account, but expenditure totalled only \$3,400,000. The Home Builders' Account was allocated \$4,600,000, but only \$3,900,000 was spent. The allocation from the Queensland Housing Commission Fund was \$11,500,000, whereas only \$9,800,000 was spent.

These approved expenditures, and the shortfalls in spending, show that the State Government was not able to carry out the work that Parliament had approved.

Under the Loan Fund Account, the sum of \$141,900,000 was allocated, while expenditure totalled \$144,100,000.

The amounts appropriated for 1973-74 are—

Consolidated Revenue ..	\$807,960,000
Trust and Special Funds ..	\$875,000,000
Loan Fund Account ..	\$139,000,000

The interchange of moneys in this case amounts to \$155,900,000, giving an actual total expenditure of \$1,666,000,000. This represents an increase of \$309,400,000 over the previous Estimate or, in other words, an increase of 22.7 per cent. This means that the anticipated increased expenditure from Consolidated Revenue is \$105,000,000, or an increase of 15 per cent. In 1972-73, actual expenditure from Trust and Special Funds was \$632,000,000. The Budget Estimate this year is \$875,000,000, which is an increase of \$243,000,000, or a little over 38 per cent.

The amount expended last year from the Loan Fund was \$144,100,000, and the estimated requirement for this year is \$139,000,000.

Surely it is clear from the increases in proposed expenditure that this is the type of Budget the Treasurer condemned when it was put forward by the Federal Government. It represents a massive increase in expenditure this year over last year, so, if the Federal Budget was "inflationary"—to use the Treasurer's word—surely this year's State Budget must also be inflationary. However, I do not believe that the Federal Government's Budget, which envisaged increased expenditure on education, social welfare and health, will, in any degree, add to an inflationary spiral. I think that will be one of its minimum effects. Likewise, I do not believe that the State Budget, in itself, will add to inflation to any great extent.

As we know, many of the funds covered by Trust and Special Funds are not working funds in the sense of State Government activity. They are working funds as far as the investment of money is concerned, provided that the investments are wise and that they, too, will not add any significant amount to inflation. I refer, of course, to the State Insurance Fund which, in this case, is \$28,000,000 up on expenditure last year. The State Superannuation Additional Benefits Fund rises over \$5,000,000 on expenditure last year.

The many items under the Special Funds Accounts show the availability of money as far as the State and its economy are concerned. Naturally, to service expenditure, there must be income. There was an accumulated surplus of \$3,900,000 as at 1 July 1973. The estimated accumulated deficit, at 30 June 1974, will be \$357,000. It is expected that, in Consolidated Revenue, our income will be \$803,700,000. The incomes show some quite remarkable features. First of all, consider Commonwealth payments. The financial assistance grant in 1972-73 was \$271,900,000, whereas this year it is \$305,500,000, an increase of \$33,600,000.

Looking at the table of the Commonwealth general revenue assistance, per head of population, and comparing the 1972-73 and 1973-74 figures, Queensland, of the mainland States, had the largest increase—from \$148.70 per head to \$165.12, an increase of \$16.42.

Western Australia was next best, with a \$15.46 increase. South Australia increased by \$12.78, Victoria by \$7.73 and New South Wales by \$6.53. Tasmania rose by \$25.05, but it has a very limited opportunity from State income. Based on percentages, Queensland had the largest personal increase of all the States.

So that, although the Premier and other Government spokesmen are very keen to criticise the Federal Government on all its activities, one thing they cannot criticise is the Federal Government's allocation of Federal revenue to this State as compared to other States. As I said earlier, the only thing that worries me is whether two years ago, when we became a claimant State, the Treasurer overplayed his hand and, since that time, whether his boasting will get us into financial difficulties.

I shall now make some reference to income from State taxation in 1972-73. The Treasurer quite accurately summed up the drinking habits of the Queensland public, and his estimate of \$7,250,000 was only fractionally out. His land tax assessment was also fairly accurate. However, his assessment of pay-roll tax was nearly \$3,000,000 out. He budgeted for \$58,000,000 and received nearly \$61,000,000. His estimate on stamp duty of \$35,500,000 was well out. The actual amount received was nearly \$52,900,000, which was over \$12,600,000 more than estimate. Succession and probate duties were slightly under estimate. Totalisator, betting and book-makers' turn-over tax was virtually "right on the nose".

Territorial land revenue was accurate except for freehold land sales. Estimated to equal \$3,000,000, the sales were nearly \$4,500,000, an increase of 50 per cent. I do not know whether this was due to a greater volume of sales in land or whether it is a reflection of the higher land prices now being charged. The Treasurer or the Minister for Lands should make it very clear at some time during this debate whether the volume of land being converted to freehold is greater than expected or whether the State itself is cashing in on the land boom.

Anticipated income from mining did not quite make the grade. Last year the Treasurer suggested that income would be \$5,500,000 whereas it was actually \$5,300,000. Of that amount, only \$3,200,000 was actual royalty.

Public balances advances on loan fund investments, etc., showed an increase from the anticipated \$18,500,000 to \$20,250,000. I should like to make it clear that that increase took place prior to any Commonwealth Budget or any alteration to the existing financial structure. There was a general increase over the whole range of income from receipts for services rendered, so that \$9,600,000 was received instead of only \$8,300,000. However, miscellaneous receipts dropped by \$1,000,000.

The railway situation is interesting because, in the Southern Division, the estimated income was \$44,500,000 while the actual

receipts were \$46,000,000, an increase of \$1,500,000. In the Central Division and Mackay the estimate was \$53,500,000, but only \$51,700,000 was received. In the Northern Division the estimate was \$35,900,000, while \$35,100,000 was received. Over all, there was a slight drop of \$1,100,000 in estimated revenue.

Mr. Casey: Why don't you get stuck into the Government? You are like a poor old cow.

Mr. HOUSTON: That is better than being a run-down old bull.

It is also interesting to relate incomes expected for 1973-74 to previous incomes, and also to compare individual items. In 1968-69, only five years ago, the total Commonwealth payment was only \$170,600,000. The expected \$355,000,000 this year represents an increase of more than 100 per cent in five years. State taxation in 1970-71, only three years ago, was \$72,700,000. This year, at \$206,000,000, it will be nearly three times more.

Expected land revenue of \$14,700,000 is slightly less than the comparable figure last year of \$15,000,000, and follows a general yearly pattern of about that figure. Unfortunately—and tragically—the income from mining expected this year, at \$6,160,000, is less than it was in 1970-71, and only slightly higher than it has been over the last five years. The income last year of \$5,300,000 was the lowest for the last three years.

We are constantly hearing about our great mineral wealth and how it is being exploited. I think the term "exploited" refers to the advantage gained by foreign investors and foreign owners. Certainly this exploitation is not to the advantage of Queenslanders, or Australians in general. This point is emphasised by the paltry amount that Queensland receives in royalties, and I will never stop condemning this Country-Liberal Government for selling out our natural resources. Its paltriness is shown up in greater clarity by a comparison of royalties with other taxes being applied in this State. For example, fines and forfeitures return the State \$3,400,000, whilst mining royalties total only \$3,200,000. Of course, these figures are of no interest at all to the Government. All that it is concerned about is increasing State taxation on the citizens of Queensland.

Income received last year from totalisator, betting and bookmakers' turnover tax, at \$11,500,000, was three times as much as that received in the previous year, and, even from those who like a drink, \$7,600,000 was received by means of licence fees and permit fees.

The amount received from mining royalties is completely ridiculous. In fact, of a total income last year of \$704,000,000, the \$5,300,000 received from mining was only three-quarters of one per cent of the State's total income.

The \$31,000,000 expected in interest this year will be the highest ever received. This follows the trend towards increased interest rates, and shows the wisdom of a previous Treasurer in making use of the short-term money market.

The income expected from the railways will be the highest on record, but unfortunately it will fall well short of the expected expenditure of \$176,000,000. The Treasurer has expressed concern over the position of the State's railways. He has good reason for doing so. The year 1969-70 saw the railways run at a profit of \$2,000,000. Since then, results have been getting progressively worse, with losses in 1970-71, 1971-72 and 1972-73 of \$6,400,000, \$8,900,000 and \$13,000,000 respectively. This year the expected loss is \$16,100,000.

The Treasurer says he does not intend to increase freight rates "at this stage". However, it is a natural assumption that they will rise later in this financial year. The history of the Railway Department is one of actual results usually being worse than expected results. I wonder how much longer the State will be prepared to carry the Railway Department. It is a necessary service, important for communications in time of peace and absolutely vital in time of war.

The tragedy of our transport administration has been a failure in the past to grapple with the problems presented by the lack of uniformity in the railway systems throughout Australia. Although many new lines have been built, including the rehabilitation of the Mt. Isa line, Queensland still has the 3 ft. 6 in. gauge, whereas the rest of Australia is now connected with 4 ft. 8½ in. gauge lines.

Can any national Government continue to allow our defence system to have such a tremendously weak link half-way up our eastern coast? The present Federal Government has offered to take over from the State the purely railway system, as distinct from metropolitan transport. Other States are in a position where they can negotiate, and perhaps agree, on Commonwealth control; but Queensland has put itself in such a position that the actual loss of the railways is not the only factor to be considered.

The present Country-Liberal Government has put Queensland into this position because of its ridiculous idea of giving coal away for virtually nothing and then trying to make all its profits out of railway cartage. With coal royalties totalling only a miserable \$822,418, it is a fallacy of "putting all your eggs in one basket" to try to make profits out of the carriage of coal.

The coal industry, particularly the export industry in Queensland, should have had two profit areas. The first—and it could be a substantial one—should have been the selling of the coal to the company originally—that is, the royalty—and then a reasonable and honest profit should have been made on the carriage of the commodity.

While royalties on coal are low, those on bauxite amounted to only \$570,141 in 12 months. I remind the Committee that no bauxite is carried on the railways.

From time to time, members of the Opposition have been blamed for using figures that are claimed to be inaccurate. I draw the attention of the Committee to the fact that the figures used by the Opposition are obtained from quarters which would appear to make them official.

On 2 August this year I asked a question of the Minister for Mines. It included details of the royalties paid on various minerals and coal, and the honourable gentleman said in his answer that the royalty on coal during 1972-73 amounted to \$852,473. Yet we find in the Auditor-General's report for that year that the royalty from coal-mining was \$822,418—in other words, about \$30,000 less. This brings to light two factors: firstly, was false information supplied to a member in this Chamber? If so, that is a situation which should never be tolerated. In fact, it is grossly wrong, and I call upon the Treasurer to obtain from the Minister for Mines or from the Auditor-General a detailed explanation and find out which figure is correct. It is obvious that both cannot be correct. Secondly, whichever is correct, I believe that the Auditor-General or the Minister should explain the difference of about \$30,000 in the figures. If the Auditor-General has found something wrong in the book-keeping of the Mines Department, this surely raises more questions to be answered.

Whilst speaking on the railways, let me support the secretary of the Transport Workers' Union, Mr. Arch Bevis, in his call to the Government to build urgently new marshalling yards for the northern goods trade. The sight and sound of hold-ups at Roma Street yards are now so consistent that the problem can no longer be classified as an industrial dispute.

These hold-ups are due to a lack of facilities. The present site is too small, and it not only interferes with the convenience of the public but also adds to the costs of the articles transported. Naturally, this type of increase in cost structure is completely unnecessary. I urge the Government to immediately set about building new marshalling yards outside the centre of the city so that commerce and trade within the State can proceed smoothly, efficiently and cheaply, and to the benefit of the community.

In regard to the railways, I repeat my annual question—as yet unanswered—to the Treasurer: "Why do we have a loss on the standard-gauge railway?" Anyone who travels on that line knows it is not easy to make a booking. If one wants a sleeper, one has to book some time ahead. So why is it that this line, a short line as far as Queensland is concerned, showed a loss of \$1,200,000 in 1972-73? That, added to the internal loss, gives an over-all railway loss of \$15,130,000.

Sir Gordon Chalk: Surely you know the answer to that question.

Mr. HOUSTON: The honourable gentleman has never answered it. He can answer it in his reply.

The great tragedy is that it is now 16 years since the Country-Liberal Government abandoned the development of electrification of Brisbane's suburban lines. Not only did this abandonment mean that passengers were denied an efficient and rapid service; it also brought about a tremendous increase in the cost of final development of the system. Will the Treasurer deny that claim?

At this stage I ask the Treasurer what provision has been made for the supply of electricity for an electrified rail system. In the many statements made with regard to the development of the State, I have not yet heard where the electricity is to come from for the operation of an electrified rail system.

While referring to the electrification of the railways in Brisbane and surrounding areas, let me ask what has happened to the Government's promise to create a transport authority for this area. Apparently this is another of the Government's promises that will have to wait for Commonwealth assistance before it can be carried out, yet the promise was made at a time when there was an anti-Labor Government in the Federal sphere and also at a time when that Federal Government showed no inclination to help local authorities or the State Government in this type of project.

It is urgent that a transport authority should be set up to overcome duplication. There is a complete lack of co-ordination between the existing rail and bus services, and the use of the Brisbane River for public transport is only in its infancy. The sooner there is a co-ordinated authority to organise the use of our river and to co-ordinate rail and road transport, the better it will be for Queensland.

It is appropriate at this stage to refer again to a statement I made 12 months ago, when the Federal Government was Liberal-Country Party dominated. Referring to electrification, I said—

"I believe the most pressing and urgent job associated with the railways is getting on with the Brisbane and surrounding areas electrification scheme. The longer the delay, the greater the costs will increase and soon the absolute urgent need for an underground system will also become apparent. The Government's lack of momentum in this regard will have that lumbering giant of 'inflation' bury us in a morass of money."

Naturally I welcome the Budget allocation to start electrification and towards building the connecting bridge across the Brisbane River, but completion is far off. The amount allocated is only a drop in the bucket.

Although I believe that major taxing fields should be uniform throughout the nation, that does not mean that I am against giving exemptions to those taxed in certain fields if such is in the interests of the State

and the nation. As the Commonwealth Government grants certain exemptions in the income-tax field to encourage people in certain activities, I see no reason why pay-roll tax cannot be used similarly. I can see no logic in asking local authorities to meet pay-roll tax, except as a means for the State Government to take back a slice of its subsidy to the local authority—which I do not support.

In spite of the boast by this Government that decentralisation of the State is increasing, far too many old, established country areas are not increasing in population. In fact, in many cases the young people are not remaining in country towns. It is true that some new towns have sprung up because of mining—I instance Weipa, Moura, Blackwater and Moranbah—but their population is still in the low thousands. Because of the alumina plant, Gladstone has increased in population. Townsville has also increased in population, as have some of the other coastal cities, but far too many old, established cities are not progressing at all. Before anyone can boast about decentralisation, all of the established towns should be showing at least some increase in population.

With the ever-increasing costs of transport, I believe that, as a State, we must immediately find ways and means of processing our primary industries into secondary industries at the point of primary production. This has to be done if we are really to progress as a decentralised State. Work must be found for our young people in the areas in which they are reared. I am sure that if they were given opportunities in their own areas they would like to remain there.

One important weapon that could be used in encouraging secondary industry to start in areas away from the coast, and particularly away from large centres of population, would be either a reduction in pay-roll tax or its complete elimination in those areas. The cost of employing people would be reduced and this, of course, would cut down the cost of production, both primary and secondary. I feel that this would encourage industry to decentralise. The loss to the State in revenue from pay-roll tax would be more than offset by the increased revenue to the local authority, which would be worth while. Also, once population started to move upwards, such increase would bring about more amenities which, in turn, would encourage more people to remain, and other self-generation would also help to avoid the drift of young people away from home. The honourable member for Warrego (Mr. Jack Aiken) has frequently advocated the establishment of secondary industry based on our primary industries, and I thoroughly support him in his attitude.

With regard to the increase of 1 per cent in pay-roll tax, which has already been introduced by legislation, I support the view of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition (Mr.

Tucker) that this increase will, in fact, be passed on to the public and thus accelerate inflation.

According to the Treasurer, the increases in Titles Office fees are designed to bring them into line with those of other States. From the public's point of view, the greatest problem in the Titles Office is surely the delays that occur. It is to be hoped that these extra fees will enable a smartening up of the processing of documents and thus overcome delays which often frustrate the public. I support the view that urgent action has to be taken within the Titles Office to overcome the existing problem, whether it be processing, administration or lack of staff.

The increase in the exemption from land tax is a step that is taken by the Government every two or three years. As this tax last year brought in \$8,600,000 and the estimated receipts for this year are \$8,400,000, even with the increase in exemption the State does not expect to receive much less in total income.

The action taken by the Government on succession and probate duties is a combination of the promises of the Liberal and Country Parties during the last election and some of the promises I made on behalf of the Labor Party. The action taken on this occasion is welcome. However, let me repeat my statement of 12 months ago that, after a fairly close study and analysis of existing conditions, I feel that some of the features associated with succession and probate duties are not only undesirable but also morally wrong. Therefore, I believe there should be a full and thorough investigation into the whole ramifications of the application of probate and succession duties. In fact, it would be a very good subject for investigation by an all-party committee, and I again ask the Government to set up such a committee.

At that time I also raised the question of joint bank accounts of married couples, and I therefore welcome the Treasurer's statement that joint ownership of a bank account will, in future, be accepted as evidence that the surviving party owned one-half of the balance in the account. Although I believe that this Budget has done something positive with regard to succession and probate duties, I still urge that an all-party committee have a good look at the whole range of succession and probate duty charges.

Raising the rate of exemption from gift duty from \$4,000 to \$10,000 is another action that has been taken purely and simply because of inflation. It is obvious that the Treasurer believes that the monetary values applying in this regard will not decrease. Another form of taxation in the same range is stamp duty on mortgages over matrimonial homes. Here again, the raising of the exemptions is being done only to bring them into line with increases in value of even the most modest premises.

An interesting item in the Estimates for the Premier's Department is the increase in the allocation for incidental and miscellaneous expenses under the State Public Relations Bureau. Last year's expenditure was \$30,242 and this year the provision is \$125,752. This bureau is responsible for the political propaganda for the Premier, which is put out by the Government at public expense. No doubt some of this money would finance the Premier's trip overseas in May this year, when newsreels and propaganda films were produced for screening back here in Australia.

I have previously condemned—and I again condemn—this use of public money for purely party-political purposes. The Premier's trip overseas in May was, no doubt, enjoyed by him, but what did it achieve for Queensland or Australia? He went through a set of motions in London concerning off-shore authority legislation and the future of the Privy Council and legal appeals from Australia. No doubt his voice was heard in criticism of the Australian Government, but I ask what contribution could he really make on such a legal and constitutional matter? It must be remembered that this trip, with all its propaganda trimmings, was arranged long before there was any thought or mention of the national Government's action on off-shore legislation or on matters concerning the Privy Council.

I ask the Acting Premier: What was the purpose of the Premier's visit to America and Europe at that time? Certainly no report was made to Parliament on any matter. Judging from media reports, the Premier's main activity in America was confined to looking over Disneyland and telling some junior American public servant to beware of a fellow named Whitlam. Apparently the Premier went to Europe to see the Concorde aeroplane. We know that this Government always likes to boast about having the "biggest", but to contemplate buying a Concorde aircraft as the Government's aeroplane is ridiculous.

The Premier is again overseas, allegedly to attend the International Sugar Conference. Apparently he has no faith in his Minister for Primary Industries or the sugar industry leaders in this State. Surely they would be the people with the technical knowledge to carry out the required negotiations. The itinerary for this overseas trip covers visits to Japan, Canada, America, England and Italy, as well as Geneva. I ask the Acting Premier: What important Government business is the Premier engaged on in these countries that takes him out of the Queensland Parliament while the State Budget is being presented and debated? While the State's most important financial debate is proceeding, the Premier's place is in this Parliament, particularly in view of the report that he wants to be Treasurer on the retirement of the present Treasurer.

The only publicity this trip has been from Japan, where the Premier attended a private luncheon put on by a few Japanese businessmen. He was reported as saying that the Japanese businessmen were not happy with the Australian Government, and warned us that the Japanese were upset. I wonder what he said to them. I wonder what views he put to the Japanese about the Australian Government.

Remember, the Premier is the same man who would not go to dinner with the Australian Prime Minister and his fellow Premiers. On that occasion he was reported as saying that dinner parties were not the place to discuss important matters. He also said that discussions on such an important matter as the welfare of Australia should not be held unless minutes are kept. Apparently there is a great difference between attending a dinner and attending a luncheon, because no doubt minutes would not be kept of the luncheon discussion.

While on the Premier, I ask the Acting Premier, "Who is now flying the Government aeroplane?" Surely if it is so greatly needed by the Premier, the Acting Premier would also have such need.

I also ask the Acting Premier how often he used the plane while the Premier was overseas in May and June, at a time when the pilot was in Australia.

May I remind the Committee of the recent statements by the Mines Minister in which he confirmed that some coal contracts for exports to Japan do not expire until 1983, 1984 and 1985. May I also remind honourable members that the Government took the precaution to allow for royalties on coal leases until the year 2010 at 5c a ton, no matter who is the purchaser.

A new administrative procedure is the provision of money to race clubs in Queensland to the extent of \$200,000 this year. Past experience indicates that, like Topsy, this amount will surely grow perhaps in a few years to \$1,000,000.

What is behind this? After all, the race clubs are receiving substantial amounts from the T.A.B. Is this the sprat to get the mackerel? Is this Government involvement in racing to be used as a lever to justify the creation of a racing commission to control all racing in this State?

The Government already, as its policy, has a major control over trotting and greyhound racing in this State. The Government is directly responsible for the appointment of the Trotting Control Board and the Greyhound Racing Control Board. Up to the present, galloping has been able to operate outside an over-all control board.

I ask the Acting Premier: Did these race clubs make any approach to him, as Treasurer, to have the Government sponsor prize money, and, if they did, did he investigate their balance sheets to see whether or not their normal income could

have been redirected to allow them to provide the necessary prize money to bring better-class horses to our State? Did he inquire if, in fact, it was the prize money that made all the difference?

While on control boards, let me indicate to him that I am not particularly happy with the operation of the Greyhound Racing Control Board.

In galloping, each club has its own handicapper, and the horse can, in fact, be handicapped at a slightly different weight, depending on how a particular handicapper sees the horse's performance and potential. This means that, if an owner believes that a horse is being badly treated by a particular handicapper, he still has the opportunity of entering and racing at another course under another handicapper.

With the greyhounds, however, the graders are the same for all tracks. This, I believe, is wrong. If the board sees fit to grant a licence to a club to conduct its meetings, I see no reason at all why that club should not be given the responsibility of doing its own gradings. If, at some stage, the board believed the gradings were unfair or were being used in any way to corrupt the sport, certainly the board should act, but it is not in the interests of the sport, as it is today, to have one set of graders for all clubs.

Let me refer to the position of the T.A.B. in greyhound racing. At present, the T.A.B. operates only on the Gabba greyhound races. One thing that punters like to do is to follow their fancy at its next start, particularly after a good performance. As most night-time patrons who attend the Gabba greyhounds races are not able to attend day-time meetings, whether at Lawnton, Beenleigh or Capalaba, they lack the opportunity of following their fancy.

With trotting and galloping, this opportunity exists, and it is completely wrong to deny it to the greyhound patron. So I ask the Treasurer to approach the T.A.B. to have it operate at the day-time tracks. Such action would benefit the T.A.B., as well as Government finance, and would, I am sure, be welcomed by the clubs.

One of the most puzzling headings in the Budget is, "Commissioner of Prices". The Commissioner of Prices is also Commissioner for Consumer Affairs. He has one investigator, who receives a salary of \$6,838, and will incur postage, incidental and miscellaneous expenditure of \$6,756. Last year he spent only \$1,486. This expenditure was for a similar contingency, described in different wording. I mention this point because, to me, it is completely ridiculous that, with prices obviously spiralling at an accelerated rate, and the public being exploited to the limit, for the whole of Queensland we should have only one sole, lonely investigator. That makes a complete farce of the name, "Commissioner of Prices".

When a housewife goes shopping, her first objective is to ascertain the prices of the various commodities she contemplates purchasing. She wishes to know the price of mutton before she decides to buy beef, or the price of cauliflower before she decides on cabbage. Before she makes her purchases she wishes to know on what terms she can obtain the various things that she wants. She will buy more of a certain commodity if it is cheap than if it is dear, and she will not buy any quantity at all of certain other things if she cannot get them at what she considers to be a reasonable price. This would apply equally to all consumers.

Prices represent to the consumer the terms on which he can obtain goods and, together with the law of diminished utility, they determine the way in which he distributes his income among the various alternatives that the market offers. But how are the prices of consumer goods determined? The mechanism of prices plays a fundamental role in the economic system. Prices, in fact, are the regulators of economic activity; they regulate production in accordance with the demand of consumers—that is, effective demand. A man may "demand" a great quantity of good things such as food, clothing, house-room, amusements, etc., but if he has no money in his pocket his "demand" is virtually non-existent.

The defects in the mechanism of prices may therefore be divided into two categories: those cases in which the individual interest and the public interest do not coincide, and those cases in which, though there is a coincidence of interest, the individual, through lack of knowledge, enterprise, intelligence or money, is unable to pursue his best interest.

How are prices determined? The kinds of things that are priced may be divided into two categories. Firstly, there are the goods and services which directly satisfy our wants, and secondly, the things with which these goods and services are produced. The first category comprises the commodities, goods and services that are available for consumption; the second comprises the land, labour and capital that are available for production. The prices of these two categories of things are determined in very much the same way.

The influences that determine the price of a commodity are twofold: those that lie behind demand and those that lie behind supply. The sum of the influences behind demand and supply determines prices. The problem underlying the determination of prices therefore resolves itself into an analysis of the influences that underlie supply and demand.

In order that a supply of a particular commodity may be forthcoming, certain costs have to be incurred. What are these costs? The answer depends on which of the three possible points of view it is decided to take. There is the point of view of the employer who is running a

business, that of the individual who co-operates in production and, finally, the point of view of the community as a whole. Our problem, therefore, in ascertaining the principles on which the national economy is shared among the three factors that co-operate in its production consists of analysing the influences underlying demand. As far as demand is concerned, the principles that determine the value of land, labour and capital are precisely the same as those that determine the value of commodities.

Profit-making is entirely unobjectionable within its proper sphere. I see nothing more anti-social in the mere act of running a business in the hope of making a profit than I see in writing a book in the hope of getting royalties from its sale. The immorality of the profit system lies not in the mere making of profit, but in the dominance of the profit motive over considerations of service to the community.

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

Mr. HOUSTON: There is well-documented economic opinion and positive proof that inflation in Australia is due primarily to two factors, namely, transmission from overseas, and domestic causation through uncontrolled prices and high profit levels. The second factor is typified by two items: firstly, the \$1,050 million profit declared by Australia's top 100 public companies in their last accounting year and, secondly, the increase of 25 per cent in declared company profits during the year ended March last—in a period during which wages and salaries rose by 12 per cent and there were mammoth capital gains, which are not subject to taxation.

Wage and salary increases, in substance, do no more than restore the pre-existing purchasing power of workers' incomes, share to a limited extent the increase in national productivity, and re-evaluate, in a comparatively few cases, the worth of the work being performed. In most cases, wage and salary rates are regulated by awards of arbitration authorities. And this is definitely true, despite the fact that, in this Chamber, I have been chided by the statement that the Industrial Commission fixes only minimum rates.

The Premier, the Treasurer and other Cabinet Ministers—in fact, back-benchers in the Government, too—as well as the presidents and secretaries of the Government's political parties have all added their voices in condemning the Federal Government for doing nothing about inflation. I have already asked the State Government what practical steps it has taken within the past 12 months to help overcome inflation. The negative reply still hangs in the air like a limp red flag being waved now and then in the direction of Canberra.

Consider the recent announcements showing high profits. Castlemaine Perkins, for the year 1972-73, lifted group net profit by \$1,500,000, or 34.7 per cent, to a record of \$5,900,000. For the year 1971-72, net profit had been only 6.15 per cent over the previous year. Carlton and United Breweries, for

the year 1970-71, had a record profit of \$10,600,000, which was 12.7 per cent above the year before. For the first half of the 1972-73 year, the rate increased to such an extent that a \$14,000,000 profit is likely.

Turning to retail establishments, Barry & Roberts department store and retail food chain lifted group net profits for the year by 39 per cent. David Jones department store chain lifted group net profit for the year 1972-73 by 21.77 per cent to \$6,900,000. McDonnell & East, for the first 26 weeks of 1973, to 31 July, increased sales by 11.42 per cent compared with the first half of 1972, yet net profit was 26.17 per cent higher. I am sure that that is a very interesting report. Waltons Ltd. earned a record \$8,400,000 for the year ended 31 July 1973. Provincial Traders Holdings Ltd. lifted group net profit by 42.3 per cent for the year ended 30 June 1973. R. M. Gow & Co., food and detergent manufacturers, lifted group net profit by 19.9 per cent for the year ended 30 June. This followed a profit in 1972 which trebled net profit from the previous year. Woolworths Ltd. increased its net profit, after tax and depreciation, by 21.9 per cent in the six months to 1 August 1973.

"The Australian Financial Review" of 1 October 1973 forecast that the Myer Emporium would have a \$25,000,000 profit at 31 July and reported—

"It would have had a particularly buoyant seven months' trading. As it is, the first half showed up particularly well, with net profit, after extraordinary items, up 25.1 per cent on sales up 17.5 per cent. To exceed the \$25,000,000 mark, the company would need to earn only \$11,200,000 on top of the \$13,800,000 earned in the first half."

As a result of the rural recovery, Dalgety Australia Ltd. lifted its group net profit by a massive 123 per cent, to \$5,800,000, for the year ended 30 June 1973. These figures show clearly, I believe, that wages are not the only cause of inflation.

Of course, the State Government refuses to do anything about price rises. More than a thousand items increased in price during the month of February 1973, compared with 250 in February last year. Press reports in September 1973 headlined that the greatest price rise in more than 20 years applied to Brisbane, the added costs amounting to \$1.08 a week. This State is administered by a Country-Liberal Government which, of course, ignores these continuous warning signs of rampant inflation.

However, let me refer back to December 1971. The Bureau of Census and Statistics reported then that for the last three months prices in Australia had risen faster than they had risen for 15 years. The Consumer Price Index had risen by 2.3 per cent, and this increase coincided with the highest level of unemployment for about nine years. In a statement made on 21 January 1972, the then Treasurer (Mr. Snedden) said that

"figures would bring home to all Australians that inflation was the major problem facing the nation." Let it be remembered that that was said over 20 months ago, and 10 months before the change in Federal Government. Even in the December 1972 quarter, before the Labor Party came into power in the Federal sphere, Brisbane had the highest cost-of-living rise. The Labor Party in the Federal sphere inherited, and did not initiate, inflation. The failure of State Governments to use the price-control power that they already have has been a very substantial factor that has contributed to present inflationary problems.

The Acting Premier, with his usual blustering type of publicity, has recently referred to the cost of national strikes. The Government must never lose sight of the fact that it is continuously rising prices that engender agitation for increased wages. Many industrial disputes are incited not so much by a lust for gain as by a wish to regain the power to purchase essential needs. With constant publicity being given to high company profits, the worker naturally reflects on his position and comes to the conclusion that he, too, should share in such developments. Agitation for shorter hours, extra award provisions and, in some cases, longer leave, thus arises. All these factors quickly lead to industrial action.

Another factor in strikes is the demarcation dispute. Employees should know before commencing the job what the employer desires and requires of them. Too often an arrogant attitude by the employer prevents discussion about which union should rightly be concerned about the situation. The current wave of national strikes springs from such causes. Instead of accepting their responsibility, State Governments take a stand that is calculated to place blame on the Australian Labor Government, despite the fact that in most cases such industrial disputes are well within State responsibility. As I have already indicated, when the Commonwealth offers to mediate, the offer is rejected. All of this has the effect of both prolonging strikes and making conciliation harder.

I now wish to make some reference to the office of the Agent-General in London. The fact that Sir Peter Delamothé has retired as Agent-General gives stress to what I feel is a necessary expansion of the Public Service. A section should be established for the training of appointees to serve as State representatives in selected posts in various parts of the world. Such training should extend into Queensland's conditions generally, its trading policies and its industries, both primary and secondary, and the professionals so trained should fill State appointments in London, Japan, Singapore and Hong Kong. The stage has been reached when posts such as those of the Agent-General should not be merely prestige appointments.

Queensland's overseas trade statistics make such a proposal a matter of strong statesmanship. Australian exports to the United Kingdom for the 11 months July 1972 to May 1973 were valued at \$568,600,000. The value of exports to Japan for the same period was \$1.7 billion, and to Hong Kong and Singapore export values were \$82,900,000 and \$120,500,000 respectively. Australian imports from the United Kingdom, Japan, Hong Kong and Singapore amounted to \$786,000,000, \$738,000,000, \$80,300,000 and \$40,000,000 respectively. Queensland's overseas exports now reach \$1 billion in 12 months. All of this is big business and deserves big thinking as well as action to ensure that Queensland continues to receive an ever-increasing share of this trade.

The growth of consumer legislation, in which Queensland is a pioneer, brings to the fore the concept of good faith between producer, retailer, and buyer, and thus the ultimate user.

Business is in the practical situation where it must perform more than its traditional functions. Traditionally, business must produce material goods and services required by all Australians. It must provide jobs for a growing population that insists on a decent standard of living. It must make enough profit to pay taxes to support the services and good works of Government at all levels. But business must also, for practical reasons, carry on good works of its own. Today business is asked—indeed, it is expected—to do more than it ever has before. It is asked not simply to meet its broad objectives of producing goods and services at minimum costs, employing people, and paying its taxes, but also to make a contribution to protecting the environment and in some way directly helping the poor. And some of the actions in business that are aimed at social improvement can be justified to even the most hard-eyed shareholder because, in the long run, social benefits are of benefit to business.

The next step towards industrial democracy in Australia is a change in company law to arrange broad-level worker representation. In today's society there is a growing demand for job satisfaction, which a sense of "really belonging" to an organisation can surely bring. A trend to an alienated work-force can be overcome by redesigning work settings so that workers participate in decisions affecting production.

Trade unions have the ability to concern themselves with job quality as well as with hours and wages. Consider the current trend in the Federal Republic of Germany, one of the most industrialised countries in the world. In the foreseeable future, millions of German employees are to have at their disposal capital which, in the past, they were unable to acquire or could acquire only with great difficulty. Without nationalisation they are to become joint owners of enterprises, legally and without charge. All the democratic parties, and both management and labour, have developed plans for this

participation in production capital, with its socio-political consequence of a redistribution of economic power.

The State has for years been promoting capital formation under the slogan "prosperity for all". Saving with a savings bank or a building society was rewarded with either tax write-offs or cash premiums. State-owned enterprises were denationalised and shares in them issued on conditions favourable to the little man. Today, about 2,000,000 "miniature shareholders" are following "their" stock exchange prices. The Volkswagen works alone has to send invitations to 1,000,000 shareholders for its annual general meeting. These 1,000,000 persons share in the profits of the enterprise for which they work on the basis either of collective or of individual contracts. At the same time, they are more tied to that enterprise and less mobile as a result of the profit sharing.

Statistics, which only in the past few years provided the basis for an over-all view of the distribution of wealth in the Federal Republic and which the experts compile and interpret methodically but differently, indicate that the rivulet of State and private capital formation has mainly served to add to the deep river of those who were already owners of production capital. Economists, trade unionists and politicians are therefore looking for ways of enabling the employee to share in the growth of production capital without interfering with the existing ownership set-up.

This intention of having employees share in the increase in production capital without resorting to nationalisation carries the same weight as political demands for democratic control of public life and co-determination by labour of the economic process and trade union demands for a larger share for labour in the economic yield through higher wages and a more equitable taxation and financial policy.

Labor has a clear policy to evaluate and secure the balanced development of Australia's mineral and energy resources for the future needs of Australia. At present there is 62 per cent overseas ownership or control of the Australian mineral industry by overseas companies. As stated by the Prime Minister, this percentage is wholly unacceptable to the Government—that is, to the Labor Party—and we are determined it will not increase and, what is more, will progressively be reduced as the opportunities present themselves. We want to see Australia export as much as it can, at as high a price as it can, after full consideration has been given to the long-term demands for minerals in the Australian economy, long-term trends in overseas minerals consumption, and technological developments to upgrade low-grade deposits overseas or find alternative resources.

Australia is now in the world league as a producer and exporter of raw materials, particularly iron ore, bauxite, alumina, copper, lead, manganese, nickel, titanium, uranium and black coal.

On the question of exploration generally, the Australian Labor Government has been accused of causing the down-turn in exploration expenditure throughout the country. However, the downward curve started nearly three years ago, towards the end of the securities and mining boom. In 1969, 322 wells were drilled in Australia. In 1972, 135 were drilled after only 108 had been drilled in 1971. Queensland had 61 drilled in 1970, 20 in 1971 and 24 last year. New South Wales had 12 drilled in 1970, 1 in 1971 and 1 last year. Therefore any claim that the A.L.P. Government is responsible for the down-turn in drilling for oil is false.

In value, two-thirds of the production of the mining industry is from areas in which a great deal of exploration work has already been done, and future requirements are minimal. These are the areas producing iron ore, bauxite and coal.

Australian supplies the Japanese steel industry with some 46 per cent of its total iron ore and black coal imports, and the Australian Government is very conscious of the value of the two-way trade with Japan. In fact, Japan takes 56 per cent of all our mineral exports.

The major policy aspects in future mineral and energy negotiations with Japan will be considered at a Government-to-Government level. I trust the Queensland Government will see fit to keep a close working arrangement with the Australian Government, particularly in this field, so that details of negotiations can be settled at discussions between the industries of each country, and their counterparts.

There can be no doubt that in mineral production in Australia there have been increases in both volume and value. There is, however, a cloud on the horizon, which is exemplified by the constant reference to a world energy crisis. The world supply of oil and gas simply will not support the demands of the presently industrialised nations, let alone the additional needs of developing nations that are rightfully seeking to improve their energy production and diversity of use.

If eventually all mankind is to queue up at a kind of world fuel bank, it would be prudent to know its balance of assets and liabilities beforehand. According to a recent United Nations study of global energy resources, coal's share of total fossil fuel reserves is an overwhelming 93 per cent, leaving only 4 per cent for oil and 3 per cent for natural gas. Further, the study estimated that, at current rates of utilisation, by the year 2000 the world will have exhausted 87 per cent of its oil reserves, 73 per cent of its natural gas reserves, and a mere 2 per cent of its coal reserves.

Since 1970 the United States demand for oil has exceeded domestic production. For years the number of exploratory well drillings has declined steadily for economic reasons,

and the building of new refineries is at a standstill, largely because of environmental controversy over plant siting.

The outlook for increased production of indigenous oil is primarily clouded, however, by the steady depletion of proved reserves. At the end of 1972 those reserves had dropped to a life index, or ratio of reserves to production, of 10.5 years.

The present Commonwealth Minister for Minerals and Energy has been quoted as saying that the previous Government's policies had left Australia with only eight years' supply of crude oil.

I am aware of criticism of the Labor Government's attitude on minerals exploration by Queensland Cabinet Ministers and, recently, by the chairman of Mount Isa Mines Limited, but I do not believe that the Whitlam Government has in mind taking over the entire exploration field, either through the Australian Industries Development Corporation or any proposed petroleum and minerals authority.

One of the great tragedies of Australian politics today is that the anti-Labor-dominated State Parliaments are being used as privileged propaganda forums against the Federal Government. Liberal and Country Party members are asking obviously pre-arranged questions so that Ministers can give anti-Federal propaganda answers.

Mr. Bird: What do they do in the Federal House?

Mr. HOUSTON: They work. They do not waste their time on these propaganda questions and answers.

The three major mining and fuel-energy States of Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland have Liberal-Country Party State Governments and, through various statements emanating from those Governments, fear is unfortunately being instilled into the minds of those connected with the mining and fuel industries and the public in general.

American oil interests constantly claimed that America was, in fact, one bottomless oil well. That this is incorrect is now all too evident. A similar situation must not be allowed to occur in Australia. I have great respect for, and, in fact, feel genuine gratitude towards, those who are prepared initially to invest their money in mining and fuel exploration for the purposes of development, and, provided that the sale price of their product is not at exploitation level, I do not in any way deny them a high profit return. However, towards those who purely trade in shares my feeling is the same as that towards any other person who engages in gambling. It is a chancy business, whether it be horse racing, greyhound racing or football, as was proved, a few weeks ago in the backing of Redcliffe against Valleys or, as the honourable member for Brisbane said, the backing of Sandgate against Mayne. This type

of investor uses his judgment in selecting his investment, but relies on the performance of others to prove whether or not his judgment is sound.

The need for exploration is appreciated and the role that private enterprise can play is also understood in Labor's plan to secure the balanced development of Australia's mineral and energy resources for the future welfare of Australians. In view of hysterical outbursts last week regarding the North-west shelf oil and gas and Woodside-Burmah, I must regard as remarkable the haste with which such political figures as Mr. Snedden, Mr. Anthony, Sir Charles Court and the Victorian Premier, Mr. Hamer, as well as our own Acting Premier, rushed into the media with criticism of the Australian Minister for Minerals and Energy, without even waiting for any explanation or making any appreciation of the situation in line with the nation's future needs and vital interests. Obviously they were rushing in to support their friends the overseas exploiters.

It is perhaps significant that, at the very time these whimpers of opportunism were being aired, the Brisbane "Telegraph" was carrying a Tokyo report that Japan plans to launch a new diplomacy to secure lasting oil and other energy supplies for the imminent global energy crisis. Under this present plan, oil attachés are to be stationed in major oil-producing and consuming countries as from next year, in order to gather first-hand information on oil and other energy resources. The six nations involved will include Australia.

All these Liberal and Country Party spokesmen have conveniently forgotten that the previous Liberal-Country Party Federal Government determined the price to be charged for oil from the Bass Strait wells. By determining the price of this oil, that Federal Government determined the profitability rate of the field. This emphasises the point that if a Liberal-Country Party Government takes such action it is acceptable, but when it is taken by a Labor Government it is regarded as nationalisation or socialism.

Reflecting on this issue recalls to one's mind that none of the vocal critics and prophets of gloom and doom voiced any reference to an announcement on 3 October concerning Ampol and the Australian Industry Development Corporation going into oil exploration in a joint venture with the overseas Ocean Drilling and Exploration Company of America. This venture surely shows that the Australian Government is going to push ahead with exploration, is prepared to work with both local and overseas companies, and wants our mineral and mining wealth to be used to Australia's advantage, not simply to the advantage of the overseas financial exploiter.

One noticeable feature of the Budget was the complete lack of any finance towards the appointment of an ombudsman. In his election promises in 1972, the Premier said that an ombudsman would be appointed to protect the rights of the community. The subject has certainly been mentioned from time to time since then, but it was an obviously hollow promise made simply to match Labor's avowed purpose of creating such an office to prevent infringement of citizens' civil rights by Government departments.

Apparently the Minister for Local Government, backed by other Government members, proposes to take back film censorship in this State. To my mind, censorship is certainly one field which could well be left to one authority. There should not be any difference in standards as between the States. The people in Queensland should not be put on a different level of morality or intelligence from those in other States.

The theatre proprietor, of course, shows films that he believes will be patronised. He is, in effect, gauging public reaction. No-one is forced to attend a picture theatre, and certainly no-one is compelled to stay if his choice of a classified film offends his taste. Children are barred from attendance by legislation. The ultra-conservatives in the Government's ginger group should not be allowed to turn back the hands of time by influencing Queensland to be the "odd man out" in censorship.

There is lack of action towards overcoming the problems of local authorities. The Federal Government will assist greatly if the States allow it to come into the financial field and direct assistance. For years now the rate of subsidy in this State to local authorities has been reduced consistently, and their only chance of survival is to have direct Federal assistance.

Again we see the hypocrisy in State Government spokesmen's statements when we recall the number of times they have condemned the Federal Government for suggesting that the State will be divided into developmental regions and money made available to local authorities on a regional basis. According to State leaders, this concept is completely wrong. In fact, the Minister for Local Government said there should be only one region and that is the whole State; yet we find that the State itself put a measure through Parliament—the State and Regional Planning and Development, Public Works Organization and Environmental Control Act—under which the State was divided into regions for effective planning. This is a method of putting control of the entire State virtually into the hands of one person.

It is well to recall that the State Government has seen fit to define the regions as Far North, North-West, Northern, Mackay, Central-West, Fitzroy, Wide Bay-Burnett, South-West, Darling Downs and Moreton.

This matter should be the subject of purposeful co-operation between the State and the Commonwealth. After all, Queensland ratepayers deserve such consideration.

Members of the Queensland Government were vocal in condemning the cost increases resulting from the Federal Budget. The Premier and other Country Party leaders said that the increase in the price of petrol would affect all country people, and that the increase in telephone and postal charges would bring ruin on everyone. They have short memories. In August 1971, just two years ago, Mr. Snedden, who is now Federal Leader of the Opposition, brought down his Budget, and it was classified as a "belt-tightening Budget for Australia aimed at stopping inflation". His Budget provided for increases in personal income tax, company tax, radio and television licence fees, telephone and postal charges, pharmaceutical benefit charges, petrol prices, and cigarette and tobacco prices. A check of statements made by Queensland Country Party and Liberal leaders at that time does not reveal one word of condemnation. If increases in these charges were good in 1971 to try to overcome inflation, what is wrong with them in 1973?

Haven't the Premier and Treasurer said on many occasions recently that the Federal Government should adopt the same policies as those adopted by the previous Government? Haven't they, in the main, adopted the same policies as far as tying up money is concerned? The big difference is that the Labor policies and Budget did not create unemployment.

"We regard 'law' as meaning the protection of the rights of all in the community and 'order' as the orderly working of society" were the words of the Premier when promising, in his 1972 election speech, to introduce new legislation on public safety. Unfortunately, such protection has yet to be achieved, and his words are still hollow. Each year when the Treasurer refers to the Police Force, it is usually placed straight under a heading such as "Other Specific Budget Provisions".

In his 1972-73 Financial Statement, the Treasurer said—

"Police strength will be increased by 200 during the current financial year. In addition, another 150 Cadets will be taken into the new Police Academy at Oxley. This will bring the Cadet strength at the Academy to 300."

He gave notice for this year when he said—

"When the three-year training course at the Academy is in full swing, there will be 450 Cadets in training at any one time."

This was to give a strength of 3,784, but history now tells us that there have never been 3,784 members in the force.

He also said, "The approved strength of the force will be increased by 165 to a new total of 3,949." Of course, the 165 is made up of 150 extra cadets mentioned last year, plus 15 additional constables. There will also be six superintendents, but there will be a reduction of one in the number of senior sergeants and there will also be five fewer sergeants. In reality, the increase in police strength, available as fully fledged policemen, amounts to the infinitesimal total of 15—that is, of course, if such officers are available.

Unfortunately, at a time of increasing crime, resignations from the force are too numerous. The real reasons can only be surmised. One fact is constant. From the point of view of public safety there is not the necessary protection of property or person, or the apprehension of those responsible for committing crimes at a rate to which Queensland's population is entitled.

Liberal and Country Party members, particularly the doctors in the Chamber, are constantly criticising the Labor Party's national health scheme and berating every attempt that Labor is making to get the scheme operative in the interests of the great majority of Queenslanders. However, Mr. Chipp, the Federal Liberal spokesman on health and social welfare, has come out strongly and criticised the doctors' organisations for resorting to clichés, personal abuse, obsessive self-interest and deplorable taste in their attacks on the Federal Labor Government's proposals. He went on to say that the whole debate on the proposed scheme had been blurred by these tactics, and rightly pointed out that doctors had themselves destroyed the doctor-patient relationship, which they now hold to be so dear to them.

Mr. Jensen: He was silenced for telling the truth.

Mr. HOUSTON: That is so.

Mr. Chipp also made the point that his Government allowed pensioners to be regarded by the medical profession and other professions as second-class citizens. I believe that his words are worth remembering.

This Budget is allocating additional moneys for health, including an extra 1,977 personnel of whom 1,337 are medical and nursing staff. But medical and nursing staff are not developed overnight. In view of current shortages in this regard, can these figures be regarded as propaganda? In reality, there will be no large increase in staff in the next 12 months.

This hope for extra staff also applies to the Department of Education, and here again I am afraid that the Treasurer is using words to lull the people into a false sense of security. He knows as well as I do that the large extra numbers he is talking about are just not available. From the Government's point of view it is important to have them included in the Budget because, in a little over 12 months, when the 1975 election comes around, Government spokesmen will

be able to claim that they were unable to carry out their election promises, not because they did not want to but because the staff was not available. Of course, they will be completely losing sight of the fact that the Labor Party said this in 1972 about the Government's grandiose schemes for hospital and pre-school developments.

Closer analysis of the Budget confirms that not one major new scheme is really getting off the ground. Quite a few old faithfuls have been trotted out again to be kept alive, but their speed of progress is snail-like.

I wish to make myself distinctly understood on State rights. Thanks to modern transport and communication facilities, there is now no real boundary between the people of the various States. We move freely between the States and large companies, particularly banks and insurance companies, transfer their employees from State to State. Because of take-overs and amalgamations, most large companies today are centralising their policy-making but diversifying their administration. Surely that is what we should be aiming at. I cannot accept the narrow view that what was a natural State-right responsibility in 1901 should still be a State-right responsibility in 1973. I believe in the existence of States; I believe they are necessary. There are matters that will always be better handled on a State or regional basis, such as roads, land development, matters associated with primary-industry development, statistical information, the Police Force and forestry, and harbour and marine activities, to mention but a few. However, I also feel that it is desirable, in the interests of Australia as a nation, to consider the reallocation of responsibilities between the Federal Government and the State Governments, and also to consider whether it is desirable to have more States or, at least, an adjustment of present State boundaries.

To get right down to bedrock, with the ever-increasing movement of Australian citizens from one town to another and one State to another, with the distance between sitting in a Brisbane office and sitting in a Canberra office being now only a matter of three hours, and with immediate conversation between Cairns and Perth being a matter of merely dialling nine digits, is it still desirable to have seven different educational systems and standards, seven different health and medical systems and standards, seven different sets of company laws, seven different sets of road laws and seven different sets of navigation laws, to mention just a few of the matters we come across in our daily lives? It is argued by the absolute "State Righters" that the States and the Commonwealth can bring in uniform legislation, but, from my political experience, even the best-designed sets of uniform legislation, through amendments, soon become at variance with one another.

So what is the answer? The State Government must realise that it has to live with a Federal Government of a different political

philosophy and that not everything that the Australian Government attempts to do is wrong. The Queensland Government has no mandate to try to frustrate the Federal Government, nor has it a mandate to bring about its defeat. And we in Queensland should not be made to live in isolation.

Mr. ALISON (Maryborough) (2.51 p.m.): It is with pleasure that I rise to join in the debate on the 1973-74 State Budget. Unfortunately, or fortunately—I do not know which—I was unable to be present this morning to hear the first portion of the speech delivered by the Leader of the Opposition, but I am informed by my associates that I missed nothing. During the past 35 minutes of his speech I endeavoured to make some notes but, to be truthful, I found his speech to be entirely devoid—

Mr. Houston: Can't you make your own speech?

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The Leader of the Opposition has had his opportunity to speak. I hope he will afford the same opportunity to other honourable members.

Mr. ALISON: During that speech, I heard nothing constructive put forward for the development of Queensland. It was singularly lacking.

I heard nothing that would improve the Budget, nor any suggested amendment to it. It was a pathetic little speech that had nothing to commend it. I have been under a misapprehension in that I keep expecting and looking for lively, constructive debate from Opposition members, particularly on matters such as State finance. Of course, I am continually disappointed. I suggest that the Leader of the Opposition "kick upstairs" whoever wrote his speech and appoint him to the staff of radio station 4KQ to write gardening notes, or something like that.

An Honourable Member interjected.

Mr. ALISON: It is very interesting to hear about Anderson. I am glad to hear of the honourable member's interest in the Maryborough electorate. If he thinks I have problems, he should get in touch with the president of the Maryborough branch of the A.L.P. and find out the problems confronting Anderson. They don't call him "Flasher" for nothing.

I was able to take note of perhaps a few interesting points raised by the Leader of the Opposition. He referred to inflation being "imported", I think was his word, from overseas and being caused by unrestricted price increases. These are tired, old clichés. I do not think they really confuse many people or that many people are on side with that sort of thinking.

It is true that a country can import inflation to some extent. This is unavoidable, particularly in big exporting nations such as Australia. But what does the Leader of the Opposition suggest that the Federal A.L.P. has done about it? It has had 10 months in

which to do something. Does it take 10 months to formulate policies? What about all the policies it trotted out in November and December last year? I shall elaborate on them at a later stage.

Some of the speech of the Leader of the Opposition sounded like a stock exchange report. He read a long list of company profits and referred to increases in them. I pricked my ears when he mentioned Walkers Ltd. and referred to its increased profit.

Mr. Houston: Where at?

Mr. ALISON: I am sure he mentioned Walkers Ltd.

Mr. Houston: I did not.

Mr. ALISON: Well, let me refer to Walkers Ltd. of Maryborough. It has a shipyard employing about 400 people.

Mr. HOUSTON: I rise to a point of order. I did not mention Walkers of anywhere.

Mr. Bird: How would you know?

Mr. Houston: Throw the drunk out.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I warn the Leader of the Opposition for using an expression in referring to another honourable member that is most unparliamentary, and I ask him to withdraw it.

Mr. HOUSTON: I withdraw it, but that is what it sounded like.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! If the Leader of the Opposition is attempting to be facetious with the Chair, I shall deal with him. He will withdraw the remark.

Mr. HOUSTON: I have withdrawn it.

Mr. ALISON: Thank you, Mr. Lickiss. I am not too sure what that was all about.

I return to what I was about to say regarding Walkers Ltd. of Maryborough. This company has 400 employees in the shipyard, and for some months it was a well-known fact in Maryborough that it had problems in the shipyard in obtaining forward orders. At the present time, a couple of vessels are being completed.

It is fairly obvious from certain events that took place in Maryborough that the Federal member for Wide Bay (Mr. Hansen) did not know a darn thing about the position until the chairman of directors, about three weeks ago, made it quite plain in his annual report that Walkers Ltd. had problems in obtaining forward orders for ships. Within 24 hours, there was a great flurry of activity. Mr. Hansen flew back and forth between Maryborough and Canberra, and with him came the Federal Minister for Transport. In the meantime, as I could see that they were apparently going to do nothing, I endeavoured to make representations at State level to see what could be done to obtain orders. So much for the reference by the Leader of the Opposition to Walkers Ltd.

Mr. Burns: What orders have you given them?

Mr. ALISON: I am pleased that the honourable member for Lytton asked that question. Apparently he has not heard about the "Sir Thomas Hiley", which was built by Walkers on an order from this Government. What about the 52—or is it 57?—locomotives built by Walkers for the State railways? What has this company had from Mr. Whitlam? Nothing but promises.

Mr. Burns: You are 10 years out of date. What have you given Walkers since then?

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Lytton knows that persistent interjecting will not be tolerated. He also knows that disorderly conduct will certainly not be tolerated, either. I warn him under the provisions of Standing Order 123A.

Mr. ALISON: Thank you, Mr. Lickiss. I am merely trying to upgrade the honourable member's knowledge.

Mr. Burns: Tell us what you ordered from Walkers.

Mr. ALISON: We in Maryborough are rather used to slanderous comments from the honourable member for Lytton.

Mr. Burns: The "Melbidir" was built in New South Wales.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I will not warn the honourable member for Lytton again.

Mr. ALISON: About three days after I was elected to this Parliament at a by-election in July 1971, the honourable member for Lytton, who at the time was president of the A.L.P., was taken to task for calling the Maryborough people Fascists simply because they got on side with the Premier's efforts during the Springbok tour.

Mr. Burns: I called you a Fascist.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Lytton was warned under the provisions of Standing Order 123A for disorderly conduct. He was then again warned. I now ask him to leave the Chamber.

Mr. Burns: He didn't get an order.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! If the honourable member does not leave the Chamber, I shall name him.

Whereupon the honourable member for Lytton withdrew from the Chamber.

Mr. Melloy: If you can't beat them, suspend them.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Nudgee has now reflected on the Chair. I ask him to withdraw that remark, or I shall deal with him.

Mr. Melloy: I made no reference to the Chair at all. I was referring to the general attitude of the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I ask the honourable member to withdraw his remark. The Chair is not insensible to what he said.

Mr. MELLOY: I withdraw it.

Mr. ALISON: Thank you, Mr. Lickiss. The honourable member for Lytton was really no problem. I was merely trying to upgrade his knowledge of Maryborough.

Another comment of the Leader of the Opposition referred to "inherited" inflation. It is true that some inflation was inherited, but it was about 4.5 per cent in December 1972. What is it now? It is about 15 per cent, and what is Mr. Whitlam doing about it? Absolutely nothing.

Mr. Houston: What can he do?

Mr. ALISON: He can do a lot if he is game; but he is not game.

Mr. Houston: What can he do about it?

Mr. ALISON: If the honourable member has a spare half-hour, I shall tell him.

I was interested also in another comment by the Leader of the Opposition. I hope that I am about to quote him correctly. I suggest that he check with the speech that was written for him in case I am incorrect. He said that the "next step in worker democracy is for the worker to participate in board decisions". Certainly I believe that there should very definitely be close liaison between employees and management at all levels. The door should be open both ways, and many companies and other employers have not adopted the correct attitude in the past and are still not doing so. Employees must be asked, and even encouraged, to come forward not only with problems they may see in their conditions of employment but also with suggestions to improve the operations of the company. I reiterate that the door should not be open only one way.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Do you think they should share in the profits?

Mr. ALISON: The honourable member apparently has not heard of quite a number of companies in Australia that issue shares to their employees. He should brush up on his knowledge of industrial relations.

What about interference by unions in activities that they were never intended to interfere in? What about the strikes that we have seen over the past 12 months? There have been strikes over environmental matters; strikes over atomic bombs being exploded somewhere in the Pacific Ocean. I really do not know what these things have to do with the industrial atmosphere. Mail has been cut off from Liberal senators. I just do not know the reason for that—something to do with the French atomic tests, I think.

Mr. Lee: The Government in Canberra has paid \$7,000,000 for a block of land in France.

Mr. ALISON: That is so. I do not know what they intend building on it.

I suggest that the unions have to grow up and adopt a mature and more responsible attitude before they can ever be allowed to enter a board room to take part in discussions relating to their welfare and their conditions of employment.

As most honourable members know, the Budget is the financial plan for the State for the current 12 months. It relates to State Government policies and reflects the implementation of those policies through the various Government departments.

Mr. Jensen interjected.

Mr. ALISON: I do not know why the honourable member for Bundaberg does not confine his remarks to matters that he knows something about, such as gambling and drinking, and how to lose money on the stock exchange. I wish he would keep off the subject of finance.

The Treasurer has referred to his grave concern that the previously finely tuned Australian economy has been thrown out of balance through political considerations being allowed to unduly influence vital economic decisions. I concur heartily with his comments in that respect.

It is a matter of economic history that at the time the Liberals were put out of office in the Federal sphere last December, inflation was running at about 4.5 per cent.

Mr. Houston: No, it was not.

Mr. ALISON: That is on record. I do not know whether or not the Leader of the Opposition knows that. Since then, the Consumer Price Index has increased by 2.2 per cent in the March quarter and 3.3 per cent in the June quarter, and there is every indication that it will increase even more for the September quarter. The A.L.P. Federal Government has made certain tentative efforts to reduce the rate of inflation, but in no sense has it come to grips with the problem.

Mr. Jensen: What has Chalk done?

Mr. ALISON: I will come to that shortly.

During the Federal election campaign, the A.L.P. had all the answers; but when it came to office, suddenly it did not have any answers. The fact of the matter is that the Australian Council of Trade Unions, with Bob Hawke at the helm, has a very large say in the policies of the Federal A.L.P. Government, and the A.C.T.U. will not even consider allowing the Federal A.L.P. Government to make any effort to place restraints on industrial blackmail tactics or on any increase in wages.

At the same time, of course, one cannot put all the blame for the present situation on the shoulders of the A.C.T.U. and Bob Hawke. In its first Budget adopted recently, the Federal Government has set out on

massive expenditure and extravagances in many fields, and it is endeavouring to enter fields of activity in which a Government, whether Liberal or A.L.P., has no right and in which it cannot operate effectively.

It is plainly in the interest of the Federal A.L.P. Government to let inflation run on so that the greater revenue by way of taxation on increased wages will finance these extravagant schemes. There is no doubt that the Federal Government is actively encouraging inflation, and I make no apology for that statement. It certainly makes noises every now and again about endeavouring to contain inflation, but it is very careful not to make too positive steps to reduce inflation because it would not be able to balance its Budget this year if, by some magic formula, inflation was cut overnight.

And I say that the Federal Government has a vested interest in inflation. In fact, it is in a cleft stick, because, whilst it must appear to be making some effort, for the benefit of the voters, to control inflation, it dare not really come to grips with the problem because it needs inflation to finance its extravagant schemes and the numerous committees on this, that and the other matter that we see in this city almost daily. I understand that senior officials in some of our State Government departments cannot get their work done because so much time is being taken up in getting information for nosy Commonwealth committee members and Commonwealth departmental officials.

Frankly, I cannot see why the Federal Government wants all this information. We should suggest to the Commonwealth Government that it stick to the area of activity laid down by the Commonwealth Constitution and leave us alone. As it is, we now have so much overlapping of State departments by Commonwealth departments and committees that it would be most illuminating to know how much of the taxpayers' money has been wasted in the last 10 months through Commonwealth Government interference and its efforts to take over State Government activities, and Commonwealth committee junkets, not only in Queensland but throughout all the other States.

Generally speaking, the State Government is better equipped to handle those matters that come within its prerogative. The Commonwealth Government should concern itself with minding its own business and giving the States a fair go with finance. At the same time, I believe it is morally wrong, tactically wrong and legally wrong for the States to accept Commonwealth funds with any strings attached whatsoever, other than perhaps it being said, "This grant is to assist in the development of a suburban railway system", or, "This grant is for housing", or something like that. If any other strings are attached the State Governments should get together and say, "We will have no more of this."

We now have the position where the Federal A.L.P. Government is trying to tell the people of Australia that it cannot properly tackle inflation until it has control over prices. If that statement by the Federal A.L.P. Government is correct and it cannot tackle inflation until it has control over prices, I suggest that the A.L.P. hoodwinked the people of Australia in December last, because there was no mention of any referendum on price control during the election campaign. In fact, it committed the gravest political confidence trick of this decade, as millions of people in Australia now realise. Of course the Federal Government does not need control over prices to tackle inflation.

An Opposition Member: It has control over wages now.

Mr. ALISON: Who has control over wages? What absolute rubbish! A.L.P. members can say what they like about the Liberal-Country Party Federal Government, which controlled Australia's destiny for such a long period until December last, but it certainly kept inflation in check and within a reasonable percentage. How did the Liberal-Country Party Government do it, and what was its secret? Simply this: it used the various fiscal, monetary and economic tools at its disposal, which are also at the disposal of the A.L.P. Federal Government. But it does not suit that Government or its cronies to use those tools. Mr. Whitlam and his cronies are using the bogey of inflation to try to get control over incomes which, of course, includes company profits, dividends, investments, land income—you name it. If the Federal Government obtained that control it would be in a position after the next Federal election—if it won the next Federal election—to bring down a complete programme of socialisation and nationalisation. The people of Australia are waking up to this sham, as is evident from the result of the recent Parramatta by-election, and, as Mr. Whitlam will learn at the next Federal election, the people of Australia just do not want socialism or nationalisation.

Government Members interjected.

Mr. ALISON: I suggest that when the Liberal and Country Parties trot out their policies on how to bring the unions to an understanding that they must remain in their true sphere of activity in industrial matters and the people see that the Liberal and Country Parties will sort this problem out, after the next Federal election—whenever it might be—the Federal A.L.P. will be able to hold a caucus meeting in a phone booth.

Ask anybody who has lived in a socialist or Communist country or, for that matter, has simply travelled through one—I have friends who have travelled through East Germany, Russia and China—what he thinks about living in such a place. In those countries the great dead hand of

bureaucratic control lies over every phase of commerce and industry, with Big Brother watching from not far away and the whole life of the country is stifled.

Mr. Jensen: We will have that if the Liberals get back into power. We don't want that in Australia.

Mr. ALISON: If the honourable member for Bundaberg would like to go to China, I am prepared to put down \$20 towards a one-way ticket for him.

Personal freedom and choice are stifled. On the other hand, where there is a mixture of Government activity and business and commercial undertakings, such as we have in Australia, and business and commerce operate under a private enterprise system, with controls and restraints placed on monopolistic and restrictive trade practices, we get the best of both worlds. To a very large extent, exploitation by unscrupulous business is eliminated, and at the same time the community gets the benefit of fostering private enterprise which, through its very nature, creates incentive for industry as well as efficiency, and this, of course, is the key to productivity. By and large, the Australian people are aware of this, and, as they have shown to honourable members opposite, certainly would not tolerate—

Mr. Sherrington interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wharton): Order! I warn the honourable member for Salisbury for continually interjecting. The Chair will not tolerate it. If he does not remain quiet, I will send him out under Standing Order 123A.

Mr. ALISON: As I was saying, the Australian people, generally, are aware of this, and as they have shown in the past will certainly not tolerate socialisation or nationalisation across the board. We now have on our hands the spectacle and expense of a referendum in December when Mr. Whitlam will ask the people of Australia to give the Federal Government control over incomes and prices. He will do this with tongue in cheek—in fact, with both tongues in cheek, because I hear that he has a forked tongue. Mr. Whitlam actually wants control over both prices and incomes, but he is not game to say so—at least, not to the unions. It is a safe bet that in a couple of months' time the referendums will be lost.

Our State Treasurer (Sir Gordon Chalk) has put forward the idea that instead of a referendum there should be a Federal election to give the people of Australia a chance to say whether or not they want this present disastrous Federal Government to continue in power. I believe this is an excellent idea, although we have no chance of getting a Federal election unless the Liberal-Country Party and the D.L.P. get together to force the hand of the Federal A.L.P. Government.

While State Governments are very much subject to the Commonwealth Government in matters of finance, which is highly regrettable, nevertheless I believe that the State Government can, to a limited degree, exercise anti-inflationary measures in relation to the particular State. Our Treasurer referred to the responsibilities of the State Government and its policies and goals for the improvement of services to the community, having full regard to all influences that bear on resources and the ability of the economy to finance the policies. He pointed out in the Financial Statement that the Budget for 1973-74 was really a deficit Budget of \$4,200,000. In actual fact, if we deduct the Commonwealth advance grant of \$10,000,000 we get a deficit of \$14,000,00.

Reference was made by the Treasurer to the capital works programme, which is up 30.6 per cent on the previous year. This occasions me some concern in view of the very serious inflation being experienced throughout Australia, including Queensland, particularly in the building industry. From what I am able to gather, costs in the building industry have increased by something like 10 to 15 per cent in the last 12 months. In addition, we have serious shortages of many building materials as well as serious shortages of tradesmen and other building workers. The position has been further aggravated not only by the Federal Government's complete lack of effort to curtail inflation but also by a cut-down in the number of migrants coming into Australia. This must, and does, reduce the workforce, and, in particular, the number of workers available in the building industry.

Our State Government has done a tremendous job in carrying out various developmental projects throughout the State, but on this occasion, I respectfully suggest, I should have liked to see not so much a cut-back on development for the year, but rather, shall we say, a levelling-out of the capital works programme.

In this way we would be doing all we can, in the limited way available to us, to ease the strain on resources available to the building industry. Just because the Federal A.L.P. Government actively encourages inflation for its own very dubious purposes, it does not follow that we should give the impression that we have no control whatever over inflation in our State. By easing up slightly on construction work we could, to some extent, take the pressure off the building industry, and restrict inflation in that industry. At least we could reduce the heat slightly.

In this regard, we have had no leadership whatever from the Federal Government. In the recently-adopted Federal Budget the A.L.P. Government has increased the size of the Federal Public Service by something like 10,000 and has made no effort whatever to restrict capital projects. In fact, it makes

our 30 per cent. increase look a bit sick. It made no effort whatever to cut down on taxation of private enterprise. In fact, it did quite the reverse and, at the same time, made high-sounding noises about the dreadful spectre of inflation and its inability to control it. Nevertheless, if the State Governments are to accept their responsibilities they must do what they can to contain inflation within their boundaries. Again I say that we should at least be restricting the rate of increase in capital works. I make it quite clear that I am not suggesting an increase in rates and taxes. What I am proposing is a cut-back in the rate of growth of capital works.

The only important increases in taxation announced by the Treasurer have been in pay-roll tax and Titles Office fees. I am very concerned at the increase in pay-roll tax as well as the lack of effort to lift the exemption rate. The present exemption level of \$20,800 has stood for some years. This means that a business that has six or seven senior employees is required to pay pay-roll tax. Such a business is not a large one by any stretch of the imagination, and I believe that pay-roll tax is an unfair imposition on small businesses. They do not have the same benefits of volume production as those obtained by larger businesses, so I strongly favour an increase in the exemption rate from \$20,800 per annum, or \$400 a week, to \$600 a week. I also urge a reduction in pay-roll tax at the rate of 2½ per cent on wages and salaries in the range from \$600 to \$1,200 a week and a retention of the present rate of 3½ per cent on pay-rolls in excess of \$1,200 a week. An increase in pay-roll tax is inflationary and, at the present time, it is a wrong move.

Mr. Jensen: Hear, hear!

Mr. ALISON: Now I have problems. As the honourable member for Bundaberg has agreed with me, I think I had better have a look at the whole matter again.

I have no doubt that some persons will claim that if the income from pay-roll tax is reduced there will, in turn, be a further increase in the State's deficit. That contention is a correct one, but such an increase in the deficit would be more than countered by an increase in the revenue that we could rightly expect to receive from the Federal Government.

The Treasurer has referred to conditions that attach to Commonwealth funds and tie the hands of the State in the disposition of its revenue. As the involvement grows, this influence will manifest itself very quickly, and the area of discretion and responsibility of the State Government will rapidly decline.

I believe that the trend is far more serious and sinister than most people realise. The State Government must in the very near future take a stand against the Federal Government. The Treasurer has referred to the conditions that it imposes as being a clear

breach of the intention of the Commonwealth Constitution. As I understand the matter, this is certainly so. The Federal Government has no right whatever to dictate to the State Governments what they will do with funds allocated to them from revenue that is raised within the States for the Commonwealth. The money basically belongs to the States, so they must take a stand on this issue before it is too late. I suggest that all States should make a concerted attack on the Federal Government and tell it quite bluntly that they will not accept any conditions attaching to funds paid to them by the Commonwealth. The Federal Government has no right whatever to impose such conditions.

If we meekly accept the conditions imposed by the Commonwealth Government, we deserve what we will eventually get, namely, liquidation at the hands of the Commonwealth Government. Unless the present trend is brought to a halt, not 40 per cent of our total Budget but approximately 80 per cent will be "given" to us, if that is the correct term, by the Commonwealth with conditions attaching to it. In the result Queensland will become nothing more than a branch office of Canberra.

The Commonwealth Government is a governmental and economic structure created by the States. I should like to hear a clear statement by a constitutional lawyer on the powers of the States to attempt to cut back those of the Commonwealth. As the States "built" the Commonwealth, surely they can pull the damned thing down and rebuild it.

The Treasurer has told us that the fees charged by the Titles Office will be increased to bring them more into line with those levied in other States. The Minister for Justice has said that there is a back-log of work in the Titles Office as a result of the greatly increased number of land transactions arising from the buoyancy of Queensland's economy.

Mr. Hanson: And no increase in staff, either.

Mr. ALISON: The number of employees in the Titles Office is to be raised from 232 to 266. If that is not an increase, I should like to know what it is. Although in general principle I do not like to see an increase in the Public Service, unless it is essential, in this case, if it means that property transfers will be handled more expeditiously, I am certainly completely in favour of it. At the same time, when a Government department renders a service to the community for which a charge could reasonably be expected, I believe that, wherever possible, such charge should at least cover the cost of the service rendered by the department.

It is an economic truth, which is not understood by a lot of socialists, that, in Government financing, nothing is free for

the electorate. A Government can make promises to the electorate, but all it is doing is promising the people services for which they will pay. I know that is very hard for the honourable member for Brisbane to understand, but if he cares to see me later I will try to elaborate on it for him.

There is no such thing as a free service to the public; it is certain that someone along the line is paying for it. I am keen to see Government departments, so far as possible, stand on their own feet and balance their budgets. At the same time, the Government has a responsibility to see that the service is efficient and that the charge made for it—in this case, by the Titles Office—is not excessive.

With welfare services, the position is entirely different. By their very nature, they should not attract charges—and we certainly would not want to impose them—otherwise we would simply be defeating their whole purpose.

I now wish to deal with the provision for Forestry referred to by the Treasurer. He stated that \$10,403,000 was being allocated for this purpose, and referred in his Budget speech to receiving \$1,400,000 from the Commonwealth Government under the Softwood Forestry Agreement. I am very concerned about the apparent decline in the area being planted under this agreement.

This morning, the Minister for Lands and Forestry, in answering a question of which I gave notice last Thursday week, advised the House that in 1969 the area planted to softwoods totalled 12,202; that in 1970 it was 12,500 acres; in 1971, 15,100 acres; in 1972, 15,500 acres; and in 1973, 16,700 acres. I understand that it is proposed to cut back the acreage planted this year to 12,500 acres. In the Tuan forestry area, in my electorate, I understand that it is proposed to plant only 3,000 acres this year, compared with 4,600 acres in 1973 and 4,100 in 1972. I am not concerned only for Maryborough's sake, although Maryborough is one of the forestry centres in the State, but for the whole of the State. This morning, I was assured by the Minister that no restriction has been imposed by the Commonwealth Government on the area that may be planted with softwoods. I am somewhat confused—I shall certainly try to get to the bottom of the matter—about why the softwood plantation acreage is declining. Despite what the Minister said, I have the impression that pressure is being applied somewhere by the Federal Government to cut back on softwood acreages.

We have demonstrated that we can plant nearly 17,000 acres in one year, and Tuan has plenty of suitable land available. Planting could be carried out for years at the present rate before the area set aside for forestry plantations is used. There is a large area of land north of Maryborough

that is quite suitable for softwood plantations. I am seriously concerned about this drop-off in plantings and what it means for the future. We are presently importing softwoods, but what will happen in future? A period of 10 years must elapse before a start can be made on harvesting a forestry crop. As there does not seem to be any diminution in the forestry allocation, why should there be a drop-off in the areas to be planted?

Mr. Jensen: You should get stuck into him.

Mr. ALISON: I advise the honourable member for Bundaberg that I am game enough to criticise constructively what is happening in government. Of course, if I were a member of an A.L.P. Government, I would not be so game.

I am disappointed that there does not seem to be any new incentive for decentralisation of industry and Government activities in the Treasurer's Budget speech. The Treasurer referred to \$4,600,000 being allocated for development of industrial estates and, in addition, almost \$2,000,000 for the provision of factory facilities in various areas at reasonable rentals to lessees. They are both highly commendable provisions and I fully support them.

However, we should be exploring ways and means of providing new incentives for private enterprise to decentralise. In Queensland we are fortunate, owing to wise Country-Liberal Government for some years, in having only one city, namely, Brisbane, which could be considered over-large or at least approaching that stage. Nevertheless, we should be trying much harder in the field of decentralisation. As a general principle, it is in the interests of the people living in Brisbane as well as those in the remainder of the State to actively discourage new industries from setting up factories and establishments in Brisbane. At the same time, it is to the advantage of people in centres outside Brisbane to have industries actively encouraged to set up in decentralised areas.

We should be extending the incentives that are already available, such as land at reasonable rental and facilities constructed for pioneer industries, also at reasonable rentals. At the moment, freight concessions are extended to various industries and many other very important incentives to decentralise are given. However, I reiterate that we should extend those incentives and seek new ways of discouraging industries from setting up in Brisbane. We must encourage them to set up in decentralised areas.

What about pay-roll tax rebate? What about improved freight concessions on certain lines of manufactured goods, as well as transport tax concessions? I have already discussed some of these matters with Cabinet Ministers and have been given the general reply that this or that cannot be done because of some legal case or because of an Act. I simply

cannot accept that it is impossible to change existing laws or introduce new laws in order to come to grips with decentralisation.

I also want more decentralisation of Government departments. Maryborough is the geographical centre of the most densely populated 100 square mile area outside Brisbane. It is my firm belief that Maryborough should have a Public Curator Office, Titles Office, Lands Office and Main Roads Department to cater for districts such as Gympie and Bundaberg. As I said, Maryborough is the geographical centre of the area. Bundaberg is 70 miles to its north, Gayndah is 100 miles to its west, and Gympie is 60 miles to its south. If the honourable member for Bundaberg does not admit that it is the centre of the Wide Bay area, he knows less about geography than about gambling. I shall continue to make representations along these lines.

As you well know, Mr. Wharton, 120,000 people reside within 100 miles of Maryborough. I understand that New South Wales has traffic offices scattered throughout the State where people can transfer the registration of motor vehicles. I understand that this can also be done in certain Queensland towns outside Brisbane, but this decentralised activity should be extended.

Of course, the Federal Government is in a far better position than are State Governments to bring about massive decentralisation of industry. I am entirely opposed to the Commonwealth Government's decision to pour millions of dollars into what it terms "growth centres". For various reasons, the growth centres that have been chosen have natural growth in any case. The Federal Government should be ensuring that the necessary facilities are provided, through local government, to keep ahead of the natural growth which would seem to be attracted there in any case, regardless of what the Federal Government does.

It seems to be entirely and morally wrong to spend vast sums of public money to shift Government departments and apparently provide all sorts of incentives to private enterprise to move to these growth centres when, in fact, those centres already have a substantial growth rate. If, over the next few years, the Federal Government spends millions of dollars on those growth centres, its expenditure will prove to be a very costly blunder and will create a very artificial economic atmosphere, to the disadvantage of many other centres and regions which require Government assistance and incentives to get private enterprise rolling and developed in them.

The Federal Government would do better to finance State and local government in the proper planning of those areas which have natural growth in any case. Planning should be done at both State and local government level to provide facilities ahead of the growth as it develops. Why should certain areas be singled out to be developed

synthetically at the expense of all the other taxpayers and areas in Australia? What the Federal Government should be doing, if it wants to stimulate particular areas, is seeking out areas that have potential but are not, for some reason or other, progressing, whether because of their situation, lack of certain facilities, or perhaps for some other reason. The Federal Government should then look to see what action should be taken to stimulate and encourage growth in such areas—that is, if it wants to select particular areas at all.

I would much prefer to see general incentives given to industries and to people not to flock to, and congregate in, the already over-large areas such as Sydney, Melbourne and other cities in the southern States. These incentives are already being given by the State Government. The Commonwealth Government is in a much better position to give such incentives by way of tax concessions to encourage industries to decentralise. Private enterprise should be encouraged into decentralised areas and not virtually told, "This is the area in which we want you to settle." It would be to the advantage of all persons throughout Australia to have an active decentralisation programme actually working at Federal level, making life more livable for all people, including those in the bigger cities, and creating more job opportunities in decentralised areas.

The Treasurer also referred to the approved strength of the Police Force, which he said will be increased by 165 to a new total of 3,949. This is a highly commendable move, but it does not go far enough. I believe that considerably more policemen are needed both for the prevention and detection of crime. I would have preferred to see more money spent on increasing the Police Force, even at the expense of another Vote in the Estimates. I would hope also that in the very near future the appointment of traffic wardens will be considered in order to relieve the Police Force of much of the policing of traffic. Basically I do not think that there is very much wrong with our traffic laws and rules of the road, except that perhaps some of the penalties imposed by the courts are a little light. However, what is the point in having what is basically a good set of traffic rules and regulations to govern conduct on the roads when there are nowhere near sufficient police officers to offer even a token policing of the roads? One can travel for hundreds of miles on one of the State's main highways and not see a policeman. Whilst travelling those hundreds of miles, one will probably see many infringements of the traffic rules and regulations, many of them of a very serious nature and a potential cause of damage and loss of life to innocent victims as well as the irresponsible drivers concerned.

I firmly believe that we should have mobile traffic wardens with a view to putting off the roads those irresponsible drivers who cannot, or will not, consider other users of the road, quite apart from rules and regulations. There is only one way to get rid of irresponsible and dangerous drivers, and that is by policing the rules and regulations. If there is nowhere near a sufficient number of officials to police the roads, it matters little that there are any rules and regulations at all.

I now wish to make some reference to small-craft facilities. The Treasurer said in his Financial Statement that a sum of \$826,383 has been allotted for small-craft facilities. Frankly, I cannot quite see where that amount is made up in the Estimates, and it seems that actually less money will be spent on small-craft facilities this year than in the previous year. No doubt this will be clarified in the course of time. If it is so, I think it is a great pity, because the construction of small-boat ramps and other facilities that cater for not only professional fishermen but tourists and amateur fishermen, as well as family men who merely want to potter about in boats, is very essential in our affluent way of life when more and more people own small vessels.

In my electorate, the Maryborough Power Boat Club has a project involving the construction of facilities for an aquatic sports area on the Mary River right in the city. It is a very ambitious programme and a very wonderful project, and discussions have already been had with officials of the Department of Harbours and Marine and the Maryborough City Council. It seems from these discussions that the Department of Harbours and Marine will certainly build a boat ramp, subject to the availability of finance, and will no doubt assist with technical advice with the rest of the project. But the remainder of it, which includes toilet facilities and other amenities along the bank of the river that one could hardly expect the Department of Harbours and Marine to provide, will have to be met from the resources of the Maryborough Power Boat Club and the Maryborough City Council. I should like to think that some steps will be taken to allow the expenditure of more money on small-boat facilities, with perhaps an extension of the range of facilities on which such finance is spent.

In conclusion, I again congratulate the Treasurer on the Budget he has brought down. In my opinion, with the exception of the one point that I made relative to pay-roll tax, it is an anti-inflation Budget and will continue the development of Queensland for the benefit of all the people of this State.

Mr. AIKEN (Warrego) (3.36 p.m.): The subject matter of the debate today is the State Budget. Of course, the many flow-on benefits from Queensland are contributing to the Federal Budget, and because that Budget is so important to social welfare and has attempted to give justice to all, I should like to mention some home truths and correct the criticisms of the politically biased persons who seek to destroy the wholesomeness of the first people's Budget in 23 years.

Despite the strong criticism of the Crean Budget by the rural sector, the truth is that the cost to farmers in direct taxes will range from \$40,000,000 to \$50,000,000, which is less than 2 per cent of the gross return to the primary industries of this nation. While they are in a position to pay—in real terms, farm incomes are now at their highest level since the Korean war—surely this is a reasonable contribution to make to the education, health, rural and social-welfare benefits, all too long overdue but, thank God, now included in the Federal Budget.

Hardest hit could have been the dairy farmers. However, they were well aware of the fact that the \$9,000,000 phase-out of support was possible. After tax, the cost to the ordinary dairyman is about \$300 per annum—well calculated by Mr. Crean in the knowledge that prices were to rise. The free school milk scheme, which cost about \$13,000,000 a year, will be scaled down to areas of need. Milk not used in the school scheme will be directed to manufacture, where it will be readily absorbed, as the honourable member for South Coast could tell us.

With wheat prices increasing, the \$16,000,000 provided for a stabilisation scheme will probably not be required. However, increased contributions in the field of marketing and research will probably make inroads into this reserve. To what better channels could the \$16,000,000 go?

The Minister for Local Government—"Honest Henry"—who represents a fruit-growing area, could no doubt tell us that the removal of exemption from sales tax of fruit juices used in carbonated beverages is not as serious as it sounds, because the manufacturers, not the producers, benefited from that subsidy, the actual return to growers being virtually nothing.

The proposed increase in telephone rentals and higher charges on calls will affect non-farm people just as it affects all others. The proposed 1.6c a pound tax on beef and the 1c a pound tax on mutton exports are surely logical charges to pay for the tuberculosis and brucellosis-extermination programmes of this nation. Whereas previously this amount was paid by the people of Australia generally, it will now be paid by the overseas importers of our meat.

If anyone thinks that a meat tax is unique, let me remind him that Great Britain has recently imposed an import tax on meat, New Zealand has imposed an export tax on meat, the Common Market countries have

banned the export of grains, and both Canada and the United States of America are soon to place export taxes on both grain and beef. If anyone considers that beef prices in Australia are high, the blame lies on world shortages creating a demand that has continued to escalate. It is completely beyond the control of any Government, and there is evidence of this in many countries today.

Perhaps the most serious disagreement with the rural sector has been in the area of disposable income as it pertains to taxation deductability. The removal of concessions on certain items, including investment allowance, of up to 120 per cent, and on capital items, some of which could be written off in one year, will affect the Queen Street farmer more than the genuine farmer. It will cause all farmers to regard their operations as a business, not merely as a tax haven in bountiful times.

Investment, particularly by Queen Street farmers, has been a means of avoiding tax. Because the former Federal Government encouraged farmers to spend too freely on their properties—the present State Government is also stooping to this little trick—we had the ridiculous situation in the last rural recession of highly improved, over-capitalised, low-income-producing properties. If the honourable member for Roma, who produces bulls—he spat out a lot of "bull" here the other day—considers that young farmers will be deterred from remaining on the land by the Federal Budget, how does he explain the 358 applications in the recent ballot for 11 brigalow blocks?

The removal of tax concessions will make better businessmen out of our farmers. It will cause them to be more careful with their priorities in land investment and land improvements. That will result in prudent spending—not over-capitalised spending, but spending where the best results can be obtained, and not incurred merely for the purpose of tax avoidance.

Let us be honest and factual about this matter. As a practical farmer I know this to be the truth. I am aware of many instances where money has been spent foolishly merely to avoid tax. The anti-A.L.P. attitude of the rural Press and the attitude of this State Government lacks credibility in the light of the many sound principles of social and economic reforms instigated by the Whitlam Government.

I join with Mr. Schultz, Secretary to the Treasury in the U.S.A., who said that the Australian Government deserves praise for its policies of inflation control and for acting in a sincere, authoritative and intelligent fashion. We all know the leading economist, Dr. Colin Clark. He has said that the economic policies of Mr. Whitlam have been good, despite the poor economic and inflationary policies of the former coalition Government. It is a pity that the honourable member for Maryborough has left the

Chamber, because these are words that he would do well to digest. Dr. Colin Clark pointed out that the former coalition Government allowed in its last 12 months of office a heavy 20 per cent infusion of capital into the general economy. The hide of the Premier, the Treasurer, Mr. Snedden and Mr. Anthony to so loudly decry the financial policies of the Whitlam Government! How typical of Liberal-Country Party political hypocrisy!

What incentive can there be for any industry, rural or otherwise, when, because of inefficiency, lack of demand or prevailing economics, it needs to be bolstered, shored up or carted along by subsidies, concessions or generally sheltered? Those in such an industry usually come to accept these things as their right. Where, then, is the incentive for inventiveness? Any industry that cannot stand on its own feet must surely eventually lapse and die. As subsidies amount to tariffs and tariffs amount to protection, that protection becomes a burden—a burden that must eventually shatter efficiency and contribute greatly to inflation. Shelter and protection become a shame and a shambles.

In times of trouble, subsidies, in the short term, are very desirable, but what right has any industry to be piggybacked into inefficiency and high-cost production and to believe in its divine right to concessions, especially in these days of prosperity? In these times of still-rising markets, the rural industry can at long last unshackle itself and become more businesslike, efficient and productive—and certainly more competitive. I think this will be all to its good. We have no time now to wet the wailing wall with our crying about losing concessions and subsidies. We must move to capture the many markets that cry aloud for our wool, meat, grains, metals and coal. It is about time that this State Government did something about creating overseas trade centres to enable us to do something more positive about capturing these markets.

A dramatic change has taken place in the fortunes of our primary producers, a change that we of the Labor Party forecast would have to come. We forecast a time when the world would urgently need us for the value of our food production and, as the accepted world's most proficient farmers who have been for 16 years hamstrung and hampered in the expansion of production by quotas, subsidies and tariffs, we are now being called upon for increased production. This is certainly contrary to past Government policy. Let us remember the billy-goats like Billy McMahon, Billy Snedden, Anthony and Sinclair who, in our primary industries' darkest hour, called for quotas and restrictions, particularly on grain and wool. What billy-goats they turned out to be in these days of world shortages!

I wonder how much credit will be given by the rural producers of this State to the men in Labor's ranks—men like Mr. O'Donnell from Belyando, Mr. Blake from Isis, Mr. Bousen from Toowoomba North and others, who fought for the recognition and protection of the farmers of whom I speak. Those men never let up in their fight for these greatly neglected sections of our community. Although the changes have been dramatic, with primary production from rural lands on a swift upward note, we still have the critics who are afraid of subsidy withdrawal, as well as those motivated by political destructiveness who seek to promote fear and uncertainty in primary industries which, at this time of their greatest-known prosperity, can afford to stand on their own two feet. I give the "raspberry" to these critics. There is no uncertainty, no unemployment and no need for anxiety if we keep the rottenness of the biased rural Press and of Liberal-Country Party politics in their true perspective.

I have no doubt that markets will change and that the future is probably as unpredictable as ever. However, I quote the agricultural "expert" in this Government. How he got that title I will never know. I quote the honourable member for Landsborough, who wants to lick the gravy train and who said the other day in a boastful speech in this Chamber, "There is no question at all that the State of Queensland is at present experiencing an economic boom." Adopting the words of this so-called expert, there can be no doubt about the present. And how different the present is from the uncertainties of last year, the year before and every year of this Government's 16 years in office! As the Deputy Prime Minister of Australia (Mr. Barnard) has said, most of the problems of Australia are problems of prosperity.

In the past few years of acute primary industry poverty in this State, our Treasurer has managed to finish the year with a Budget surplus after spending millions of dollars of public money in financing projects such as the Crest Hotel, the car park on Wickham Terrace, the development over Central and Brunswick Street railway stations and the beautiful Executive Building, with its air-conditioning so that the Premier can sip his ice-cold pineapple juice and crack his peanuts in comfort.

Let us look, too, at the construction that is taking place on the site of the former John Hicks building. This new structure is being financed by the S.G.I.O. and is to be named Comalco House. The thieving and robbing Comalco concern has dipped its sticky fingers into the public purse quite enough without the S.G.I.O. erecting a monument to it. The Treasurer has conserved his funds at the expense of the rural industries, which have suffered as a result of the scattering around of millions of dollars in the Brisbane area and the inflation that has been created.

Both the Treasurer and the person who is hopeful that he will succeed him—our darling, or, should I say, “snarling” Premier—have criticised Mr. Crean’s Budget as being a kick in the pants to the man on the land. What hypocrisy! What a shameful distortion of facts! Both the Treasurer and Premier loudly denounce inflation and lay the blame for it at the feet of the Whitlam Government, but at the same time they benefit tremendously from increases in stamp duty and other indirect taxation, and openly boast of the additional revenue that has been obtained from such increases as if they were their personal achievements. Again they have demonstrated their hypocrisy. The Queensland Government is eager as always to get on the gravy train, but is bankrupt of any ability to cope with a recession in the rural industries.

Both the Press and other critics have failed to point out that a large number of rural concessions had their origin in the days of the Chifley Government, and that many of them stemmed from the 1950’s when primary industries were in need of stimulation and were the backbone of the nation’s economy. At that time they provided approximately 60 or 70 per cent of Australia’s income. At the present time the farmer still enjoys certain concessions that are not available to city dwellers. To name just a few, I mention the averaging of income tax over a period of five years of fluctuating rural income and lower interest rates as well as tax advantages for drought bonds.

In spite of what has been claimed by the honourable members for Landsborough and Roma, on the two occasions that brigalow blocks have been auctioned since the Federal Budget was brought down they have brought record prices. This proves that these days people are quite happy to invest in the land. What a contrast it is with the situation that existed last year when people were either being booted off their land or walking off it.

I am at a loss to understand how, over the past few years, the children of boundary riders, for example, received their education. These days, children of many low-income workers in the Outback are being catered for either by special away-from-home allowances or by correspondence courses. Special consideration is to be given to retirement allowances and pensions for farmers. I believe that if the future of young people in country areas can be assured, their movement to the cities will be checked. Moreover, I believe that farmers could be recruited from the cities. What a reversal of the current situation that would be!

There is little doubt that on a comparison with Budgets of previous years this year’s Federal Budget mauled the rural industries. So also did private and public companies receive a mauling. But who has heard of any wheat-lumper or wharf-lumper who does not smoke or drive a car? They have been hit

as hard as anybody else. In fact, on a basis of numbers and the amount of revenue that is injected into the economy, they have been hit far harder than the rural producers. The Federal Budget in fact contained far fewer penalties than people generally feared. I believe that, in achieving full employment, the Labor Government budgeted well to balance domestic outlays and domestic receipts.

If I must term the Federal Budget as “mildly inflationary”, I can only say that compared with Budgets of the past, both State and Federal, it is a mere nothing in its inflationary tendency. We can well remember what happened about this time last year when the Federal coalition Government was plagued with unemployment. Surely mild inflation is preferable to stagnation. It is also well to remember that last year the coalition Government’s solution to domestic inflation was to govern the common spending power by reducing employment. Surely Menzies’ 1960 Budget was a sufficient catastrophe without good men like Crean wanting to introduce a similar horror Budget. The broad base of the Australian electorate wants full employment, and it would never tolerate a policy of unemployment. Why should it when, over the years, this Government and its counterpart in Canberra gave it plenty of troubles?

If we have inflation in this country, we should remember that it is on the winds. It is world wide and can be imported in the shape of costly goods and machinery that must jack up prices in this country. Inflation is a problem that is world wide; it is not confined to Australia.

We talk about land prices in Queensland, but the property-owning democracy would be shocked by New Zealand’s property-speculation tax. In that country, any person who makes a profit from the sale of land is liable to a tax ranging from between 60 per cent and 90 per cent on profits made within two years of the initial purchase, unless the land is developed. Therefore, we are not too badly off in this country.

It was glaringly apparent four years ago, and even longer than that—I have only been here four years to witness what goes on in Budgets—that a climate of trading uncertainty was developing in Queensland which in no way was conducive to making major investment decisions. We all know that the result was a huge build-up in trading bank and savings bank deposits, with investors aware, and totally afraid, of spiralling inflationary trends, urging greater Government intervention to stabilise the economy.

But where was this stabilising influence? Where were the inflation-halting measures in past Budgets of our Treasurer? Of course, the popular supposition, encouraged by Labor’s critics, is that wage rises, more than anything else, are the real sin of inflation. But is it not true that heavy contributory causes stem from many other directions,

with larger profit margins and marked-up values by unscrupulous traders being probably one of the fundamental, basic and real causes of inflation? Is it not also true that excessive demand is a contributing factor to increased land values, which have been allowed to run wild? If wages are some sort of contributing factor—in any case, I will not dispute the point—they are not the real, basic cause.

I should like to get another point straight in the narrow minds of honourable members on the opposite side of the Chamber. The average weekly wage of full-time male employees in this State is about \$100 a week, but the estimated percentage of employees earning less than the average is 62 per cent. In other words, 62 per cent of the people of Queensland are not affluent-living citizens; this prerogative belongs to the other 38 per cent.

Without a doubt, Mr. Whitlam inherited the problems of careless and indifferent government which have resulted in people living in fear, spending hastily in an effort to establish savings security and fearing that tomorrow prices will be beyond them. Because all the signs of worsening inflation were there for some time, with Governments, both State and Federal, aware of soaring urban incomes and apparently uncaring for the rural producers, those producers were being kicked off their properties, shunted out of their businesses and hunted out of their homes.

Let us remember the replies to the challenges from the Labor Party to do something for those producers. Remember the statements of the Treasurer, the Minister for Lands and Forestry and the Minister for Primary Industries—let us forget the Premier; he has been too busy flying around trying to sell his “peanut” ideas—that little could be done about drought and depressed prices. They said, “There is nothing we can do.” They stuck to that policy and did nothing. And so there are few people in the West today, and with industry revival, there is a growing and serious shortage of labour that will soon become acute. Today, there is not enough farm labour to harvest the wheat crop. Who hunted these people out of the inland areas? Government members can answer that one. It reminds me of the old song, “Where have all the flowers gone?” Apparently they are blooming in the city gardens while the West is overpowered by deadly nightshade—a nightshade of Government apathy which could never be lifted by a Government such as this, with its divided interests.

Has this Government a right to make mistakes and not try to correct them? Was it a mistake not to try to maintain our sheepmen and other primary producers in business? Has it now been proved that this was a mistake of considerable economic magnitude? And what has the Government done to correct it in the meantime? As I said, we have insufficient labour to lift our wheat crop.

In Queensland today, we are short of sheep. Sheep numbers are below 14,000,000 compared with a peak of 24,000,000. We have no shearers, and no incentive has been offered to entice them back into the industry. In dealing with wool and sheep, I am speaking of only one aspect of our primary industries, all of which have received the same heave-ho treatment from the Government.

Let me add a little to the tune of revaluation. This is a popular subject with the Government. What has our nagging, critical Premier to say about Australia's drop in sterling and dollar values overseas because of the flagging pound and the flagging dollar on world currency markets? The decline in these values is a serious complication to Britain and America, and the loss of world confidence in those currencies has led to further inflation and a continual threat of further revaluation. Perhaps the Premier can blame Gough Whitlam—or perhaps he can lay the blame, as he does with so many problems, on drought or even on Red Riding Hood.

Japan's textile industry has made it known, as I pointed out in a recent speech, that it is willing to give financial aid to Queensland's wool-growers so as to stabilise future wool supplies. This expresses the concern of people throughout the world over the serious shortage of wool. During the past few years, my Opposition colleagues and I have urged the Government to apply interest subsidy on loans for rural industries, to obtain World Bank finance, and to make every other endeavour to keep our rural producers in business, only to be met with rebuffs and insults. As a Government, particularly in its attitude to rural industries, which were in trouble, the Queensland Government was no Government at all; it was just a sick joke.

It is about time, too, that the Premier had second thoughts about his attacks on the Whitlam Government and its diplomatic relations with China. Let it be remembered that China has a quarter of the Earth's population. I am sure that wheat-growers have nothing but applause for the recent long-term trade treaties entered into with China, and the mineral industry must be feeling happy about the prospect of finding large markets for iron-ore and coal in China. The new emerging China could well become an industrial rival to the might of Japan.

Let us look at what this could mean to Australia, and to Queensland in particular. After all, if we can trade with Russia, Poland, Yugoslavia and other Communist countries, why can't we trade with China? Perhaps our squealing Premier could with advantage suffer an attack of lockjaw for a while. Generally this Government believes—and tries to tell the people—that bad seasons, coupled with depressed markets and increasing costs, have contributed to the downfall of primary industries in this State. However, what is not more generally known is that in 1970-71 the average farmer's gross income was \$66

a week, and in 1971-72 it was only \$88. No wonder primary industry was in strife, and no wonder the rural debt of this State soared to enormous heights. It is no wonder, too, that this Government has lost the confidence of country people.

Today, primary industry, with lower production, is experiencing a price boom, and the average farmer's income is now about \$10,000 per annum. I therefore say that although rural subsidies, farm development aids, tax concessions and other extras such as some postal allowances, are to be withdrawn and additional charges are to be added in the form of increased fuel tax and a possible export meat tax, the Federal Budget has, in spite of the howling criticism of the rural sector and the Premier of Queensland, been generous. It has provided benefits in social and educational welfare for all urban and rural areas alike.

In a policy of reform, with vast sums to be made available for education and decentralisation by the creation of country cities, and with a medical system and pensions for all, the Federal Labor Government has in 10 months brought all people into a common perspective. I believe that with the 25 per cent tariff cuts and price justification, this people's Budget will be in the best interests of all and a definite buffer to inflation. Already prices for meat, machinery and motor-cars have fallen.

If rural dwellers are critical of the Federal Budget, let them look at rural reconstruction. A sum of \$47,000,000 has been set aside for this purpose, compared with the past Government's \$100,000,000 over four years. Sure, they came back to two years; but let it be remembered that those were possibly the darkest days and years of rural industries. That was the best that the former Government could do. The present Government has allocated \$47,000,000 this year for rural reconstruction. What about the \$9,800,000 provided for education assistance for isolated children? What about the \$3,100,000 set aside for marginal farm reconstruction? The Government also intends to extend long-term lending arrangements to rural industries with an initial \$20,000,000, and with \$12,000,000 for wool promotion, \$3,000,000 for dairying industry promotion and research, and tax deductions on mortgages.

Mr. Newbery interjected.

Mr. AIKEN: What has the honourable member for Mirani to say about rural industry now? It is said that the Lord giveth and the Lord also taketh away. The honourable member has had it good in the past; now something is being taken away. Someone has to pay for the many benefits, and surely rural industry, now in prosperity, must be aware of the welfare needs in the fields of education, health, hospitals, pensions, etc., and must also realise that not only it but all the people of Australia will benefit.

The economic environment of the Federal Budget could only be reviewed in a context of sympathy for a Labor Treasurer with the onerous task of trying to right the many wrongs of the Coalition Government—a Government divided in its thoughts and subject to blackmail. Who will deny that Mr. McEwen and Mr. Anthony stood over the Liberals and threatened to bring down the Government if they did not gain what they wanted? Whether their demands were good or bad, that is a poor system of government, and the people could only be poorer for it. They were the real sufferers, and they were the ones who definitely expelled the Liberal-Country Party Government in December 1972. There is no doubt that McEwen and Anthony contributed to inflation.

The Crean Budget was at least an honest Budget, formed in the common interest, with an open indication on the table of the House of the channels into which money was to be diverted—an experience previously completely unknown in the Federal House. At least Labor did not kick the rural sector when it was down and ignore it, as the Government of this State has over the past 10 years.

It should be remembered that the Labor Budget—or even a Tory Budget—had no alternative to accelerating Government spending to cope with the rising need for social services, education, health, transport, and general growth demands. When we speak of inflation, let us remember that the problem is related to the birth of the coalition Government itself. Let us remember the great Bob Menzies who failed in his promise in 1949 to put value back into the £. Perhaps the Premier of this State, who has been a consenting party to inflation, has the answer to inflation. Let us make him the Treasurer—he wants the position—and let him be the miracle maker.

If inflation is the major social and economic disease of today, how would honourable members opposite classify yesterday's disease of unemployment and stagnation? Which is the greater evil? At least inflation reflects prosperity. However, recognition is needed that the problem is world wide and that inflation in Australia is not an isolated instance or as rampant here as it is in other countries.

Inflation certainly is making the greatest impact on the little man, the pensioner and all those on fixed incomes, together with the rural producer who carries all the pipeline costs. Every care and protection must be extended to these people, and I believe that in the past 10 months the Labor Government in Canberra has moved in this direction.

It is strange that the Premier, who only last year criticised strongly my suggestions of price control and wage restraint, now favours these measures. Leopards cannot change their spots; apparently the Premier reserves that right to himself.

Inflation has been spurred largely by panic buying, particularly of land. Today we see the spectacle of people paying far too much for land and mortgaging themselves and their families for years to come in order to own what should be a common right—their own piece of dirt.

Perhaps inflation has spurred greater inflation as demand has created extra employment and an increased need for skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labour to produce luxury goods and cater for luxury living. The tariff cut of 25 per cent across the table, hailed by Labor's opponents as a masterpiece of bad timing that would alienate the Government and the unions, has fizzled and faded into insignificance as a political whipping post; nonetheless, it accomplished great aims. Where is the unemployment that Government members forecast? I certainly have not heard of any masses of people seeking readjustment assistance or of any local manufacturers in trouble. In fact the situation is rather the reverse. I believe that the lowering of the boom on tariffs could only promote efficiency in our own industries in this State.

How much universal benefit has been achieved for the workers by protective tariffs? The loaded profits of protection were gobbled up by the few—the companies and the corporations, those who have formed the league of the Liberals, those who today are filling the coffers of the Liberal Party as they try to get rid of the Labor Party and climb back to a situation where they can again rob people through tariff protection. How much is inflation the result of this type of backhanded profiteering, on the very dubious excuse that Australian workers were being protected? The real protection was being extended to the companies and the few.

Was not the tariff cut a far more desirable alternative to another revaluation? Has not the tariff cut been exactly what the rural industries for years have been squealing for? While talking about revaluation, let me say that I believe that monetary reform, with perhaps half the world's currency at times floating, will become a permanent feature of our society. I believe that we have to accept the American doctrine that sound economic structure goes hand in hand with trade. No matter how nationalistic we are, let us realise that the Australian dollar is not an accepted world currency. That is why we have had so many contracts for Australian commodities written in American dollars—now possibly to our disadvantage because of the crash of that once mighty dollar.

As a critic of the recent Australian revaluation, our Premier shows himself to be nothing but a crude politician who is crying in a monetary shock that had been well advertised by world trembling. We all knew that revaluation had to come. In the light of world events, without a doubt

revaluation was inevitable. The long-term benefits of it will eventually assist all sections of the economy even if—I emphasise “even if”—for the present the exporting industries, in particular the primary industries, are hit. I do not know that they have been. Is it not true that benefits from an under-valued currency under the past coalition Government were benefits for the few—for imported finance to benefit foreign investment, for foreign take-over and foreign-controlled companies to get into Australian enterprises, and an opportunity for smart operators to run wild? Such an economy could not be in the best interests of all people. The repercussions of revaluation will be felt to mutual benefit in the medium and long-term range. If there is a repercussion in the rural industries, the over-all effect will be marginal because prices are rising daily.

These are only my views. They are my views on considered assessment in the belief that it will bring long-term strength to the meat market and in the hope that the price of wool, grains, sugar and dairy products will hold or improve. I know that prices can fluctuate. They have always done so, and I believe they will continue in this fashion. I only hope that revaluation is not going to be used as a means of depressing markets by unscrupulous operators or by stupid Governments. The Australian dollar, being tied to parity with the American dollar, has naturally suffered the slide of devaluation that has reduced the American currency to a dangerous low. I believe that the sooner we can get away from the American currency, the better it will be for Australia.

Actually, the Australian dollar has declined or been devalued on an automatic scale and revaluation was absolutely necessary. But our Premier, who is anything but an economist, remained unaware of this fact, or his script writers have not been informed of it, so there has not been any comment from the wailing office of the Premier. Before the tariff cuts, the likelihood of a float of the Australian dollar was a distinct possibility—and this may not have been all too bad either, because New Zealand's severance of its currency tie with the United States resulted in a 3 per cent appreciation. Undoubtedly, this has had a great bearing on New Zealand's exports and, because of the competition that exists between Australia and New Zealand in primary exports, this must have some effect on Australia. I think that the sooner Australia and New Zealand can get together and work out a common and joint policy on rural exports, the better it will be for us all.

Nobody knows better than the Labor Party representatives of rural areas that Queensland has been proved to be remarkably sensitive to the fortunes of our primary industries. Last year, unemployment, despair and the prospect of a complete annihilation of the wool industry reduced Western

Queensland to an almost hopeless state. Today, with the tremendous, almost unbelievable upsurge in wool values, labour is scarce and hopes are again high. I hope that, since we have now proved ourselves in prosperity and in the ability to bounce back after difficult times, we will be truly recognised by this Government, which has failed to recognise us for so many years.

Although statistics are dull and undoubtedly uninteresting to most people, population figures continue to show that Brisbane's population is increasing at a faster rate than that of the rest of the State. Despite the repeated plea of the Labor Party that greater consideration be given to balanced development, our genius of a Premier rests on this statement, "Queensland is the most decentralised State in the Commonwealth." Apparently the Government is going to rest on its oars, and rural industries and rural population will continue to suffer because of the Government's failure to spread industries.

As I have said, with rural labour almost non-existent because of this Government's lack of consideration for rural industries despite the apparent need for assistance over the years, this Government thought that rural industries were not worthwhile and allowed them to collapse and almost die. With the Government's millions being pumped into the city, and little finance making its way into the Inland, the most important, urgent and pressing problem of redeployment remained neglected. This, of course, only further emphasises the mockery and hypocrisy of this Government's decentralisation policies.

Regional development, a popular and golden phrase with this Government, surely must mean decentralisation. In addition to aid to resettle industry, necessary aid must be given to resettle workers and their families in country areas. Dual-purpose thinking—of people and industry tied to agriculture in proven areas—should be the express aim of decentralisation and regional development.

The principles of inland industry diversification should and must contribute to export income and assist in providing a better balance of population. Such diversification must be self-supporting as well as a contributing factor to the nation's economy. I believe that is what "regional development" and "decentralisation" mean. It is also what Queensland urgently needs.

In the main, rural local government organisations, which have been carrying the real burden of development in their areas, are almost bankrupt and in desperate need of assistance. It is astonishing, therefore, that the Treasurer, who occupied approximately 20 minutes of his Budget speech in rubbishing the Labor Party, found little time and little money for the meaty matter of rural welfare.

The cattle industry, which is so safe and stable but ever vulnerable to the dreaded foot-and-mouth disease, has every cause for concern in the knowledge that the disease has appeared on the island of Bali, which is only 800 miles from the Australian coastline. I hope that all Governments in Australia will take every precaution to ensure that the disease will be kept out of the country. If the present spread of the disease is allowed to continue, it will not be long before it finds its way through the islands to the north and into New Guinea. If that happens there will be an even greater risk than at present of the spread of the disease into Queensland's wild animals, such as pigs and goats. It is a tragedy that proper facilities are not being made available for the disposal of ships' waste, refuse and rubbish. The terrible damage that could be done to the State and the nation, as well as to the future development of the cattle industry, from the entry of the disease is not difficult to imagine.

At a time when there is a shortage of food throughout the world, even in Queensland, the so-called Country Party continues to impose quotas and restrictions upon the primary producers. I am fearful of the future and wonder where we will draw our food supplies from if the Government continues to ignore the primary producers' pleas for assistance.

If beef and wool prices again fall to low levels, the primary producers, who now face the task of adjusting to a new high cost structure as well as a new inbuilt taxation rate, will find it very difficult to survive. Therefore, I hope that the Queensland Government and its self-expressed experts on rural affairs have learned a lesson from the revival of the primary industries.

I remind the Government that, as a result of its lack of concern, Queensland now faces a shortage of both food and fibre. This has had repercussions around the world. The plains of the West are well fertilised with the carcasses of animals that died as a result of the Government's lack of concern. Their bones will remain for years as reminders of the Government's failure to show any interest whatever in the rural industries. The actions of this Government have contributed in large measure to food shortages as well as to current high prices in Queensland.

In the light of what has happened in the past, we expect a better performance from the Government in the future. I suppose all things are possible, so there is even the hope that the Queensland Government could function as a Government.

The farmer has realised that he lives in a two-tier society in which the great majority of the population sit in comfortable arm-chairs securely fastened to the backs of the rural community. The primary producers work both hard and efficiently to produce a wide variety of cheap foodstuffs for the people of Queensland. At the same time,

with the guarantee of export markets, they underwrite the financial security of everyone. Given encouragement, the farmers will continue to do this.

I hope that the return to viability of the primary industries will alert the Treasurer and the Government to their real value, and that whenever help is needed in future, in time of drought or recession, realistic assistance related to demand, not merely a token gesture, will always be extended to the people the Government needs most of all. It should never be forgotten that each Australian farmer is capable of feeding 60 people.

I conclude my speech by asking the Government to act like a Government, which it pledged itself to do and to quit being a shamming, "con" Government.

Dr. EDWARDS (Ipswich) (4.31 p.m.): It is with a great deal of pride and pleasure that I rise to take part in this Budget debate. The reason for such pride is obvious because of the wide acceptance of the Budget presented by the Treasurer by all sectors of the community. We in this State are benefiting from wise planning over many years in an economic sense, and Queensland is in excellent economic shape because of the Government's strategy, and also because of its emphasis on private enterprise and the rights and needs of the individual in the community.

The development of basic resources has enhanced our economic viability and, despite charges by Opposition spokesmen, the policies employed over the years to develop and expand such basic resources have been the basis on which the development of our State has occurred. I have no doubt that we have not yet reached the peak of our economic or developmental resources, and I suggest that even greater industrial and commercial activity will occur because of the policies implemented over the past 15 years or so years.

This must have been a particularly difficult Budget to prepare, for a number of reasons. Among these are the demands of all sectors of the community for increased expenditure and development, especially in the fields of education, health and social welfare. Another reason for the difficulty in preparing the Budget would be the changing pattern of industrial awards, especially during the preparation period, with increases in costs and in wages for many sectors being unprecedented. When one hears, as the Treasurer has said, that the costs for a full year of award increases granted last year, plus the costs of expected increases in awards this year, will run to an estimated \$74,000,000, one can visualise the extent of the difficulty and problems the Treasurer and his department have faced.

A further important reason for the difficulty in preparation of the Budget is the world-wide inflationary trend, and the

inability at this stage of the Federal Government to deal with the problem has added a great deal to the difficulty experienced by the Treasurer.

When one speaks of inflation today, one joins the ever-increasing number of people who are claiming expertise in such matters. I feel that some of the so-called experts have added to the confusion. It seems to me that the only Federal action taken has been of little significance. Such actions as revaluation of the dollar, removal of tariff protection, etc, have no doubt been undertaken for this purpose, but if the Federal Government believes that inflation can be cured, or even controlled, by price control, or even income control, it is in for a rude shock. From my study of economics, I doubt the efficacy and benefits even of short-term prices and incomes controls, but this is very debatable even amongst experts.

I am sure all honourable members agree that inflation is a very sinister enemy and is certain to lead to many problems. It presents to my mind a very real threat to development and to our standard of living in this State. The role of any Government is to steer a course between avoidance of recession on the one hand and price inflation on the other hand. The immediate problem is the role of a Government in maintaining economic stability. Inflation, as I understand it and as it is seen today, occurs when there is an upswing in the general price level.

When inflation occurs, the entire productive capacity of the economy is unable to meet increased demands made by firms, companies and individuals. As a result, as can be seen throughout Australia today, prices continue to rise, and rise rapidly, and shortages occur. The real income of individuals falls, with some portions of the community suffering far more than others. Purchasing power is lost. Inflation therefore has a very harmful effect upon the individual and the economy in general. The key to economic stability is to try to secure and maintain a level of effective demand which utilises all available resources effectively.

Over the years we have been in office, this Government has always budgeted to increase the use of natural and basic resources. Our policies have always tried to encourage increasing production, and we should do this throughout the State and nation for the benefit of the people of Australia and of Queensland as a whole.

The Treasurer has stated that the economy is generally in a very healthy position, with progressive rural production following improved conditions, increasing industrial expansion and improving commercial activity. Queensland's population continues to increase at a greater rate than that of any other State, and, as the Treasurer has said,

the statistical figures confirm that Queensland's growth pattern is ahead of that for all the other Australian States.

I congratulate the Treasurer on the Budget, which has meant only two increases in charges, namely, in pay-roll tax, which could not be avoided because of agreement with the other States and the Commonwealth, and, secondly, in the fees charged by the Titles Office, which will bring these charges into line with those in other States. As well as such limited increases, the concessions made, such as exemptions in land tax, amendments to the Succession and Probate Duties Acts, and reduction in gift-tax levels are certainly welcome.

The Treasurer has had the support of his very dedicated staff in the preparation of this Budget and, in paying tribute to him, I also pay tribute to the Treasury officials for their co-operation and assistance.

As far as expenditure in Queensland is concerned, it appears to me that the Government has acted with marked responsibility and sense, and yet has budgeted for a record expenditure of almost \$808,000,000. This indicates the Government's intention to continue our complete programme in every aspect of Government spending.

Education again has a very large expenditure, with an additional \$28,000,000 to a previous record expenditure of \$142,000,000. The increased teacher recruitments should bring no criticism from either side of the Chamber, nor should the expansion of special professional support staff, such as guidance officers, social workers and music teachers. The appointment of teacher aides is, of course, a very new and welcome move, but it is to be hoped that these people will be used to the full advantage of the schools and, as indicated in the Treasurer's speech, to assist the teacher in non-teaching functions in areas of homecraft, audiovisual instruction, sport and administration.

I am pleased to see that pre-school facilities are being built at two schools in my electorate, namely, Bundamba and Silkstone State Schools, and I urge the Minister for Education to seriously consider early provision of a pre-school centre at the Ipswich East State School. I appreciate the department's co-operation in purchasing suitable additional land which I brought to its attention some time ago. The Ipswich East area is in need of a pre-school unit, and local surveys carried out have confirmed this belief. I urge the responsible Minister to see if this provision can be undertaken as soon as possible, for the benefit of people in the area.

Whilst speaking of the East Ipswich area, which is in my electorate, I would like to bring to the notice of the Committee the situation of the Spring and James Street flooding in Ipswich. It is now just on 12 months since the fifth flood in 12 years

occurred in this area following the replacement of a trestle bridge with a solid embankment, as I said 12 years ago, and as the honourable members for Wolston and Ipswich West well remember. Flooding in this area occurs at a rapid rate in heavy downpours, and it disappears just as quickly. Constituents in the area are unable to obtain flood insurance, but the danger to life and property is ever present because of the rapid onset of flooding.

After the last flood I was very grateful to the Minister for Transport, who undertook immediately a full investigation. In January of this year he was advised that the only way to overcome the problem was to install pipe jacking through the embankment. This has been approved by the Minister. I advised the Ipswich City Council of such approval immediately, but requested that co-ordination and co-operation with the Railway Department be undertaken to obviate this problem and also not to flood people on the northern side of the railway line.

It seems that a stalemate has now developed in determining responsibility for this work. There have been conferences, deputations, telephone calls and letters between the Railway Department, the Ipswich City Council and myself, and in the meantime the danger period of the year approaches. The problem at present seems to rest on deciding who is responsible for the cost of the northern side of the railway line. A subdivisional development is being held up. The Ipswich City Council changed in March this year, but still no results have been obtained.

I am airing this matter to see if something can be done to allow the Railway Department to carry out the work suggested by the Minister and his department, for whom I have the utmost respect and in whom I have the fullest confidence. I assure the Committee that if another flood occurs this year before the work is carried out, I shall spare no effort in my condemnation of the failure to co-ordinate and complete an essential work.

I would also like to bring another matter before the Committee during this debate. This is the matter of the Health Vote. I am pleased to see the increase of 24.6 per cent, and I am also particularly pleased to see the proposed increased subsidy to the Blue Nursing Service. I pay tribute to the outstanding work being done by the Blue Nursing Service in the Ipswich area. The Director, Reverend Eric Moore, has carried out outstanding work over many years, and his leadership of the Blue Nursing Council and associated organisations has provided for Ipswich an extremely dedicated Blue Nursing Service. This service is providing home nursing care to those in need of such service, and, without their assistance in my area, many patients would have to be hospitalised, and the stress and strain to relatives would be immeasurable. We must continue to see that, as far as possible, people are cared for in their own homes, provided the patient

is being well cared for and there is not too much disturbance of the home or the environment. The Ipswich Blue Nursing Service is fulfilling this need, and their dedication and service must be given credit. As well, the organisations have provided Lauriston and Brassall Village, which, according to most experts, have as high a standard as any other similar institution in Australia. The Brassall Village at Brassall, within the electorate of Ipswich West, provides, as the honourable member for that electorate knows and appreciates, outstanding multiphasic care, from completely independent living to full intensive-care facilities. The Director, Reverend Eric Moore, to whom I have already referred, is at present overseas studying modern trends in these services, and I look forward to discussing with him some proposed advances on his return.

Along with this service, one must also pay tribute to the community home-care programme, which is so well accepted by all phases of the community in the Ipswich area. Dr. Glenda Powell has carried the main responsibility for the introduction of this scheme, and her enthusiasm, dedication and wisdom in its implementation have been rewarded—and rightly so—by the widespread acceptance and success of the programme. I am very pleased to see the increased amount being made available, especially the increased Commonwealth Government contribution.

A further matter that I wish to raise again is the powerhouse issue. I have no doubt worn out my welcome in one aspect on this project, but I feel so strongly about it that I again wish to bring the subject to the notice of Parliament. Ipswich has been accused, as I have, of becoming emotional on this subject, but no-one has ever condemned or contradicted the facts that have been presented. Ipswich appreciates the deferment of a decision on this issue, provided some benefit is obtained. The Ipswich coal-mining industry needs future orders, and whilst we appreciate and recognise the claims of other areas, I suggest that they can wait. I urge the Government to extend Swanbank now by two 275-megawatt units and so provide a future for the Ipswich coal industry, which has served this State so well over so long a period.

Mr. Marginson: I am with you on this one.

Dr. EDWARDS: I am pleased to hear that.

Our locally owned coal mines need stimulus by such development to expand their facilities, and the provision of the additional units, provided the job is undertaken in the near future, would satisfy the local area and would also allow for the naturally increasing electricity demands of this State. The super powerhouse could then be constructed at a later stage at one of the other sites. I make no apology for my battle on this matter because of the

importance of my electorate and the faith I have in Ipswich coal-producers and the Ipswich coal-miners. It is the responsibility of the Government to make certain that these Ipswich mines are not allowed to run down and close, and I therefore make a further plea to the Government to consider the proposal I have propagated today. I have, of course, on previous occasions within this Parliament and in my own area, and in other places as well, expounded the full and complete reasons behind the claims of Ipswich, and these need not be repeated because the message is the same.

The Minister for Local Government and Electricity has repeated on occasions that the Government will build the next powerhouse on a site to produce electricity at the most reasonable cost with the least disturbance of the environment. This, to my mind, would be satisfied by the selection of Ipswich for additional units at an early date. I assure the Treasurer, as he knows, that my representations along this line will continue.

The next matter I would like to raise during this debate is that of hospital services throughout the State. Provision has been made for a total programme of \$108,313,231 for the operation of the State's public hospital system. I am very pleased to see that staffing personnel, both medical and nursing, will increase by 1,337. This is very welcome, as there have been shortages in some areas. I assure the Committee, however, that should the Federal Government introduce its infamous and iniquitous health scheme, this increase will be completely inadequate because of the consequent demands upon the public hospital system. I feel that the numbers attending the casualty and outpatient sections of public hospitals will not fall and will in fact show some increase; but I assure the Committee that the scheme will undoubtedly cause tremendous loading upon our public wards, to be known under Labor as "standard" wards. The 1.35 per cent levy to be imposed compulsorily provides only public-ward care free, so that what people are now obtaining at no cost, without any means test, will be available in return for the health tax. If any private insurance funds are available, very few people will be able to afford to be insured for private or intermediate-ward care. It follows, then, that the demand for public-ward care in this State will increase by at least 25-30 per cent. It is therefore a tragedy that Queensland's famous and highly satisfactory free health scheme, introduced by a Labor government many years ago, will be destroyed by a Labor government, despite the Liberal-Country Party Government's determination to continue and expand the free hospital scheme. In August 1972 I challenged the Labor Opposition to declare where they stood in regard to the Commonwealth Government's health proposals. I asked them to publicly support a scheme which provided public-ward care in return for a levy of 1.35 per cent of taxable income

for every worker, whereas he or she receives the same care now completely free. It is no wonder they have been strangely silent in support of Mr. Hayden's health scheme.

Opposition members have made every effort to support the Federal Government in its centralist activities, in its inflationary programmes, and in its many other activities, but not a word has come from them defending the socialistic, economically based health scheme, which they know they cannot justify in this State. No wonder 58 per cent of Australians oppose the scheme, and I would hazard a guess that in Queensland some 70 per cent would oppose it. No wonder the Opposition is quiet about the scheme, except to attack the medical profession. No wonder the Opposition says nothing about the health proposals.

Honourable members opposite are obviously ashamed of these proposals, and I would be, too, if I were a member of the Labor Party because this scheme is quite unacceptable. It will be a sad day for the people of Australia if it is ever introduced. It was first suggested to the Australian people in April 1968 by Mr. Whitlam at a health seminar, and it has been propagated ever since. Yet at this stage, 5½ years later, 58 per cent of Australians are opposed to it, even though a publicity campaign has been embarked upon, at a cost of over \$250,000, in an effort to justify the scheme. This is probably the first time in the history of Australia that so much money has been spent to publicise a scheme in any portfolio for which legislation has not even been introduced.

Even the confident Australian Government is obviously unsure of its health proposals. This is supported by changes in attitude by Mr. Hayden regarding many aspects of the Deeble plan. The Australian Government would gain if it was honest enough to say, "The plan is a failure. We have made a mistake. This scheme is just not for Australia." This is what it is and what it will be. I urge every Queenslander to oppose the scheme, because it will destroy the free scheme that we have in this State. Again I challenge every member of the Opposition to state where he stands in relation to the propagation of this iniquitous scheme by the Federal Government.

I am pleased to see the Government's building-expansion programme for hospitals, but I urge the Minister for Health and the Treasurer to consider as soon as possible new paediatric developments in Brisbane. We need a central, modern, high-standard paediatric hospital, which I believe should be built on a new site so that its development could be commenced and so that the present children's hospital could continue in operation. We have extremely dedicated paediatricians and paediatric nurses, and they need encouragement to continue their work and their research programmes. Modern research has indicated that one major paediatric base

hospital is adequate, as is the case in other capital cities. It is acceptable that a large children's hospital be autonomous, so a new site would be acceptable. I realise the excellent work being carried out by the Health Department and the wide variety of urgent demands upon this department, but I offer these suggestions because of the need for extensive planning and development at an early stage for such a massive project.

No doubt the committee looking at the Mount Gravatt Hospital have considered the possibility of including paediatric services there instead of at the Royal Brisbane Hospital, but I offer these suggestions to bring to attention this important and much-needed facility of modern development.

We, in Queensland, are the leaders in many aspects of health services such as cardiac surgery, renal physiology medicine and surgery, radio-therapy techniques and management, and psychiatric developments. We are world authorities on melanoma, skin cancer, liver diseases, and so on. Our radiology developments and knowledge are accepted worldwide. We have a good health service system and I stand by the work that is being done, but I suggest the paediatric hospital for consideration. I wonder, because of the vastness of our State and the problems which are thus associated therewith and which are peculiar to Queensland, if some form of regionalisation would be worth considering. This may not appear to be economical or practical in administrative terms, but, if a region could surround a base hospital, this hospital could be developed to provide the facilities for the whole area or region. This may also encourage better medical coverage to some of the more remote areas now not being staffed or able to be staffed. The reason for this is not purely financial but rather a lack of medical companionship and medical fellowship.

However, with a regional basis, some remote-area medical people could feel less isolated, and local regional post-graduate developments which would emerge would be very beneficial. In medicine today, we can no longer plan for just a few years. The Department of Health must be encouraged to plan, as it is doing, for long periods in the future with the desire to see the best service available and the best use of medicine, man-power and financial commitments. This, of course, could mean the closure of some smaller hospitals, but in their place could develop a modern and efficient outpatient service on a regular basis. The Minister for Health has indicated previously that his department is looking at the possibility of aeroplane service for medical purposes. I suggest that the investigation also include extension of aerial ambulances in co-operation with the Royal Flying Doctor Services based at various centres to provide outback services to the more isolated centres.

I pay tribute to the medical and nursing personnel of our State hospitals for the dedication and enthusiasm shown by them over the years, which has resulted in an outstanding medical service to the Queensland people.

We are on the verge of exciting developments in medicine in Queensland because of the building programmes being undertaken which, along with the community health centre complexes now under planning and development, will enhance the services available through the Department of Health.

When we consider the outstanding work being undertaken by the Maternal and Child Welfare Department, we have reason to be proud. Here, babies are observed by trained staff, both nursing and medical, from infancy to pre-school age. The dedicated advice of these dedicated people on feeding, development, health education and so on has played an important role as a preliminary service to the school health service, which again is a particularly dedicated and outstanding service. Here, school children are checked by trained people who are experts in the detection of problems, from sight and hearing defects to minor or major health problems. I look forward to the introduction of dental therapists to our schools. They will play a very important role in the detection and prevention of dental disease. The aim to have all pre-school and primary-school children under a dental scheme by 1980 is most acceptable. This scheme, along with the increasing use of fluoridation, either in tablet form or by fluoridation of water supplies, is very welcome and should give our children a very high standard of dental health in the next few years.

The development in psychiatric services is a remarkably dramatic story, and the Minister for Health should be, and I feel sure is, proud of the developments over the past 10 years. When one considers the conditions in which patients were housed 15 years ago when this Government came to office and compares them with those in which the residents live today, the improvement speaks for itself. I look forward to even further developments in the near future.

I feel that my main effort today should be to pay tribute to the Treasurer, who has presented a very acceptable and most suitable Budget in particularly difficult circumstances. Last year he presented an "achievement" Budget which has had the effects planned and has brought outstanding benefits to Queensland. This Budget will bring continued prosperity, increased development, and progressive government. The standards set by the Treasurer and his department are the basis on which we operate so successfully. It is a pleasure for me to associate myself fully with the Budget, to express pride at being a member of the

Government team and to heartily endorse the contents so ably presented by the Treasurer.

Mr. HANSON (Port Curtis) (5 p.m.): Like Budgets that have been presented in previous years, this one, too, will have a profound effect on economic and commercial activity in Queensland. The various items that appear in a Budget are influenced by such things as drought, a falling-off in prices of export goods, and increases in wage rates, to which employees are justly entitled but usually receive only after prolonged and exhaustive negotiations. A Budget also presents a forecast of the State's future economy.

Mr. Lane: Have you bought any land up in Yarwun?

Mr. HANSON: The Treasurer, in his Budget, referred to last year's crystal-gazing and, in weighing the political pros and cons, endeavoured to convince the people of Queensland that everything is proceeding smoothly and that he has displayed wise husbandry of the State's resources.

In answer to the interjection of the garrulous honourable member for Merthyr, I tell him that I have not purchased any land in Yarwun. However, approximately 15 or 20 years ago, in conjunction with a dear friend of mine, I acquired certain land on the northern bank of the Calliope River. Of course, I do not know whether that land will be developed either in the near or distant future.

Mr. Lane: By the Commonwealth Government.

Mr. HANSON: I am not aware of any Commonwealth assistance that might be provided. When I acquired that land I would have been regarded as a soothsayer if I had predicted that in 15 or 20 years' time a Labor Government would be in office in Canberra and would have plans for the development of the Gladstone district.

Incidentally, the dogs in Gladstone are barking about an alleged recent involvement by senior Government members in land transactions in the Gladstone district. I certainly hope that certain land that is earmarked for freehold tenure will not be freehold. If the rumours that have spread throughout Gladstone are correct, the results of such a conversion to freehold will be disastrous. The rumours are very nasty ones and contain an implication that certain utterances by one or two senior Government members could prove to be embarrassing to the Government as well as electorally disastrous for it. I will leave the matter at that.

As the Leader of the Opposition has pointed out, the Treasurer departed from the traditional courtesy of providing a copy of his Financial Statement to each honourable member. Such a departure from tradition was not surprising in the light of the fact that his previous Financial Statements were so uninspiring that many Government

members, including the honourable member for Merthyr, walked out of the House during their presentation and refused to listen to them. That was appalling. It showed a considerable lack of faith in the leadership of the Liberal Party and revealed a poor team spirit in that party. On this occasion we heard another dull presentation by the Treasurer, who, in parson-like tones, tried to show what a wonderful Treasurer he has been. The Budget certainly lacks colour in the true sense of the word.

Some few years ago, in conjunction with you, Mr. Lickiss, I was responsible for impressing on the Treasurer the fact that the Budget should not be presented in the dull form so typical of those of years ago. It now contains a few photographs and is presented in better form. It should be even more modern; it should be more "with it". Surely, with all the resources of the Government Printing Office, the Budget could be more colourfully presented. Departmental presentations depicting all types of investment throughout Queensland contain a variety of paraphernalia designed to promote Ministers and place them on a pedestal. The annual reports issued by Conzinc Riotinto, Mt. Isa and many other firms are fully illustrated. The Budget is an important document, and it would not be out of character if the accounts of this State were presented in a similar fashion.

Mr. Lee: They tell me you want it in Braille.

Mr. HANSON: That could be an advantage because we are somewhat blinded by the "tripe" thrown at us from the other side of the Chamber. I remind the honourable member for Yeronga—perhaps I should say "Wonga"—that he would enjoy the Budget if it were presented in smoke signals.

It is not surprising that the Treasurer, in rather fiendish fashion, suddenly, and very cleverly, placed every shortcoming at the feet of the Labor Government in Canberra. The Treasurer runs true to form, but he does not always back a winner. Despite the fact that he has the best of advice, I point out to him—and this will certainly ring a bell—that sometimes, unfortunately, he is "left" on the "gee-gee".

It is childish and totally dishonest to place culpability for all the sins of omission and commission on the shoulders of political adversaries. However, it is not surprising that the Treasurer did just that. Looking piously to the heavens, he accused the Labor Party of starting the inflationary spiral that now exists in this country. I remind him that, months before the McMahon Government left office, many prominent economists, people who are certainly not friends of the A.L.P., warned the Government that it should take certain radical steps. There is

voluminous evidence that the McMahon Government was urged by highly responsible economists to do something about revaluing our currency.

Mr. Aikens: Will you vote for both the prices and incomes referendums?

Mr. HANSON: I will conform to the decision made by my party. As a matter of fact, the honourable member for Townsville South sits where he does today simply because he was not willing—despite the fact that he made a certain pledge—to conform to the aims and ideals of the Australian Labor Party. He has regretted that ever since, because he is the greatest "nark" in the Chamber.

The facts show that over 60 per cent of the increase from 108.19 to 114.12 in the Consumer Price Index between the December 1972 quarter and the June 1973 quarter was due to external factors—the rise in prices. Of that increase, 45 per cent is due to increased meat prices, 17 per cent to price rises for other foodstuffs and 7.7 per cent for increases in the cost of wool and clothing.

A very large and significant percentage, therefore, is attributable to factors that arose outside this country. In other words, it is some form of imported inflation.

World trends have been instrumental in causing all of those price increases, and as the Government tends to use conventional methods to fight inflation, it is very difficult, on occasions like this, to project some form of abatement of that particular problem. It could hardly be described as a demand-fall or a cost-push inflation. It is not of the traditional type, and radical measures will no doubt have to be used to contain the problem.

It is an accepted economic fact that an increase in public money in the community pleasantly, but sometimes irresponsibly, forces people into resource-use and spending sprees and, in a country such as ours where there is a full capacity of resource-use, such a stimulus is a ready target for inflation.

Mr. Lee: Why did you increase the price of beer when barmaids' wages went up?

Mr. HANSON: The rise in the price of beer was nothing compared with the rise in the price of the honourable member's bullocks which he demanded when he went, in stargazing mood, to the saleyards of his political colleague the honourable member for Roma, who was able to clap his hands and say that it was lovely to see the honourable member for Yeronga in the district. I hope that, one day, he will be elevated to the ministry so that he can sell a little more "bull".

It must be remembered that the Liberal Party was in control in Canberra until 2 December 1972. In 1972-73, savings bank and trading bank deposits increased from \$17,500 million to \$22,000 million, a rise

of 26 per cent. As there was increased spending in the community and a rise in production of goods and services of only 5 per cent, price increases were not unexpected.

The present Federal Government is at least prepared to try; it has shaped up to its responsibilities. In spite of certain action taken on revaluation and borrowing guidelines, which, incidentally, led to capital outflow in the early part of this year, the Federal Government finally faced the stark reality that we had a large surplus of exports over imports. It fully realised that surpluses would occur in the international account. But the Federal Labor Government is prepared to shape up to the problem, look at the task, and try to do something about it. Such was not the case two years before, when the financial journals in this country repeatedly urged McMahon and Snedden to do something positive. The Federal Labor Government is not punch-drunk, as was the 1972 Liberal Government. It is not anaesthetised, like the Coalition Government here which in budgetary fashion keeps yelling out, "Blame the Labor Party! Blame the Canberra socialists for all our ills!" Unfortunately, Government members opposite have prostituted their responsibilities to the people by using every platform as a forum for heaping their dung on the head of the Australian Labor Party. Even at functions where normal party-political jargon was rarely heard—where, indeed, it would be most discourteous to introduce it—every opportunity is now being taken by our political opponents to behave like blood-curdling animals seeking the head of Gough Whitlam. These are stark realities that have to be faced.

There is the will, the desire and the expertise in the Government at Canberra to face up to present problems. No doubt there are many who are fully alive to the fact that there will be problems in rural credit advances to marketing authorities. In the wheat-growing industry, if things run true to plan this year, advances amounting to \$500,000,000 will have to be made to wheat-growers. This creates problems, too, by the boosting of bank deposits in a period of inflation.

No doubt many members in this Chamber are also aware that, even with trading bank credit restrictions resulting from calls on statutory reserve deposits, there is a substantial pool of unused overdraft limits, which some customers may wish to use in the next 12 months. Unfortunately, if bank loan increases are restricted in this period, firm controls will be necessary, and, as a result of the many years of Liberal neglect and indecision, positive roles will have to be played in debt management policies. Interest rates have risen sharply, but this is not the fault directly of the Labor Party—far from it. The public unfortunately were subjected for many years to indecision and neglect. With the rise in interest rates, people may be persuaded to take up Government securities, thus allowing the

Government to contain some of the growth in money volume. Unfortunately, after the wild, reckless days of McMahon and Snedden, the present Labor Government was faced with a dirty washtub when it took office in 1972. But the Government is prepared to shape up and do something of a positive nature.

The Treasurer, in his usual style, pontificated in his Budget speech, and mentioned the shadows of inflation growing greater by the day and the hour as a result of the economic policies of the present Commonwealth Government. He usually trots out for his morning gallop his utter revulsion of award and wage increases, and he has again mentioned this matter in the Financial Statement. Every reactionary Tory from time immemorial has done likewise. Every Tory from the beginning of responsible government in this State has spoken about his inherent concern for future generations of Australians. That is so much eyewash.

The Treasurer said in his Financial Statement, "It is an expansionary policy set in a fully employed economy with decisions being made in crisis by persons inexpert in economic management." Let me therefore remind him that the working man is not the villain in the piece; he is not the villain in the inflationary spiral. Perhaps the Treasurer may care to consider the opinions of some people of note. I refer to an article in that capitalist Bible, the Wall Street Journal. The Treasurer would know where Wall Street is and the city in which it is located. In discussing inflation, a senior executive of that journal said—

"Any attempt to fix the blame for today's inflation, however, shouldn't be limited simply to a consideration of labour costs. The blame, it can be argued, belongs in many places.

"A major culprit may be corporate profits

"Indeed, some analysts say that the post-war economic record suggests a chain of events that runs simply like this: Profits begin to climb, first through the impact of better machinery and work methods on unit labour costs, and then through higher prices; the raising profits finally prompt labour (the unions) to attempt to 'catch-up' by seeking sharply higher pay"

To further substantiate my argument relative to inflation and to give the Treasurer something to think about—and perhaps a few more ulcers—let me quote the words of James Tobin, Professor of Economics at Yale University. Incidentally, he was a member of President Kennedy's Council of Economic Advisers. He said, "If you want to put first things first, have a look at

the role of the profits." I shall make available to the honourable member for Yeronga and other honourable members opposite who have been seeking to interject the document from which I am quoting.

A Government Member: Don't you believe in profits?

Mr. HANSON: There has been no suggestion from me of a non-belief in profits. I am speaking of the scourge of inflation, and I am certainly reacting very sharply to the Treasurer's submission in which he speaks in very evil terms of wage and award increases being the villain of the piece.

In bringing down the 1972-73 Budget, the Treasurer spoke of the tremendous increase in spending from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, which represented an increase of 18.9 per cent. Expenditure budgeted for in 1971-72 was \$571,000,000, in 1972-73 \$679,000,000, and this year it is over \$800,000,000. In each of these years the Treasurer has been the great financial contortionist. He has spoken of the economy being in good shape and then, in many places in the Financial Statement, gives one a touch of the miseries with his soothsaying and pontifical forecasting. For 1971-72 and 1972-73—and he did it again for 1973-74—he told honourable members that he was budgeting for a deficit and then—hey presto—he comes up with a surplus in the Consolidated Revenue Fund! Grants from the Commonwealth Government, the Grants Commission, and so on, are all thrown in.

Over many years, the Opposition in this Chamber has given reasons for increases in planning and services. I fail to understand why the Treasurer has not gone into deficit to carry projects that will be of benefit for the future. I well remember the honourable gentleman's rantings and ravings in this Chamber a few years ago when the honourable member for Baroona suggested an increase in expenditure of about \$1,000,000. He almost went mad in suggesting that such an increase was not feasible, then eventually had a surplus of more than \$1,000,000 in the accounts for the year.

The policies of the Government are "Chalk-eyed" and cock-eyed. Let me say to the "cockies" of this State—the Country Party should get this message loud and clear—that the Treasurer was consistent even in 1968, when there was a severe drought. Did he assist them on that occasion? He ended the year with a surplus of about \$60,000 in the Consolidated Revenue Fund when a little bit of financial sting could have been injected into the arms of the farmers.

I am not suggesting that it could be done with the tranquilliser gun or pistol used on horses while they are stabled at Eagle Farm or some other racecourse; I am speaking of real assistance, which would give an immediate pay-off.

On the subject of rail freights, let us take a look at the position with wool. My friend the honourable member for Warrego certainly took the Government to task this afternoon when he spoke about the wool industry. For journeys over 200 miles, wool freights range from \$2 a bale in Western Australia, \$2.23 a bale in South Australia, and \$2.70 a bale in Victoria, to \$3.16 a bale in Queensland. The 400-mile rate is \$2.85 in Western Australia, \$3.50 in Victoria, \$3.57 in South Australia and \$4.06 in Queensland. Of course, that is not the whole story. For instance, in New South Wales, if wool is consigned to the Yennora Wool Centre for sorting, there is a rebate of 65c a bale. So much for the concern of the Treasurer for the man in the bush—the pastoralist of this State. He has no concern for him whatsoever. He is a deep, dedicated, avowed Liberal who hates the very stomach of his Country Party colleagues but is allied to them in a very dubious marriage.

The criticism of Government members becomes very strong when they refer to the Federal Budget. Out come their handkerchiefs to mop up their flood of tears at the increase of 5c in the price of petrol, which they say is going to ruin the man in the country. The honourable member for Yeronga has a property. Prior to the Federal Budget he, like every other country person, was buying his petrol for approximately 5c a gallon less than I, the honourable member for Toowong, the honourable member for Clayfield or the honourable member for Ithaca could buy it from bowlers in this city. The honourable member for Yeronga had merely to ring up the agent in the country town, and he would bring the petrol out to his property and put it in his tank. I emphasise that he was getting it much cheaper than metropolitan members could buy it.

Incidentally, that is not the whole story. He has been able to claim the cost of the petrol as a full tax deduction, irrespective of whether he used it to drive to the pictures, to go on a picnic or on holidays, or to engage in any other type of gallaventing. That has been done for years, and is still being done, by the rural producers of this State. That is something that is denied to you, Mr. Lickiss, and other Liberal members who reside in the metropolitan area.

Mr. Alison: How much do you claim?

Mr. HANSON: I would not have the honourable member for an accountant. A very honest gentleman does my accounts. They are under constant review by the Taxation Department, but, unlike the hundreds of clients of the honourable member, I have never been called to task to explain the actions of my accountant.

For a long time I have deplored the breakdown of many Government services. I wish the Treasurer would radically alter the present position. He would be wise to have a close analysis made of Government

services. As a responsible citizen, I have a profound regard for the public servants of this State, particularly the many men who have rendered noble service over a long period. Many of them have reached the top in their departments. Many others are men of great ability who have not had the lucky breaks but who, right to the age of retirement, have carried on and given wonderful service to the people of this State. The blame for what I am about to raise lies at the feet of the Government. It stems directly from Government policy. The depressed state of many Government services and, unfortunately, the neglect in many of the departments both in Government planning and financial distributions cause me great concern.

I shall give some concrete examples. In recent years the Government has radically increased the work-load in the office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs. I do not believe that a full appraisal was done of the tremendous burden carried by the Commissioner, and no full appreciation was made of public requirements. When one visits the office even now, it is like a madhouse. In other words, it is run on a shoestring, with increased responsibilities imposed upon it by Government legislation.

The Treasurer, in this Chamber, speaks of the upsurge in stamp duty revenues. At the end of last year we had a figure \$13,000,000 in excess of expectations and the Treasurer states that he has expectations of a further \$9,000,000 increase this year. Whilst I wish him, the honourable member for Yeronga and many other vocal honourable members opposite a long and reasonably healthy life, if a few of them did happen to pick up their halos, I am certain that the \$9,000,000 over the next 12 months would be increased to \$11,000,000 or \$12,000,000. Whilst this office is undoubtedly efficient and, under the circumstances, well run by capable men, it does require more qualified help.

If we turn our attention to the Titles Office, we find a similar situation. The honourable member for Maryborough mentioned this office this afternoon. Obviously he has never made a representation in the metropolitan area to obtain a certificate of title. Had he done so recently, he would have encountered real problems. The work-load of the Titles Office has escalated enormously in recent times, yet there has been no great increase in qualified staff. Hundreds and hundreds of additional demands are made on this office weekly.

Mr. Hughes: We are running our top men into the grave.

Mr. HANSON: Exactly. The Public Curator is a very dedicated man and a friend of mine of long standing. He must be driven to distraction trying to train and keep people with qualifications, who, incidentally, have the spirit to serve. I could go on and on, but I hope someone in the Government gets the message. Some

people in ordinary walks of life feel absolutely helpless. They believe that the Government has let them down. I say advisedly that I believe in the democratic way of life. I do not support any violent extremes. I believe in parliamentary democracy and I would not, under any condition, support government in the streets. In the years of its foundation, the party of which I am proud to be a member fought for clean, open and free political representation as opposed to an overthrow by force of the constitutional machinery of the country. This Government can go on its sweet and merry way enjoying the benefits of office but, sadly and unfortunately, it is creating a climate in this State and nation at the present time in which the anarchist can work on the frustrations of an otherwise peaceful people. Only courtesy, the acceptance of responsibility and dedication on the part of the Government, irrespective of its political complexion, will lead to a peaceful and law-abiding population.

In spite of the fact that the Budget debate allows a very wide discussion, I have always endeavoured to restrict my remarks to matters referred to by the Treasurer in presenting his Financial Statement. I rarely indulge in—though I certainly do not deplore—parochialism by discussing day-to-day matters that affect my electorate. However, certain Government members are not content to restrict their remarks to their own electorates; they like to poke their noses into electorates represented by other members. I am now in my fourth term as the parliamentary representative of the delightful electorate of Port Curtis. I remind honourable members that I am quite capable of looking after my constituents, and my ability in this direction has been rewarded by significant majorities at elections. I offer a friendly warning to those persons who believe that they have to shoulder the added responsibility of trying to assist me that they will find me quite capable of publicly rebuking and condemning them for their own inadequacies in looking after the interests of their electors. I warn them to desist very smartly from intruding into my electorate.

Mr. Camm: Are you talking about Tom Burns?

Mr. HANSON: As I have said, I can look after my electorate very well. I urge the Minister for Mines and Main Roads to remember that the Labor Party has some very capable men in his electorate who will "knock him off" politically in the very near future.

After years of inactivity, in the early months of 1969 the Government decided to take the first steps towards the construction of a super power station in Queensland. At that time the Leader of the Opposition chided the Government for not accepting its responsibility in providing such a power station. In doing so he was

expressing the sentiments that had been uttered by Opposition members for years. By its inertia the Government has delayed the establishment of many large industrial complexes in Queensland. By not providing sufficient electric power it delayed the construction of the alumina smelter at Gladstone. I contend that the Government is also to be blamed for the announcement by Dow Chemicals that it will not proceed with its proposed Gladstone complex. I venture to suggest that the Government's actions have been responsible for the delay in establishing a steel industry in the State. The Government is happy to mark time and play it by ear.

In 1969 the Press published articles about future industrial expansion in Queensland. For example, the "Telegraph" of 20 March 1969 contained a headline to the effect that Queensland hoped for the establishment of an alkali plant at Gladstone. A Press report of 1 July 1968 revealed that a large smelter complex involving Japanese capital was to be established in New Zealand. Two Japanese companies, Showa Denka and Sumitomo Chemical Co., announced that they would undertake the smelting of alumina from the Gladstone plant, and a very large complex was envisaged.

It is regrettable that alumina had to be exported from Queensland, but power is finally coming to us. In my maiden speech in this House I implored the Government to take positive action to build a super powerhouse in this State. Early in the 1960's the Vale's Point and Lake Munmorah Power Stations were constructed in New South Wales, and in more recent years the Liddell Power Station was completed. If Queensland had only moved during that period we could have had something positive to offer. I am very happy that the new power station is located in my electorate. It offers wonderful job opportunities and will bring major development to the area. Although belated, it will assist the district for years to come. Whilst it seems at this stage that there will be a power surplus from 1975 through till 1978, I believe, as I have said on many occasions, that we should think bigger and a little more often. It is to the discredit of the Queensland coalition Government that many enterprises which were planned did not come to fruition because the necessary electrical resource was not available.

Although I have asked repeated questions about the possibility of establishing a steel industry, I do not know what is to happen. I have only received stereotyped replies from the Treasurer and the Minister for Development and Industrial Affairs. In the future, someone in a Labor administration occupying a certain portfolio, will do something positive about it.

Mr. Hinze: Who would you suggest?

Mr. HANSON: Certainly not the honourable member for South Coast.

A few moments ago I said that I hated dealing with parochial matters, but since the last redistribution additional electoral responsibilities have been thrust upon me. The very important mining town of Mt. Morgan is now situated in my electorate. Although the mine there is working to full capacity, I wonder what the future of the town will be. I was successful in obtaining from the Premier and the Minister for Development and Industrial Affairs a decision to have departmental officers visit the centre and try to work out plans for the future. I was promised a report in August of this year on the future of the town, but I am still waiting for it. I hope it will soon come to light.

Mt. Morgan is purely a mining town, and every ton of ore taken from a mine means that its asset is diminishing. However, certain waste materials at Mt. Morgan could be used in chemical processes. Many other avenues are available to maintain this delightful town, with a population of 5,000, situated in the hills 23 miles from Rockhampton. I hope the Minister will produce the report at an early date.

Mr. Hinze interjected.

Mr. HANSON: The honourable member for South Coast could not give me a tip for the trots. He has the political trots.

Mr. Hinze: I said they are trying to put the skids under you.

Mr. HANSON: There are no skids under me. As a matter of fact, if the honourable member did something positive in his area, he would allow the picnickers to get back onto Kirra Beach instead of kicking the battlers and workers off it. All he is concerned about is getting a nice plump price from a subdivider for his farm and giving a good old royal touch to the poor truck-drivers of Queensland United Foods. Hinze Holiday Company is certainly enjoying itself to the full.

As I have said, additional electorate responsibilities have been imposed upon me. A few years ago, when I was chairman of the Gladstone Harbour Board, it would have been hardly foreseeable that one day I would stand on my feet in this Chamber and try to do something for Port Alma. But I have given the people a promise that I will carry out my responsibility, and I aim to do so.

Mr. Lee: With tongue in cheek.

Mr. HANSON: Not with tongue in cheek at all. As a matter of fact, I mentioned it publicly.

People are very concerned for the future of Port Alma, and the men who are employed on the waterfront there, and also because of the lack of meat products available for export through it in recent times. It is regrettable that this state of affairs has been allowed to occur. On occasions, promises were made by a certain shipping line, which

was a member of the United States Container Shipping Conference—an open conference—and had container ships under construction that would be capable of loading at northern ports, that a significant change would be made in its original plans to ship only out of Brisbane, and that calls would be made at Port Alma and Townsville. Unfortunately, this has not materialised. It is very much to be regretted that Brisbane is oriented to the nine cellular container type of ship that must have wharfage with Portainer-type cranes, which is very expensive. It costs \$3,000,000 and Brisbane is the only Queensland port that has this sophisticated equipment. Of course, there is ships' gear that could be quite adequate on the run to those northern ports. There are hundreds of waterside workers in Rockhampton and my electorate, and the Government should protect their livelihood. It should intervene on their behalf and ensure that they are in no way disadvantaged. Legislation was placed before this Parliament many years ago calling on the ratepayers of Rockhampton to accept the responsibility of meeting interest and redemption payments for the augmentation of facilities at Port Alma.

A good deal of shilly-shallying has gone on with operations at that port. The principal meat company at that time had, as a subsidiary, a large shipping line. No doubt certain pressure was used, for private company benefit, to provide installations at Port Alma and to shoulder the financial responsibility for them onto the people of Rockhampton. But, at the same time, the company was not prepared to stand up in subsequent years and fight for the people whose livelihood depended on the operations at the port, that is, the export of meat. I hope that the Government takes cognisance of the fact that over a long period, these people have been very much disadvantaged, and I trust that it will come up with something positive to assist these waterside workers in their problems.

Mr. Lee: Rex Pilbeam put up a scheme and you "knocked" it.

Mr. HANSON: Alderman Pilbeam is no political friend of mine, and certainly he is no friend of many of the people in Rockhampton over this issue. Incidentally, his passing from this Chamber and his relatively poor performance in local authority elections in Rockhampton stem from certain decisions made on matters that I have just raised.

Of great concern to the people of Port Curtis and Gladstone is the very great impact that the development in Gladstone has had on the community at large. Whilst this Government in recent times has set up myraids of committees and received countless reports dealing with the marked development in Gladstone, very little has been done, in spite of promises made, in the field of regional planning. In perusing the Financial Statement, one finds very little reference to

this side of Government operation and activity. In the Gladstone area, and other developing areas, there are many problems.

Rapid growth in a short period places great strains on existing facilities, and their inadequacy leads to all types of problems. Expedition and expansion are very necessary if these problems are to be faced up to, and if community interests are to be met. Unfortunately, excessive burdens are placed on ratepayers, and there is no provision for a high-quality urban environment. At the same time, a large percentage of local authority revenues in such areas is required for capital-expenditure programmes to service the increase in population. Huge amounts of capital have to be outlaid, not only in Gladstone and other present growth areas but in the growth areas of future years. I claim that this must be done to prevent the placing of onerous burdens on the citizens and ratepayers.

In such situations, normal financial procedures are not enough. What is needed is Treasury rethinking. Surely to God the Treasurer should learn a lesson or two. It is not that people in Gladstone, or any other developing area, want some form of charity or alms-giving by the Government. That is furthest from their minds. They want to live up to their obligations, but, at the same time, they want the chance to breathe. There are people in Gladstone today who, because of the rates that they are presently paying and those that they will have to pay in a few years' time, are very concerned and even mentally depressed. Recently I was at the Treasury Department when a case was presented to the Treasurer by the mayor of Gladstone and Professor C. P. Harris of the James Cook University. Unfortunately, the Treasurer's reply suggested that we have not yet struck "pay dirt".

Capital-borrowing programmes should be revolutionised so that in specially approved cases there could be a stay of interest and redemption payments on loan funds for, say, 10 years. At the end of that term, the council concerned could raise new loans to repay to the Government the amounts lent to service the capital expenditure over the previous decade. I quite agree that approvals would be necessary at all three levels of government. This scheme would allow for population build-up, so that loans could eventually be serviced without undue hardship to all ratepayers concerned. Furthermore, if the population increased beyond projected estimates, there could possibly be a build-up of current revenue into some form of public investment. It may allow for the financing of a considerable amount of capital works from revenue.

I think this should be engaged in, although it may appear to some people to be a radical form of financing. I do not say that every child in every community in the State is likely to be placed in that

position, but in certain areas, such as Gladstone and Townsville—I pull those out of the hat; there could be a few others in the years ahead—it becomes very important if people are to be able to exist in the community in which they have lived for 40 or 50 years. I have done so, and I maintain that, with my small parliamentary emolument, I am entitled to live in Gladstone and to retire and die there amongst my friends. Because of the money that will be needed to finance ordinary infrastructure requirements and the onerous responsibilities that will be placed on people as a result, it will not be possible for many of them to achieve their life's ambition to do that. Therefore, I hope that the Treasurer, when bringing down his next Budget, or even during the current financial year, will give some recognition to the submissions I have made.

Finally, I turn to a matter within the field of the Insurance Commissioner of this State. That gentleman performs a wonderful function in safeguarding the interests of people and allaying many of their fears when they enter into negotiations or contracts with insurance companies, and he has been very helpful to me on many occasions. However, I believe that his powers should be extended to ensure that, within the framework of any change made in the Constitution, some uniformity should be achieved in the provisions relating to insurance companies that engage in the practice of selling superannuation funds to self-employed persons.

As I understand the position, some of the funds now in existence in Canberra are outside the ambit of the powers of the Federal Insurance Commissioner, and this is very much to be regretted. Recently I have become aware of a sad case in which a friend of mine entered into contractual arrangements with CML Superannuation Pty. Ltd., University Avenue, Canberra, A.C.T., in May 1970. After joining the superannuation fund, my friend was paying something of the order of \$405.25 every six months. Unfortunately, two or three years after taking out the superannuation fund insurance, he became very ill, had a sudden heart attack, and of course, had to leave his then occupation. A rule within the fund provides that when a person is forced to retire from business or practice because of permanent ill health prior to normal retiring age, the trustee has the power to pay to him his accumulated benefits in the fund. As I said, the gentleman concerned had been in the fund only since May 1970. Despite the fact that he paid in \$2,836.75, he has now been advised by the company that the pay-out figure to him is \$1,718—in other words, he is about \$1,100 in the red. Despite the fact that I have made repeated representations and have had Federal members

and Ministers make repeated representations, and the fact that the company concerned has sent letter after letter and telegram after telegram stating that it will meet its obligations, it has failed to do so.

(Time expired.)

[Sitting suspended from 6 to 7.15 p.m.]

Mr. FRAWLEY (Murrumba) (7.15 p.m.): The Treasurer (Sir Gordon Chalk) certainly deserves to be commended for the excellent Budget that he recently introduced. In view of the unsettled state of affairs in Australia today, I am certain that this Budget will convince the people of Queensland that this Country-Liberal Government has a deep concern for their welfare, a concern which is not shared by the A.L.P. either in this State or in the Federal sphere. The Treasury staff must also be congratulated for the effort they have put into helping to frame the Budget. These men worked many long and tiring hours to enable the Budget to be introduced on time.

I should like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the courteous assistance afforded me by the many public servants of this State. These men are often maligned, particularly those in the top echelon who are referred to in such derogatory terms as "fat cats". They play a very important role in government and their services are much appreciated.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Who referred to them as "fat cats"?

Mr. FRAWLEY: One of the Federal Ministers.

Mr. K. J. Hooper interjected.

Mr. FRAWLEY: The honourable member for Bundaberg referred to them in this Chamber as "fat cats".

I do not intend to comment a great deal on the Budget other than to say that it is designed to allow Queensland to progress in an orderly manner. The obvious concern of this Government for education is evidenced by the allocation of over \$170,000,000 for education services. One of the features of the Budget is the increase in the allowance to kindergartens. The Treasurer's Financial Statement states—

"Subsidy to the Creche and Kindergarten Association on account of each qualified kindergarten teacher employed will increase from \$4,715 to \$5,030 as from the 1st September, 1973."

That has already been done.

Mr. Hinze: We are a benevolent Government.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I have said that before, and I will say it again. In addition, as from 1 January 1974 a further \$500 will be added to the subsidy to bring the rate paid to each kindergarten on account of its qualified teachers to \$5,530 per annum. This is all

evidence that this Country-Liberal Party Government is concerned about the welfare and education of the children of the State.

Over the past 16 years this Government has endeavoured to advance education in Queensland, and it has succeeded, despite the efforts of the A.L.P. to use the Queensland Teachers' Union in an attempt to hinder the implementation of policy. Last May the Queensland Teachers' Union executive attempted to damage the Queensland education system in an effort to gain advantage for its political leanings. The union demanded that no secondary teacher teach more than 32 periods in a 40-period week, which is the equivalent of teaching for four days out of five or a total of 19 hours 20 minutes a week. At present, 97 per cent of the secondary teachers of the State teach no more than 34 out of 40 periods a week. However, the main problem in some high schools today is the organised Left-wing indoctrination of school-children by a small but growing group of teachers.

Mr. Bousen interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order! Constant interjections will cease.

Mr. FRAWLEY: These teachers are perfectly entitled in this free country of ours to possess Left-wing political views, but they are not entitled to manipulate school-children, who have no criterion by which to judge political slogans that are force fed to them in the name of education. These teachers are endeavouring to usurp the authority of parents in order to subvert family life. They hand out Left-wing political pamphlets to students. This is another insidious method employed by these Left-wing radicals, who are a disgrace to the teaching profession. They should be forced to keep their political fingers off these children.

The majority of teachers are good, sincere people who are dedicated to the task before them, but the actions of a few leave a stain on the whole profession. By virtue of their representation on P. and C. committees, parents and citizens could effectively combat these tactics by insisting that teachers who attempt to instil Communistic doctrines into their children be removed from the school.

The Queensland Teachers' Union spent many thousands of dollars with professional advertising consultants in producing and publishing in the national Press situations that do not exist in Queensland schools. This is all part of a militant minority, a certain arrogant group of teachers on the executive of the Q.T.U. who are attempting to further their own political aims. It is a well-known ploy of personal-interest groups to resort to half-truths and untruths in order to manipulate students, parents and teachers. That is a typical example of how the Communists have infiltrated into the Queensland Teachers' Union. In September

1972 we saw an attempt by Left-wing political groups to extend their interests among high-school groups.

Mr. Bousen interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order! I suggest that the honourable member for Toowoomba North cease constant interjections.

Mr. FRAWLEY: These Left-wing political groups did this by calling a strike on 20 September 1972. The Left-wing Socialist Youth Alliance were the brains behind this move. They are a group of the Socialist Workers' League, an extreme Left-wing political body which believes in the teachings of Trotsky. The infiltration of the A.L.P. is an avowed object of the Socialist Workers' League—and believe me, they are doing it. The A.L.P. youth groups are riddled with Communists, as is the A.L.P. itself. The A.L.P. also supported the students' strike through some militant unions, and now the Federal Government, by withdrawing aid from 105 independent schools, of which five are in Queensland and are predominantly church schools of all denominations, under the guise of its "needs" policy, is not pulling the wool over anybody's eyes. This is a deliberate attempt to undermine the church schools and, of course, is further evidence that the Federal A.L.P. is controlled by its predominantly Communist Left Wing. The Communist tactics designed to destroy Christianity are too plain for anybody to ignore. Dr. Cass has said that church schools should be removed from the control of the churches and developed as community schools. The A.L.P. has a policy, both Federal and State, of no aid to church schools, if it can get away with it.

In the Senate in March 1972, every Queensland Labor senator voted against the States Grants (Independent Schools) Bill, which provided for an increase in the per capita grant to independent and church schools. This State Government will continue to give non-State schools \$62 a year for each primary-school student and \$104 a year for each secondary-school student. Labor's attempt to divide the independent schools into poor and wealthy ranks is just another insidious attempt to divide those who are united in a common claim for justice. To divide and conquer is a very effective and time-honoured weapon. It is a way to destroy anything and is a well-known Communist ploy.

The A.L.P., who are now concerned about poor schools and are willing to use the bogey of class distinction to deprive parents of their rights, will, when the time is opportune, use the bogey of sectarianism against the same schools. And so it can readily be seen that Australians stand to lose one of the basic United Nations human rights, which is the right to choose the type of education they want for their children.

Under the guise of giving equal educational opportunity to all children, the A.L.P. has established a monolithic system which, little by little, will insidiously impose Labor's own peculiar set of values on our children.

There cannot be any compromise with the fundamental principle that the parent has the right to choose the form of education to be given his children. We must resist every educational system which violates the rights of the parent; we must resist the unitary system of education imposed without exception in Communist countries, where independent schools are totally prohibited. To frustrate the natural right of parents, the Federal A.L.P. is using heavy financial exactions by withdrawing its per capita grants to these 105 independent schools.

We must stand firm by the principle of equal treatment for all children from public revenues and public expenditure on all forms of education. Private schools with hard-working parents and citizens' committees are now being penalised because the more money they raise the less will be their needs and the smaller will be their grant. The socialistic, centralised direction of education will seriously impair the vastly diversionary freedom of choice and equal opportunity of children attending these schools. Fortunately for Queensland, this Country-Liberal Government is going to resist. We set a great value on freedom of education and, despite attempts by the Federal A.L.P. to disrupt it, we will continue to provide assistance for all independent schools because we realise that if the parents of children at all independent schools transferred their children to State schools in one fell swoop, the education system of this State could not possibly cope with all those students.

In excess of 90,000 students are being educated at independent schools throughout Queensland. The cost to any Government of providing education facilities for those students at State schools would amount to approximately \$20,000,000.

Mr. Hinze: Ask the Opposition where they stand with the N.C.C.

Mr. FRAWLEY: Members of the A.L.P. are panic-stricken at the very thought of the N.C.C.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: How long have you been a member?

Mr. FRAWLEY: I have never been a member of the N.C.C.

Mr. Hinze: Why is it that the A.L.P. in Queensland hates the Catholics?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order! I suggest that the honourable member for Gold Coast restrain himself.

Mr. Hinze: Why is it that the A.L.P. in Queensland hates the Catholics?

Mr. FRAWLEY: On another occasion when I have time I will state the reason. Tonight I wish to deal with a number of other matters.

Last night, at a special meeting of the Redcliffe City Council, we saw the culmination of a week of speculation and rumour. Members of the Scotts Point Progress Association, the Clontarf Beach Progress Association and the Redcliffe Show Society, as well as a number of other ratepayers who sat in the public gallery, are to be congratulated on the part they played in ensuring that justice prevailed and the wishes of the people of Redcliffe were heeded.

I, and many others, believe that it was the presence of these people in the public gallery that convinced the aldermen of the Redcliffe City Council to act in a democratic manner and to elect as the occupant to fill a vacancy on the Redcliffe City Council the man who polled ninth at the March election for eight aldermen. In spite of intense lobbying during the past week on the part of people with vested interests in the election of another man to fill the vacancy instead of Mr. Tom Atkinson, he was elected.

I urge the Minister for Local Government and Electricity to amend the Local Government Act to make it mandatory that, when a vacancy occurs on a city, town or shire council, the person who polled the highest number of votes amongst the unsuccessful candidates shall be appointed to fill the vacancy. After all, the person among the defeated candidates who has the highest number of votes is the people's first reserve.

For years, precedents for the filling of a vacancy in this manner have been set in Redcliffe. For example, in 1964 an alderman resigned and the man who came ninth in the voting was appointed to fill the vacancy. Similarly, in 1969, when an alderman passed away, the ninth man was appointed to fill his position. I was very pleased to see that, despite many rumours and a great deal of lobbying, democracy prevailed last night in Redcliffe.

Mr. Jensen: What's the matter with first-past-the-post voting in Redcliffe?

Mr. Hinze: Do you think the honourable member for Bundaberg would be returned under first-past-the-post?

Mr. FRAWLEY: No way in the world; he could not win even if he were given a start.

Mr. Jensen: I got the third highest majority in the State.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! I intend to hear the speech of the honourable member for Murrumba. Honourable members on both sides of the Chamber will please restrain themselves.

Mr. FRAWLEY: On a number of previous occasions in this Chamber I have spoken about the Hornibrook Highway, which, as

everyone knows, is a viaduct across Hay's Inlet and connects Sandgate with the city of Redcliffe.

Mr. Bousen: Is it in your electorate?

Mr. FRAWLEY: It is in my electorate. It was opened on 4 October 1935, and has been largely responsible for the development of Redcliffe. However, over the past few years driving over the Hornibrook Highway has steadily become a nightmare. Because of traffic congestion, many motorists shudder at the thought of having to cross the highway.

I hasten to add that the staff employed in collecting the toll of 10c, which has not been changed since the bridge was opened in 1935, comprises men who are efficient and endeavour to the best of their ability to keep the traffic flowing. However, the very fact that vehicles are required to stop to enable drivers to pay the toll causes a bank-up of traffic, particularly during peak hours. The worst hold-ups occur on the homeward journey from Brisbane. It should be realised that at least 14,000 vehicles cross the bridge each day, and the position has now become chaotic.

The worst situation arises when a vehicle breaks down on the bridge when travelling towards Redcliffe at night. The pavement is only 20 feet wide and contains only two lanes. The result is that when a vehicle is stationary, traffic from both directions must crawl round it. Since the honourable member for Redcliffe—a man for whom I have the highest regard—was elected in 1960, he has worked unceasingly in this Parliament to get a new bridge for Redcliffe. In the last electoral redistribution the Hornibrook Highway and a part of Redcliffe was taken from the electorate of Redcliffe and placed in Murrumbidgee. It is now my responsibility to assist the honourable member for Redcliffe to get a new bridge as quickly as possible.

Mr. Bousen interjected.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I am glad that the honourable member for Cairns is present, because I shall have something to say about him before I am finished.

Hornibrook Highway Limited is a company whose dominant factor is greed. In the 1972 financial year the company collected \$446,000 in tolls, while expenditure totalled \$113,000. Dividends paid to debenture holders amounted to 89 per cent, and ordinary shareholders received a 20 per cent dividend. One would imagine that with such a great degree of profitability the company would endeavour to improve the situation for Redcliffe motorists. Firstly, at least six telephones should be installed at strategic points on the bridge to enable motorists who have broken down or become involved in an accident to communicate directly with the toll-keepers and advise them of their plight. Secondly, Hornibrook Highway Limited should have a tow-truck standing by, because

when an accident does occur it often takes from half an hour to an hour to obtain the services of a tow-truck.

Mr. Bousen interjected.

THE TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order! I warn the honourable member for Toowoomba North that I do not intend to tolerate further interjections from him. I ask him to restrain himself.

Mr. FRAWLEY: The honourable member for Toowoomba North is terrified because he knows that, before I am finished in this Chamber, I shall expose him for what he is.

The cost of this vehicle would be approximately \$500, which would be a mere pittance to the company.

Before the State election in 1972, the Leader of the Opposition visited Redcliffe and attempted deliberately to mislead the people by claiming that if the Australian Labor Party were elected to Government it would immediately take over the highway and abolish the toll.

Mr. Houston: That's right.

Mr. FRAWLEY: That is a lot of rot.

Mr. Houston: It is not a lot of rot.

Mr. FRAWLEY: Surely that is the most stupid statement the Leader of the Opposition has ever made. To say the least, it was misleading because it could not have been done immediately.

Mr. HOUSTON: I rise to a point of order. I do not mind the honourable member for Murrumbidgee making a speech, but it is completely untrue for him to say that the Labor Party, in Government, would not have abolished the toll and taken over the bridge. We would certainly have done that.

THE TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order! There is no valid point of order.

Mr. FRAWLEY: Of course there is no point of order. What a lot of rot that is!

The honourable member for Cairns, and his cohort, the honourable member for Pine Rivers, who is not here tonight, although I hoped he would be, visited the Redcliffe peninsula and got into the Clontarf branch of the A.L.P. to try to stir up a little more trouble over the highway. The honourable member for Pine Rivers failed miserably in his attempt to foist milk in polythene packs onto his constituents so he has now apparently decided to promise Redcliffe people a few things which he would be unable to manage.

The honourable member for Cairns bleated about his concern for the people of Redcliffe, but in the light of the poor representation he gives his own electorate nobody was taken in by him. As shadow Minister for Transport, he casts a very small shadow indeed. No-one would try to stand in his shadow to keep out of the sun.

Since the Federal Government came to office last December, it has wasted money continually. The crowning blow was the purchase of a painting for \$1,300,000. I can think of a number of areas where the money could have been spent to great advantage. One that comes to my mind is the Hornibrook Highway. The Federal Government should advance the \$6,000,000 to \$8,000,000 required to construct a new four-lane highway.

Mr. Houston: Why the Federal Government?

Mr. FRAWLEY: Because it has continually stated that it is concerned about transport, but has done nothing so far to improve the situation. The Queensland Government could initiate action to take over the Hornibrook Highway, but the cost would be great. However, if the majority of the people of Redcliffe wish this move to be carried out, I believe that the Government should at least attempt to take over the bridge and remove the toll. The pay-out figure on the \$54,240 in preference shares and \$370,000 in debentures would be about \$687,000, which would be a very fair amount to pay in compensation. Debenture holders will have their original investment repaid from a sinking fund established by the company for this purpose. The removal of the toll would certainly improve traffic flow, which is the main cause of congestion and hold-ups. If the people of Redcliffe so desire—and I include those formerly in the Redcliffe electorate who are now in Murrumba—I urge this Government to take over the Hornibrook Highway and abolish the toll. If necessary it should fight the Hornibrook Highway company through every court in the land and give Redcliffe motorists an opportunity to travel to and from Brisbane without the frustration they now experience.

A Government Member interjected.

Mr. FRAWLEY: Of course the A.L.P. would not do it.

An Opposition Member: But you are advocating it.

Mr. FRAWLEY: Its whole platform is founded on untruths and before the night is out I intend to expose a few of them.

On a number of occasions I have endeavoured to obtain justice for the people of the North Pine area who have been robbed by the Brisbane City Council. I repeat that the men used by the Brisbane City Council, including its valuer, are tough, ruthless persons who have little regard or sympathy for the unfortunate people whose lands have been resumed for the North Pine Dam and who are being paid a paltry sum for those lands.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Does Woodford come under it too? You don't go as far as Kilcoy?

Mr. FRAWLEY: The honourable member knows as far as I go and he knows the Woodford Prison where we should have dropped him off last week.

Mr. Kinivan, the valuer, is claimed by the Lord Mayor to be an extremely fair, impartial man who has the full confidence of the Brisbane City Council. Of course he enjoys the confidence of the Brisbane City Council, but, as far as his being fair and impartial, what about the offer of \$39,000 he made to Miss Bell for her property of 180 acres, which he amended, five minutes before the court case was to be heard, to \$44,000? When asked why he did this, he said that he had always valued the land at \$44,000, but had been instructed by the Brisbane City Council to offer \$39,000. It was a filthy rotten trick by the Lord Mayor and his valuer to rob an elderly lady by conniving to offer an unfair price for her land. The Lord Mayor wrote to me recently, and he sent a copy to the Leader of the Opposition and to the Premier—

Mr. Houston: You know what he said about you, too?

Mr. FRAWLEY: My word. Just listen carefully, and I shall tell what I think of him.

The Lord Mayor had the impudence to state to me, in that letter, that I should mention the apparent greed of some people in the North Pine area. That is a laugh, coming from a man who recently sold a 24-perch block of land in Brisbane for \$95,000. The people of the North Pine area are not greedy, as implied by the Lord Mayor. They are good, sincere people, who are endeavouring to obtain a fair price for their land.

Surely the Lord Mayor would not accuse Mr. and Mrs. Kriesch, an elderly couple of 77 years of age, of greed in asking for \$50,000 for 150 acres at Samsonvale for which the Brisbane City Council's fair and impartial valuer offered \$23,000. It would bring \$150,000 if sold on the open market for subdivision. Mr. and Mrs. Kriesch have not claimed the advance compensation to which they are entitled, namely, the \$23,000 offered by the council because these two elderly people in their late seventies are afraid to take the money. They read Mr. Arnold Bennett's report on the land dealings of the Lord Mayor and the Brisbane City Council with various land developers and subdividers in which, to use Mr. Bennett's words, many cases of malpractice and fraud were discovered.

The Brisbane City Council has delayed payment because the money specifically approved for land resumption in the North Pine area was used to purchase Lennons Hotel. Let the Lord Mayor deny that! On 21 March last, I asked a question of the Minister for Electricity and Local Government. He advised that the Auditor-General's Report to Parliament on the Accounts of

the Brisbane City Council for 1971-72 showed that \$3,762,421 of loan money, which was approved for the North Pine Dam, was used to finance other capital works, namely, the purchase of Lennons Hotel.

Mr. Davis: Mr. Frawley—

Mr. FRAWLEY: I'll come to the honourable member in a moment.

The case concerning Winn Bros. of Samsonvale is the most glaring example not of "Robbery Under Arms" but of robbery without arms that this State has witnessed for a long time. The Brisbane City Council has been selling sand from their property for 10c a yard for the past two years and has not given Winn Bros 1c. By the time it pays Winn Bros. the \$70,000 that it has offered for this 462 acres, it will have got that amount from the sale of sand on that land. Criminals are being convicted in court of robbery, yet the Lord Mayor and his gang rob people in the name of progress and get away with it. The Lord Mayor and his valuer are known to every person in the North Pine area and their names are mentioned with disgust.

I am in this Parliament to represent the people of Murrumbidgee. The people of the North Pine area are constituents of Murrumbidgee and their welfare is more important to me than the abuse that I receive from the Lord Mayor and his stooges in this Opposition. I made one election promise only—that I would do my best for the electorate, and endeavour to protect the way of life of the people—and this I intend to do as long as I remain the member for Murrumbidgee. If it means that I have to take on the Lord Mayor, then I intend to do so, and I will take on anyone else, large or small, who tries to defraud the constituents of Murrumbidgee.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Isn't comparing yourself with the Lord Mayor like comparing a brumby with Gunnsynd?

Mr. FRAWLEY: I am twice as good as the Lord Mayor.

The Samford Valley, which is situated in the electorate of Murrumbidgee approximately 11 miles from Brisbane, has been in the news recently regarding a potential multi-million dollar development. Unlike a number of developments that have taken place over the years with little regard for the environment, this proposed development at Samford is being strictly controlled by the Pine Rivers Shire Council, a group of men concerned with retaining the natural environmental beauty of Samford.

The Government is also concerned, and will be watching this development very closely indeed. Developers are continually changing the environment by removing trees and other vegetation. They have little regard for the people who settle afterwards in an area denuded of plant life. The benefits of vegetation are now receiving full

recognition, and one of the challenges in the development of an area is to keep the landscape green. We should be concerned with the use of trees, plants, and turf in protecting the environment. In many urban environments today the quality of life is increasingly affected by contaminated air, water and food; noise levels; crowded dwellings; dangerous streets; lack of recreation space; and, above all, the inability to bridge the gap between technology and the desires of those councils and developers who are not concerned greatly with the environment, mainly through ignorance and indecision.

The Pine Rivers Shire Council has given consent to a number of developers to draw up a strategic plan for developing the Samford Valley in a manner that I hope will preserve the quality of life as it now exists in the district. I believe that the quality of urban life is affected by many factors, and local government has neither the funds nor the facilities to draw up a strategic plan for development of a large area such as the Samford Valley. Consequently, the council's decision to allow a group of developers to draw up a concept plan for Samford at no cost to ratepayers, and on the understanding that the Pine Rivers Shire Council will have the last say, is most commendable. The plan will determine the major land uses for the area, as well as define in a general manner the level of commercial, industrial, recreational, institutional and transport services required for this development.

Of course, any particular portion of the main development will certainly require an in-depth study by the individual developer concerned, and I trust that this will be made mandatory by the Pine Rivers Shire Council. Any areas of land in this development that possess something of unusual beauty or historical significance that could be lost by subdivision must be retained, and I hope the local authority will insist on this even to the extent of requiring these areas to be included in the developer's contribution for park purposes. A great number of subdividers care little for the environment; they are concerned only with a quick dollar, and they often try to foist onto councils the worst land in any area as their contribution to park land.

There is a bora ring in Wight's Mountain Road, Samford, that was once used for initiation ceremonies, and is one of the few remaining signs that Aborigines were once in this area. Areas of historic importance, such as this bora ring, must be retained, and not allowed to disappear in the name of progress.

I have been fortunate enough to obtain the names and qualifications of those specialists who will be carrying out planning investigation in the Samford Valley, and I believe it could well be that a satisfactory study of the area may eventuate. These specialists who are carrying out the

investigation in the Samford Valley on behalf of the Samford area planning consortium certainly have the necessary know-how not only to carry out a study of the area but also to draw up a concept or strategic plan for the Samford Valley.

Mr. Bousen: Did you arrange for those in the gallery to be here tonight to hear your speech?

Mr. FRAWLEY: I ask the honourable member to have a little patience; I shall come to him later.

This body of specialists comprises Bachelors of Science, a Bachelor of Arts majoring in geography, surveyors, an agriculturist, an ecologist, an entomologist, a civil engineer, a mechanical and electrical engineer, a specialist in agricultural chemistry, a Master of Economics, and an expert in the field of geology, ground-water hydrology and mining engineering. With all this talent available, conservationists should not be concerned that future development at Samford will be like that shown on television on 20 September, when we saw trees and other plant life destroyed without any apparent concern to make way for a new subdivision.

The motion I moved for the adoption of the Address in Reply to the Governor's Speech opening the second session of this Parliament included the following words—

"We, Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects . . . tender our thanks to Your Excellency for the speech with which you have been pleased to open the present session."

I asked myself then, "For how many more years will this motion be moved?" It is a very difficult question to answer. I do know that while the Country-Liberal Coalition is in power and continues to govern, it will be moved at the opening of each new session of Parliament in the State of Queensland. However, if the people of this State are ever so unfortunate as to have an A.L.P. Government, I shudder to think what type of motion will be moved.

All honourable members are aware that State Governors do not figure in the A.L.P. platform. The Labor Party will put them in the old men's home. After the shocking exhibition which occurred in the Federal Parliament on 27 February last, when 12 members of the A.L.P. refused to take the oath of allegiance to the Queen and, instead, made an affirmation of allegiance, it would not surprise me to hear that Chairman Mao had opened the Federal Parliament and that one of his cohorts had delivered the Opening Speech in the Queensland Parliament.

Recently in the South Australian Parliament three Labor members refused to take the oath of allegiance on the Bible. Instead, they made an affirmation of allegiance to the Queen, with tongue in cheek, as they said afterwards outside the House, and not to God.

That is the first occasion on which something as un-Australian as that has occurred in the South Australian Parliament. No doubt the lead was taken from the action of the 12 members of the Federal Parliament, and here we have the insidious influence of Left-wing Communists being felt very early in the life of the Federal and South Australian Parliaments. It might well be opportune now to give some warning to the people of Queensland of what they can expect if the A.L.P., dominated as it is by Left-wing Communists, ever again becomes the Government of this State.

There is a very marked similarity between the objectives of the Labor Socialist Party and the Communist Party. Socialists live side by side with the Communists, with a common objective. Communists are allowed, and even encouraged by the A.L.P., to carry out their un-Australian activities. Let us never forget, Mr. Hewitt, that the socialist objective is precisely the same as that of Communism. The Communist methods are to keep smashing at the economic structure of any country—especially Australia—until the system of free individual enterprise on which it is built collapses. The Communists, through their grip on the key unions, will then take control of all industry, paralyse the Government, and seize the governmental machinery.

This actually happened in Russia, when the Bolsheviks brought about economic chaos, seized control, and founded the Soviet Union. The Labor socialists, equally determined, aim to substitute Government ownership and control for the system of free individual enterprise, and they hope to accomplish this by disrupting the system through the establishment of socialised monopolies covering all forms of primary and secondary industry. Every owner of a home, a farm, a block of land, a small business, a cheque account or a savings account should be aware of this peril—a ruthless dictatorship which will control the country and the Australian way of life and destroy individuality.

Many years ago socialisation was tried in four Australian States. It was such a colossal failure that no Labor man or Communist is game to mention it today. A typical example of A.L.P. business procedure is Bourke's store in Melbourne. It is now three years since the A.C.T.U. signed a contract to buy Bourke's store over a period of five years. To date, no balance sheets have been issued and union members have been kept in the dark regarding the profit or loss, as the case may be. Mr. Hawke said, "It is a private company." What he did not say was that money belonging to trade union members has been put into Bourke's store. If the store runs at a loss, it will be members' money down the drain. Of course, if there is a good profit, why tell the members of the unions about it? It would only lessen the rake-off which the union bosses could take for their own pockets.

The A.L.P. stands for socialisation of industry, production, distribution and exchange. There is no doubt about what that means. All money and credit will be under the sole control of the socialist planners. All industry, whether primary or secondary, will be taken over and run on a socialised basis without room for the individual. The socialist planners will boss everything—farms, factories, shops, transport and services, and every man, woman and child in the community will be mere servants of the socialised State. They will do as they are told, go where they are sent and come when they are called. Socialisation is tied to the A.L.P. like a tin can to a dog's tail. No Labor socialist whether a member of Federal or State Parliament, an alderman or a councillor can escape unswerving allegiance to this platform and programme.

The Labor party has a master plan for total socialisation. It wants a great co-operative Commonwealth. Fortunately, some years ago the High Court of Australia prevented its seizure of the power to monopolise banking and air transport throughout the Commonwealth. Despite the Labor Party's claim that it proceeds towards its objective constitutionally, its methods approach those of the revolutionary Communists.

Karl Marx said that a Communist revolution could only be effective when private ownership of property was eliminated and the disgusting bourgeois family was destroyed, with children being brought up by the State not their parents, and with a community of wives as well.

One method of destroying family life is the implementation of zero population growth. Recently we saw an attempt to introduce a Bill into Federal Parliament to legalise abortion on demand. Under the guise of a private member's Bill, it was a well-planned piece of Labor strategy aimed at destroying the very roots of our society—family life. Since the Federal election last December, the Federal A.L.P. Government, with its advocacy of a permissive society in which anything goes, is well on the way to destroying our society. Sexual licence, the use of drugs, pornographic literature and homosexuality are all well known Communist methods which are used to undermine our Western culture.

The employment of Miss Elizabeth Reid as the Prime Minister's adviser on women's affairs can certainly be an object lesson. The article that Miss Elizabeth Reid wrote for the Australian National University magazine on 13 April 1973 must surely convince all that she does not represent the views and attitudes of women in this country. Her suggestion of masturbation for women who consider themselves liberated is surely the message of an angry woman with hang-ups about her sex and ability to give satisfaction. The majority of Australian women, who do not want an

abortion, who are not prostitutes and who are not lesbians, must find Miss Reid's message tedious indeed.

For the benefit of honourable members, I will explain some of the rules of the permissive society. I do not think that members of the A.L.P. really know what they are letting themselves in for by advocating a permissive society. The first rule is—

"I renounce this wicked world and all its evil works, but it owes me a living in idleness while I do my thing, and it must give me all its benefits. Only fools work."

What a great attitude that is!

The second rule is—

"Whatever I want to do is right, however much it injures or offends others. Anyone who objects is a fascist, racist pig."

The third rule is—

"Everyone in authority is corrupt, dishonest or selfish. We alone are pure."

The fourth rule is—

"If anyone in authority seems to be kind or fair to you, remember that he is acting not from humanity or justice but from fear and a guilty conscious."

The fifth rule is—

"What we want is right, and we are right to use force to get it. Putting the innocent third party in peril is often the best way of getting it."

That is evidenced by the actions of the honourable member for Everton and his sit-down mate, Senator Georges, who is a well known Communist. During the Springbok tour they used the innocent third party to endeavour to get across their Communistic principles.

The sixth rule is—

"If we are not given what we want we are entitled to take it. The guilty are those from whom we take for their selfishness in having it and their incompetence in not preventing us from taking it. We are entitled to yield to temptation."

Since the Federal election last December, the Federal Government has been intent on destroying this society. We know that the A.L.P. in Queensland is dominated by a group of Left-wingers from the Trades Hall who will stop at nothing to gain complete control. They are advocates of lawlessness and violent demonstrations. Once again the example of Senator Georges and his stooge, the honourable member for Everton, during the Springbok tour should be a lesson to everybody.

Mr. Bousen: Why didn't you say that when he was here?

Mr. FRAWLEY: I told him to be here tonight. I warned him that I had something for him, but he did not have the guts to turn up.

For some time now, the A.L.P. has been trying to make a political football of the Aboriginal people. Of course, this is in keeping with Senator Georges' beliefs. Most of the trouble with Black Power has been caused by Left-wing militants who want to take the law into their own hands. The A.L.P., rather than seeking equality for the Aboriginal people, is demanding preferential treatment for them, thereby attempting to sponsor racism in reverse, particularly in Queensland. It is Labor Party policy to undermine the moderate Aboriginal organisations, such as the One People of Australia League. The latest attempt by the Federal Government to take over control of all Aborigines should be viewed with very grave suspicion. This would be the first step towards gaining control of the Torres Strait islands and handing them over to Papua New Guinea.

Senator Georges, a well-known Communist, claimed in the Senate that the Torres Strait Islanders would be better served by the nations to the North. This is in keeping with the senator's beliefs. Posing as a champion of the people's rights, he has been carrying out the orders of his Communist bosses in the Federal Parliament by using his parliamentary position to ask questions regarding the whereabouts of one Vladimir Petrov, who defected to Australia in 1954 and begged political asylum.

One does not have to look very far for Senator Georges' motive in trying to make public the whereabouts of Petrov. His job is to break the veil of secrecy surrounding Petrov and set him up for harassment and possible execution. And, of course, as I have said before, his stooge in this Parliament is the honourable member for Everton. There are approximately 576 people in the Torres Strait islands, yet Senators Georges and Keffe, both Queensland senators, would give away the nationality of these people and hand them over to Papua New Guinea. Senator Georges claims that the Islanders have been badly treated by the Queensland Government, yet these Islanders are prepared to fight to remain in Queensland. This certainly does not substantiate the senator's claims.

Senator Keffe is another so-called champion of the Aborigines, yet when it was proposed to build a house next door to his house for an Aboriginal family he screamed his head off. So much for the senator and his championship of the Aborigines! He claimed that in Queensland the Aborigines are badly treated and that no attempt had been made by this Government to reduce the infant mortality rate or malnutrition. What a lot of rot! Every time Senator Keffe opens his big mouth about the Aboriginal problem he shows how little he knows about his own State. Apparently the only qualifications to be a Federal Labor senator are, firstly, the ability to sit down in the street and disrupt traffic and, secondly, to attack the Premier of Queensland at every opportunity or be a Communist or fellow-traveller.

The Queensland Government has played a very important role in the education of Aborigines, and has promoted a programme aimed at improving infant feeding and dental health. Nutrition is also an important part of the programme, and pamphlets featuring the values of various foods have been printed and distributed to all Aboriginal communities. Medical research in Queensland has been involved in the investigation of Aboriginal health problems for quite a long time, and a programme has been developed to assist Aboriginal mothers in the care of their children, particularly from the angle of diet and hygiene.

We have also seen several shameful attempts to embarrass Senator Bonner. These can all be laid at the door of the A.L.P., whose members are continuing their attempts to alienate the Aboriginal and Islander people. Now, of course, the Federal Government, by moving to take control of Aboriginal affairs in this State, is setting the stage for the indoctrination of the Aboriginal and Islander people by the Left-wing Communists who control the Labor Party. As far back as 1961 when he spoke in Jakarta, Kuo Mo-jo, the Chinese Vice-Premier, said that the policy of his Government was that Australia should become a member of the neutralist Afro-Asian bloc; that is, that Australian policy should be neutralist, preferably under a neutralist Government. The reason for this is that Australia should not, through military alliances, provide bases from which America or any other power could exert pressure on the South-east Asian archipelago once it is controlled by the Chinese power.

There is a grave danger that the A.L.P. will become neutralist because of Communist control of key unions whose delegates make up the policy-forming body of the A.L.P. Labor Party parliamentarians are not the policy-makers of the A.L.P. The rules and constitution of the A.L.P. provide that the supreme policy-making body is its Federal conference, which is now under Communist control. Because of its Communistic associations, Labor does not deserve to be entrusted with the government of Australia or Queensland. If any further proof of this is required, the welcome given by it to members of the Viet Cong, a group of Communist insurrectionaries against the legal Government of South Vietnam who were travelling on North Vietnamese passports, should be sufficient.

The purpose of this visit by the Viet Cong delegation was to lay the foundation for diplomatic recognition of the organisation, to which the Prime Minister (Mr. Whitlam) is already committed; to make a series of propaganda attacks on the South Vietnamese Government, attempting to fix on it and on the United States of America the blame for breaching last January's cease-fire agreement; and to get us to overlook the continued invasion of Laos, Cambodia and South Vietnam by the North Vietnamese.

The fact that this group was welcomed to Australia on the day after Anzac Day must have disgusted all those men and women who served in the Australian armed forces, especially as it contained representatives of an enemy whose military forces were still engaged in warfare after their country had broken its word and occupied territory that did not belong to it. Instead of becoming a neutral nation, under the present Federal Government Australia has changed sides.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Are you a returned soldier?

Mr. FRAWLEY: I am not a returned serviceman. I joined the R.A.A.F. in 1942, but although I volunteered to serve overseas I did not leave Australia. It was not my fault that I was not sent overseas. However, unlike certain people, I do not pretend to be a returned serviceman. At least I am honest.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: You got cold feet.

Mr. FRAWLEY: The armed forces certainly would not have accepted the honourable member for Archerfield.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order! I do not intend to tolerate this type of cross-firing.

Mr. FRAWLEY: During a recent visit to Ottawa, Mr. Whitlam said that Australia was certain to become a republic. He added, "As a practising politician, I will do nothing to promote this." Whom does he think he is fooling? His policy is that Australia should become a republic, with him as its first dictator. He has made his first move towards establishing Australia as a republic by taking from the States certain powers that they previously held. Fortunately the Queensland Government, under its two brilliant leaders, Mr. Bjelke-Petersen and Sir Gordon Chalk, put a spoke in Mr. Whitlam's wheel with the initiation on 2 August of the Appeals and Special Reference Bill.

The debate on that measure was highlighted by a most shocking and traitorous action on the part of the Opposition when it not only voted consistently against the clauses of the Bill but also walked out of the Chamber in an attempt to deceive the public into believing that the Labor Party protested against the manner in which the Bill was passed in one day with limited debate. However, it was necessary for the Queensland Government to act without delay in an attempt to counter the un-Australian actions of the great dictator Gough Whitlam, and his Communist regime. On 2 August the A.L.P. in Queensland, by not supporting that Bill, proved that it was traitorous to the State.

The Federal Government is completely dominated by Left-wing Communists, and all honourable members in this Chamber are aware of that fact.

Mr. Bousen interjected.

Mr. FRAWLEY: The honourable member for Toowoomba North would be one of the greatest Communists in this Chamber.

Mr. Bousen: That statement shows how little you know about it.

Mr. FRAWLEY: Of course he is a Communist, and he knows it.

The raid that was made last March on the A.S.I.O. headquarters has convinced everybody that the Federal Government is dominated by the Communists. Under Communist domination, Senator Murphy raided A.S.I.O. on the pretence of searching its files for information about Croatian terrorists. As well, he took the opportunity of removing anything that could incriminate his Communist friends. The Senate Select Committee on Migrants' Civil Rights is gradually ferreting out the truth of the A.S.I.O. raid.

Mr. Whitlam has done the A.L.P. a great deal of harm by declaring that Australia is certain to become a republic. A number of migrants who now make up part of Australia's population are fully aware of the dangers of living under a dictatorship, and I am quite certain that they will remember this at the next elections of both Federal and State Parliaments.

The moves being made towards the creation of a dictatorship in Australia are much stronger than most people realise. The Federal Government has brought an end to the awarding of Queen's honours, removed the Queen's head from our postage stamps, removed the word "Commonwealth" from our bank notes and even removed the word "Commonwealth" from the Commonwealth Government Gazette. Furthermore, what were formerly Commonwealth Government offices are now termed "Australian Government" offices. All these moves have been made to set the stage for a republic. We must not forget that with the creation of a republic will come the end of the States, with control centralised in Canberra. Of course, certain members of the Opposition, particularly the honourable member for Rockhampton, who is a self-confessed centralist, would like to see the creation of a republic in Australia.

Surely the people of Queensland realise the dangers inherent in the election of a Labor Government in this State. The Labor Party acts without moral scruples, enters into intrigue without any sense of shame, and is careless with the truth. The honourable members for Lytton, Toowoomba North and Everton have made unwarranted and scurrilous attacks on the Premier of

Queensland, a sincere man who has withstood all the rotten insinuations hurled against him in this Chamber.

The only rule to which honourable members opposite give unswerving loyalty is that a success gained is a method justified. The result is the corruption of both mind and heart, which is contemptuous of reason and careless of the truth. Led by the weakest and most ineffectual leader in the history of Queensland—"Give-away Jack"—the Opposition fumbles and bumbles as it attempts to denigrate one of the most sincere leaders politics has seen in this State. The Leader of the Opposition is known throughout the length and breadth of Queensland as "Give-away Jack" because he would give away the State of Queensland to the Red Chinese. Some of these dirty, rotten insinuations are made by honourable members of the Opposition who certainly could not withstand any investigation, let alone the one instigated by the honourable member for Townsville South.

It can be seen that Queenslanders will have to forget Labor as a political force working in the interests of the State. Since taking over in Canberra, the Federal Labor Government has penalised the Queensland people severely. And the Queensland Opposition, completely devoid of backbone, has sat back and done exactly nothing.

The Queensland Government wants every man and woman in this State to have freedom, and it also desires to protect every man and woman so that each is at liberty to go about his vocation without hindrance. We cannot get away from the fact that a Government must protect the people; that is a constitutional doctrine. This is exactly what the Government did on 2 August, when it introduced and passed the Appeals and Special Reference Bill to prevent the Federal Government from interfering with the sovereign rights of the State of Queensland. Any Government that would not take similar action does not deserve the confidence of the people for 24 hours. That is why the present Queensland Opposition will never be the Government. Because it is prepared to give away the rights of Queensland, it will be known as the "Give-away Group" led by "Give-away Jack."

Mr. Bousen interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order! I have warned the honourable member for Toowoomba North on a number of occasions. I now warn him under the provisions of Standing Order 123A.

Mr. FRAWLEY: The honourable member cannot take it. He thinks that, by continuous interjections, he will put me off, but he has no chance. I am tougher than he is and before I am finished here I will prove it.

Mr. K. J. Hooper interjected.

26

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Archerfield has been very vocal throughout this speech. I ask him to restrain himself.

Mr. FRAWLEY: The speech delivered by the honourable member the other day was complete rubbish.

We are all anxious to see the State of Queensland develop. The Federal Government is wrong in attempting to interfere in any way with its development. We have a magnificent heritage, and Queensland's potential is enormous. However, we will not develop it fully unless we spend money in the correct way. We are all Queenslanders and we should believe in this great State. However, that is more than can be said of members of the Opposition. I know that Queensland workers are sufficiently loyal and patriotic to recognise this. Every honest, right-thinking man believes in the genuine principle of State rights. Anyone who is prepared to go back to 1896, when the Australian Federation Enabling Bill was introduced in this House, will see that people, even in those days, were very conscious of State rights. In the Queensland Parliament the enabling Bill met very strong opposition. I almost believe that parliamentarians in those days could see into the future, to the year 1973, when the State's rights would be imperilled.

It is interesting to note that in the referendum held on 2 September 1899, 38,488 of the people of Queensland voted in favour and 30,996 voted against, giving a "yes" majority of 7,492, the smallest in any State, including Tasmania. In New South Wales the vote was 107,000 for and 82,000 against; in Victoria, 152,000 for and 9,000 against; in South Australia, 65,000 for and 17,000 against; and in Tasmania 13,000 for and 791 against. Western Australia did not hold a referendum until 13 June 1900, when the vote was 44,800 for federation and 19,691 against, giving a "yes" majority of 25,000.

It seems rather appropriate that Queensland should have been the one State that, in those days, viewed federation with a certain amount of suspicion. However, federation bound the States of Australia together as a nation. I, for one, firmly believe in federation as it has been since 1900, but certainly not the way this Federal Government wants to run it. The Federal Government is attempting to erode the powers of the State by increasing its authority in direct contravention of paragraph 128 of the Commonwealth Constitution, which came into force on 9 July 1900 and has withstood the test of time until the present.

Mr. K. J. Hooper interjected.

Mr. FRAWLEY: Judging by the inane interjections from some members of the Opposition, it is easy to realise that the A.L.P. certainly scraped the bottom of the

political barrel in selecting candidates, particularly some of the new members, for the last State election.

The Prime Minister does not wish to adhere to the democratic method of altering the Constitution. It has been amended on a number of occasions since 1900; in fact, in 1906, 1910, 1929, 1946 and 1967. And each time it was done in a democratic manner—by referendum—and not by a Federal Government attempting to force its will on the people. Australians fought in two World Wars for the principle of freedom and, having won that freedom, they do not wish to be compelled or coerced in any way by a Government to surrender even a small part of what they hold sacred. I do not believe that a Federal Government should attempt to try to foist any alteration of the Constitution onto the people without their knowledge.

The attempt by the Federal Government to increase its authority without reference to the Australian people is the first step towards a socialist country and will mean the end of personal freedom. In fact, there is a grave danger of Australia becoming a satellite of Red China. We are and want to remain free, regardless of any attempts to place us under the yoke of oppression. Some members of the Opposition are known Communist sympathisers. The honourable member for Toowoomba North, for example, is a well-known sympathiser of the Communist regime. The actions of some members of the Opposition on 2 August should have convinced the people of Queensland that they are traitors to the State and would give not only Queensland but the whole country to the Reds.

Some members of the Opposition have formed a suicide squad, as the Premier said, to assist the Federal Government to reduce State government to the status of local government. Theirs is an unrestrained urge towards centralism, with the Federal Government intruding, or proposing to intrude, into many areas of State power. A large majority of Australians are opposed to an increase in Commonwealth power at the expense of State power. In fact, chapter V, paragraph 107, of the Constitution reads—

“Every power of the Parliament of a Colony which has become or becomes a State, shall, unless it is by this Constitution exclusively vested in the Parliament of the Commonwealth or withdrawn from the Parliament of the State, continue as at the establishment of the Commonwealth, or as at the admission or establishment of the State, as the case may be.”

Surely that must convince everyone that Mr. Whitlam is attempting to erode the powers of the State and is acting against the Constitution. The Premier of Queensland is to be congratulated on the stand he has taken on State rights. He recognised, early in the life of the present Federal Government, what was going on in this country, and on

2 August this Government took the first step in the fight to protect the rights of Queenslanders.

Recently the Press reported that the Lord Mayor of Brisbane hopes to have this city chosen as the venue for the Commonwealth Games in 1982. I am right behind this suggestion. It is the one good thing that the Lord Mayor has done in his life. I am right behind him, although I am against him in 99 per cent of the rotten things he does, such as trying to rob the people of the North Pine area. I have been given the job of protecting those people and I will do so as long as I remain a member of this Parliament. However, I am fair.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: You have only got another 14 months.

Mr. FRAWLEY: The honourable member should try to shift me from Murrumbidgee. He would then see what sort of a chance he would have. He should stick to his own electorate, where he will have enough trouble.

I sincerely trust that the Government will fully support Clem Jones in his bid to secure Brisbane as the venue for the 1982 Games, because this will certainly make Brisbane. We will get a decent athletic track for the athletes of Queensland. On three occasions I have asked in this Chamber for decent facilities for athletes.

Mr. K. J. Hooper interjected.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I will not warn the honourable member for Archerfield again.

Mr. FRAWLEY: While the Lang Park Trust is controlled by the people who constitute it at present, our athletes will never get a fair deal at Lang Park. They are subjected to victimisation by the Lang Park Trust, and I hope that the Minister for Lands can assist in this direction.

(Time expired.)

Mr. D'ARCY (Albert) (8.15 p.m.): In rising to speak in the Budget debate following the honourable member for Murrumbidgee, I may say that it disappoints me to find that some members are prepared to hide behind a veil of cowardice in making statements about members of the Australian Labor Party that they would not be prepared to make outside this Chamber. The naming tonight of Senators Georges and Keefe as Communists by a member of this Legislature must surely go down as an iniquitous act. I challenge the honourable member for Murrumbidgee to make that statement about those gentlemen, and the one that he made about the honourable member for Toowoomba North, outside this Parliament. Government members must know that every member of the A.L.P. in this nation signs a

pledge that he is not a member of the Communist Party, or a Fascist, and never will be. Unfortunately those remarks do not apply to members on the Government side.

Honourable Members interjected.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I warn the honourable members for Cairns and Murrumba that cross-firing in the Chamber will not be permitted.

Mr. D'ARCY: The honourable member for Murrumba also referred to bureaucracy and democracy. Democracy is being forthrightly followed today by the Australian Government headed by Mr. Gough Whitlam. Compare, for instance, the amount of legislation that has passed through the Federal House with the pitiful amount that has been introduced in this Chamber. The Government cannot find legislation to bring down, and sessions finish early because Ministers do not have legislation ready. When it is ready and is at all controversial, it is gagged through all stages. Bill after Bill goes through in this way, yet members on the Government side talk about democracy! There is democracy now in the Australian Parliament, and at least it has a clear conscience before the people of Australia. Democracy in this State is dead. Under the present Premier and his Cabinet, Bills are forced through the House by gagging debate at all stages. They are put through by sheer political vagrancy.

Another topical issue is State rights. It is interesting to consider all the squealing from the Government about State rights in the light of the provisions of the Federal Budget. The State Budget brought down by the Treasurer is clearly a Budget that is totally and utterly unimaginative. It contains virtually no incentives for future progress. It has been based on the Treasurer's homework and housekeeping over the last few years, and it leans heavily on the Australian Government and inflation. The Federal Budget has given Queensland the chance to progress in fields in which the State Government has failed. I refer to education, social welfare, transport, urban development and planning. It has allowed the Treasurer of Queensland to make some positive steps forward at last.

To a large extent, the Australian Government has provided this assistance without ties. Previous Liberal-Country Party Federal Governments made grants to Queensland in various fields. They openly stated in the Press that Ministers of the Queensland Government were not capable of administering this money, so it was made available as tied grants. Grants were made for such things as science blocks and library blocks in schools. Such specific grants are not exactly what Queensland has received from the present Australian Government. The Australian Government is allowing the Queensland Government to determine its own priorities in education and other fields. I only hope that the Ministers of the Crown in this State

take their responsibilities more seriously now that they have been given right of determination by the Australian Government and are not being treated as they were by the former Federal Government, their counterpart in the Federal sphere, that is, as a lot of school children incapable of managing their own affairs.

The Treasurer said that the State Budget shows a great growth pattern. He pointed out particularly that the increase in wages in Queensland has been greater than the average increase in other States and greater than the increase in most States. He did not point out, of course, that prices in Queensland have risen more dramatically in the last 12 months than they have in any other Australian State. He completely failed to mention that.

Mr. Lee: Your own argument shows that that is because of the wage increases.

Mr. D'ARCY: The Treasurer said that. However, if the honourable member for Yeronga looked at the Budget, he would see that the average increase in wages in Queensland was 4.5 per cent. If he then looked at the rise in food prices in a similar period, he would find that most authorities claim that it is between 9 and 10 per cent. Do you want to deal with what your Government has done relative to land prices and its failure in that field? You know that land prices in this State have increased——

THE CHAIRMAN: Order! I ask the honourable gentleman to please address the Chair.

Mr. D'ARCY: Land prices in Queensland have risen much more than 4.5 per cent in the last 12 months, and I do not think that even one member of the Committee would attempt to deny that. In many cases land prices have risen by 100 per cent in a month. That shows the position that the average working man is in. His wages have risen by 4.5 per cent in 12 months, but uncontrolled land prices are smashing any chance he has of owning his own home in future and bringing up his family in conditions that this wealthy, individualistic nation should provide for him.

The Australian Government has something to be very proud of in the fact that it has helped this country to at least own its own land. It has also created financial liquidity without unemployment. Every Liberal Federal Government over the past 20 years has had only one answer to inflation—to create large scale unemployment. The Australian Labor Government will not create large scale unemployment to satisfy the whims of the large businesses of this nation.

One point that the honourable member for Murrumba touched on which was of interest was that relating to travel from the Redcliffe Peninsula area to the capital city. That problem interests me greatly because my electorate is a similar distance from Brisbane.

In this instance the honourable member had his facts wrong. He said that the Labor Government had not done anything about the position. What he really meant was that the Queensland Government, because of its incompetence in the field of transport, failed to submit to the Commonwealth Government, when it was asked to do so, a plan to upgrade transport from the Redcliffe Peninsula area. It is as simple as that. The State A.L.P. promised to do that during the last State election campaign, and it has promised sincerely to provide transport from outlying areas, including the Redcliffe Peninsula, to the capital city.

I reiterate that the Government has failed badly to do this on its own initiative. It has even failed to submit to the Australian Government a case for investigation. That was the point that the honourable member for Murrumbidgee should have made. As usual, he got his facts wrong.

The Budget fails miserably to give us in the South Coast area of Queensland any hope of a future rapid transport link with the capital city. It fails to allocate any money for the feasibility study that has been so mouthed in the platitudes of the Ministers and the Premier of this Government. Time and time again in the last few years they have promised a feasibility study. They have promised something in the future by way of transport in South-eastern Queensland, and I refer particularly to the Gold Coast area. No provision has been made in the Budget for it. Sometimes I think that the only way we will ever get a railway or rapid transport link to the Gold Coast area is for some Japanese magnate to discover coal down there. The Treasurer would then rush to have a railway line constructed. Some nine-tenths of the Budget references to railways deal with lines to various areas where mining is carried out. Surely this in itself is an indictment of the Government. We have heard the Government's platitudes over the last 15 years; they are in "Hansard" for all to read. Time and time again Government members have said, "We haven't got much in royalties, but look what we are doing for the railway system." That is their answer. Look at the figures in this Budget.

Mr. Wharton: What are you saying?

Mr. D'ARCY: The Treasurer said that some concern is now evident about the deficit in the railway system. He pointed out that the deficit is \$13,900,000, but he also said that with rising interest costs we are up for an additional \$18,100,000. According to the Budget, the total deficit for the railways is \$32,000,000. Let us compare that with the results in the mining section. According to the Treasurer the Government's total income from mining was \$5,300,000. Perhaps

Sir Gordon and other honourable members opposite have not been very good at mathematics over the years.

Mr. Camm: You are showing your complete ignorance. In the Budget he pointed out that there was \$17,000,000 profit. Didn't you read that.

Mr. D'ARCY: If there was a profit of \$17,000,000, how is there a deficit of \$32,000,000?

Mr. Camm: It would have been \$32,000,000 without the \$17,000,000.

Mr. D'ARCY: Plus the other?

Mr. Camm interjected.

Mr. D'ARCY: I realise that, of course. Does the Minister's Government intend each year to have a deficit through inefficient planning of railway services? If so surely that is an indictment of the Minister and his Government. The Minister was part of the Government in 1964 that pulled up the Southport railway line. Honourable members opposite, as a Government, cannot see beyond their noses.

Mr. Camm: We gave you a four-lane highway to the South Coast instead.

Mr. D'ARCY: The Minister was part of the Government in 1964 that pulled up the railway line, a passenger service which would now be paying better than any other service in Queensland. Now he is talking about deficits in railway finances. He talked about a profit of \$17,000,000 from railway operations. I am still asking how that ties in with the figure \$32,000,000. What does the Minister put it down to? He must put it down to his own lack of initiative and planning, as was demonstrated by the Government in pulling up the Southport railway line in 1964. The Treasurer was Minister for Transport at that time. Today, as Treasurer, he is producing shocking figures and showing some concern. The Government should be showing some concern for the people of Queensland. They realise that the Government is inefficient and that, if the railway deficit is allowed to escalate, it will bankrupt the State. It will probably bankrupt the Commonwealth Government as well, if it continues to support the Queensland Government as it has done. The Minister says that we are making money out of hauling coal, and he points to a profit of \$17,000,000. He cannot very well prove that when he has not taken into account the huge interest charges payable on some of the capital expenditure. He has not deducted that sum from the profit of \$17,000,000. Let us deduct it and then look at the result.

The Government of this State continually tells us, "Look what we are doing; we are building railways to decentralise areas. Thank goodness for that." If there was no coal left, if mining was not involved or it stopped tomorrow, or if world prices plunged as

could easily happen, what would be the use of a railway line to some of these places? It would never be used. The Government is chasing its tail on some of these issues. It has failed in its administration, particularly in the Transport portfolio. It is an area in which the Government has much to answer for, particularly to people in the south-eastern corner of the State and on the Gold Coast.

Some railway lines are kept open in that area, for example, the line from Bethania to Beaudesert. The Minister could never prove that that line could possibly pay. It is not paying now and has not paid for many years, although it could possibly pay at some time in the future. But compare that line with the Gold Coast line and see whether or not there was some ulterior motive in 1964 when this line was pulled up.

Mr. Camm interjected.

Mr. D'ARCY: It is certainly a sore point with this Government because every time it is raised in this Chamber we always get a rise out of a Minister opposite. It is quite evident that the Government's economic management of the railway and transport systems leaves much to be desired. If the Minister is trying to point that out, he is doing a very successful job.

There are two other points about a rapid-transport system that must be looked at. The system to Beenleigh is still open and the rapid increase in passenger use from the Beenleigh area to Brisbane is deserving of some consideration by the Minister for Transport. The increase has certainly been rapid. The other feature, of course, is that the New South Wales Government, with a great deal more foresight, has introduced a service to the Gold Coast by which southern passengers can bring their cars by rail to Murwillumbah and then drive to the Gold Coast and the Tweed area. This service has proved such a boon that it is booked out for more than 12 months, and it is difficult to get bookings three years in advance for holiday periods. The New South Wales Government, as the Minister would know, is presently building extra rolling-stock for this area, including locomotives. This proves conclusively that the area needs a rapid-transport system.

As for the Minister's claim that the area is well serviced by roads, I wish he would attempt to drive to the Gold Coast on his marvellous four-lane highway during the peak period on a Sunday or holiday. It is as cluttered as the old road ever was and it is getting steadily worse. Has he seen Surfers Paradise at 5 p.m. on any working day? Has he seen the Currumbin area where he promised to have a bridge over Currumbin Creek opened over three years ago? Has he seen that at peak holiday periods? Yet he talks about service to the Gold Coast area. The area has been so badly neglected by the Government that it is continually turning out Government members, and it will continue to do so because of the dissatisfaction of the people in the area with the Government and

the services it provides. By interjection the Minister for Mines and Main Roads claimed that the Government has not increased rail freights. Tell me how the people of the Gold Coast could derive any benefit from that.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I again remind the honourable member that he must address the Chair, not the Minister.

Mr. D'ARCY: I would be interested to hear the Government explain how the people of the Gold Coast derive any benefit from the fact that rail freights have not been increased. They do not receive any benefit whatever, because every piece of equipment and every item of foodstuffs is brought to the Gold Coast by road. In fact, as a result of the tearing-up of the railway line, commodity prices on the Gold Coast are higher than those in the metropolitan area. Road transport has led to an upward escalation in prices on the Gold Coast.

I turn now to education. As the Treasurer has pointed out, the Commonwealth Government has taken over tertiary education. He did not appear to be very enthusiastic about this move by the Federal Government, in spite of the fact that, whereas his expenditure on education will increase by only 3.2 per cent, the Commonwealth Government's expenditure on education will increase by as much as 90 per cent.

In speaking rather harshly about the move by the Commonwealth to take over tertiary education, the Treasurer overlooked the fact that the Commonwealth Government will also take over the contingent expenses, in other words, the future ever-increasing expenses associated with tertiary education. We must not lose sight of the shocking state of affairs in tertiary education that is being taken over by the Commonwealth Government, nor of the vast sum of money that will be required to bring tertiary education in Queensland to anywhere near the level that prevails in other States and overseas. Queensland has a very low standard of tertiary education, and, although it possesses great potential, it is unable to obtain skilled tradesmen.

Industry is doing all it can to entice qualified tradesmen to Australia from overseas. Even the Federal Government has taken the initiative in endeavouring to obtain skilled tradesmen from other countries. Queensland should be training its own technical personnel, but instead it has not even enforced the full apprenticeship scale in the respective trades. Queensland is bereft of qualified tradesmen, and this fact must have been plain to the Government during the debate on the Builders' Registration Bill. Almost every honourable member made representations on behalf of builders who had met all the requirements of the legislation but did not possess any qualifications whatever. Instead of getting better, the situation has got steadily worse.

On the Gold Coast apprenticeships are so difficult to obtain that local boys virtually fight each other in order to obtain them. Recently the Works Department had a vacancy for one apprentice, and 62 lads applied for the position. Many unscrupulous builders on the Gold Coast are quite prepared to employ school-leavers, but they refuse them apprenticeship indentures. This situation has been brought about not only on the Gold Coast but throughout the State as well. It is worse on the Gold Coast because of the Government's failure to provide suitable tertiary education facilities in an area with a population of approximately 80,000 people. That is the population of the City of Gold Coast, and the population of the Albert Shire is now almost 40,000. The two areas have a permanent population of 120,000.

I venture to say that this would probably be the most concentrated population in the advanced countries of the world that is without tertiary education facilities. If the Government calls the technical college at Southport an institute of tertiary education, I point out that it is catering for only one or two trades, and is unsatisfactory. Large numbers of children travel every day from the Gold Coast to the technical college in George Street. This tremendous strain on family resources is not shouldered by the Government. The Government virtually says to the people in the area, "Let your homes break up; let your children leave home. We do not care about them because they are virtually living in a suburb of Brisbane. Provide your own facilities or break up the family."

The Budget does not even foreshadow a reasonable chance of the establishment of teachers' colleges, university colleges, or other tertiary education facilities in this area in the near future. As I said, the Commonwealth Government intends to accept financial responsibility for these institutions, but, unfortunately, priorities remain with State Ministers who have failed to recognise the needs of the people living on the Gold Coast. I am sure that the honourable member for Surfers Paradise agrees with me that tertiary education on the Gold Coast is essential, and that the Government must do something about it immediately. I am deeply disappointed that the Budget does not provide for tertiary education on the Gold Coast.

The State Government owns quite large tracts of land surrounding the Gold Coast area and the Albert Shire in the form of national parks. In view of the rapid development in the area, this land must be held sacred for the present generation of Queenslanders and for future generations of Australians who will live in this beautiful, popular area. This land and the environment must be carefully protected for the benefit of posterity.

In the Southport-Surfers Paradise area the Government has failed to provide land on which the Housing Commission can

build homes for working families. That, again, is an indictment of the Government. There are two reasonably large areas of suitable land, one in the electorate of the honourable member for Surfers Paradise and the other in my electorate. The larger is an area of 50 acres. The second is slightly smaller. The Government has allowed this land to remain undeveloped for too long. I do not deny that it intends, eventually, to build Housing Commission homes on the land, but it should get on with the job. I should like to hear a Government member deny that, if a private contractor had this land, houses would have mushroomed all over it by now.

This is Government-owned land, but the Lands Department and the Housing Commission have failed to take the initiative and do something with it. People living in the Gold Coast area are screaming out for Housing Commission homes. Because of escalating rents and rising prices, working families are leaving the area. My files prove that the number of housing applications lodged by pensioners and working families in the Gold Coast area is increasing daily.

The number of applications held at the Southport Court House for Housing Commission homes for working families in the area has risen from a mere few some years ago to well over 250. These people cannot find accommodation and cannot afford to pay rentals of \$35 or \$40 a week. Therefore, they must move out of the area. The Gold Coast is losing working families and other people who are needed there so badly.

Some land is shortly to be auctioned and I implore the Minister for Lands to be sympathetic towards the working people of the Gold Coast area. He should place covenants on this land to preclude developers moving in and buying more than one block, and to provide that the purchaser shall build a home on the land and live in it. We heard recently that covenants were placed on land sold in Townsville providing that building must take place within 12 months. The problem there was that most of the blocks, according to the auctioneer, were purchased by builders who placed a margin of profit on top of the sale price. The land to be auctioned belongs to the people of Queensland. That must be taken into consideration.

Another issue that is very important is that in all auctions of Gold Coast land the Government has failed to recognise the Gold Coast as a separate entity. The auctions have been held in Brisbane. I am firmly of the belief that the land should be auctioned on site or at the Southport Court House rather than in Brisbane. Otherwise, prospective purchasers must travel 60 miles to Brisbane. This would be easy for the developer or the builder, who could take a day off, but it would be difficult for the family man or the working man who would have to forgo a day's pay to travel to Brisbane to buy a block of land. I also suggest that the auction be well advertised. Few people knew about

the sale of the railway land at Southport until after the auction had been held. Those are some of the points I wished to raise concerning residential land at Southport, Surfers Paradise and other Gold Coast areas.

It is essential that large tracts of what has been forestry land be kept for environmental purposes. In recent years, similar land has been chopped up and destroyed for various types of development. This type of development must be watched more carefully by the Government so that environmental purposes, such as breeding, are taken into consideration whenever what was once forestry land or land in the fringe areas of Southport and the South Coast areas is sold.

Finally on land matters, I reiterate the remarks I have made on previous occasions on the inefficiency of various Government departments in the development of Crown land in the island areas of the Broadwater and Southport region. What has happened previously is an indictment of Government departments, officers and Ministers. I have previously raised the case of Andy's Island and Griffin Island, which were sold by this Government for less than \$7,000 and already have an auction value of over \$2,500,000.

It is surely a cruel blow to the people of Queensland that, if this area was to be destroyed ecologically, the Government could not have realised a couple of years ago that it was worth a great deal more than \$7,000. As I say, the figure now being quoted for the land is \$2,500,000, and goodness knows what it will be in the future.

Mr. RAE: Mr. Lickiss,—

The CHAIRMAN: Is this a point of order?

Mr. RAE: No, it is not a point of order. I would just like to acquaint the honourable member for Albert—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I cannot accept a statement from the Minister. He can rise only on a point of order.

Mr. D'ARCY: The Minister may have a point, but I do not know what it is. I shall ask him later. My point is that his department sold this land for \$7,500, and, according to a company valuer, it is now worth \$2,500,000. The position is as simple as that.

Mr. Rae: You are talking a lot of rubbish.

Mr. D'ARCY: What I am saying are the facts, and they are in writing. They are written into council agendas, and also into the Minister's own lease and agreement. This is Crown land; and it has been sold on behalf of the people of Queensland and destroyed.

Mr. RAE: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member is telling a story about these islands and what they are worth to certain developers. All I want to say

is that those who purchased the islands at the time did so with the full cognisance, and with the acceptance, of the Gold Coast City Council.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! Can I hear the Minister's point of order?

Mr. RAE: I have answered this charge so often in this Chamber.

Mr. Tucker: I move that the Minister be granted an extension of time.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I will move the Deputy Leader of the Opposition from the Chamber if he continues to interject when I am listening to a point of order. I do not need the prompting of the honourable member, either.

Mr. Tucker: It seems that you did.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member is now reflecting on the Chair. He will withdraw that remark.

Mr. Tucker: I withdraw it.

Mr. D'ARCY: The Minister has already informed me that his department granted this lease, and that it was granted with the full knowledge and consent of the Gold Coast City Council and the Department of Harbours and Marine. I am sure that the Department of Harbours and Marine and the Gold Coast City Council must stand condemned, as well as the Minister's own department. His department is the Department of Lands, and surely that department must have some idea of the value of land to the people of Queensland. It is quite obvious from his short term in his present portfolio that he has no idea of the value of land.

Mr. RAE: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member queries whether I know what is going on in my department. I hasten to assure him that I know full well what is going on in my department, and I also know full well that he knows what is going on in it.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! Will the Minister please come to his point of order.

Mr. RAE: My point of order is that the honourable member is reflecting on the efficiency and competence of officers of the Lands Department.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! There is no valid point of order unless there is a reflection on the Minister himself.

Mr. D'ARCY: I certainly do reflect on the officers of the various departments.

Mr. K. J. Hooper interjected.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Archerfield is not in his correct place in the Chamber, therefore he should not interject. If he interjects again on that basis, I shall deal with him.

Mr. D'ARCY: Some of the officers of the Department of Harbours and Marine and the Department of Lands who handled this matter, and the issue of the islands generally, must surely stand condemned. Although the Minister may defend them, I personally feel that their attitude leaves a lot to be desired. An interesting point that has not been raised before is that the Department of Harbours and Marine has lost several members of its staff at Southport because they could not stand what was being done in the area to which I am referring.

I have previously offered the Minister an opportunity to come down and have a look at the desecration that is taking place in the area. If he did, he would see that these two islands are separated by 30 or 40 yards of water that provides some of the best fishing gutters on the whole of the Gold Coast. They are to be pumped full of sand. The islands have mangroves below the waterline, and they are going to be raised above the waterline by pumping sand round them. They will be joined to the mainland and have houses built all over them. That is basically what the department is going to allow.

As is the case with the Woogoompah Island lease, which should have been cancelled, these islands are estuary islands. If the ecology of the area is not based on fish habitats around estuary islands, goodness knows what it is based on. The marine biologists have been saying that for the past 25 years, so somebody in the Minister's department, as well as somebody in the Department of Harbours and Marine, did not do his homework, either ecologically or from the point of view of the value of the islands to the people of this State.

We are now dealing with the Budget, Mr. Lickiss, and here we have an incompetent Government that sells for \$7,500 a little bit of land, which within a couple of years, is worth \$2,500,000. The lease has not expired, and the Minister has not explained how the land could be under contract of sale. Perhaps it is by some flick of the wrist or some unusual financial arrangement.

Mr. Rae interjected.

Mr. D'ARCY: I am afraid that the Minister has not heard the last of this, because as recently as today I have been informed that other bodies have become interested in these islands. The conservation committee of the Trades and Labor Council took the matter up first, and it then came before the executive of the Trades and Labor Council. Tomorrow it will go before the full committee of the Trades and Labor Council. Several resolutions have already been passed, and Mr. Whitby assured me this afternoon that they would also be carried by the full committee of the Trades and Labor Council.

Mr. Rae interjected.

Mr. Tucker interjected.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! Cross-firing in the Chamber is not permitted.

Mr. D'ARCY: One of the motions that will be carried is that the Trades and Labor Council strongly condemns the State Government for handing over these islands to commercial developers, as it believes that they are essential to the ecology of the area. That opinion is also shared by other ecologists, so it is difficult to understand how certain people in the Government departments could give the Minister such bad advice that he sold the people of Queensland down the drain.

This is only one issue. As you would realise, Mr. Lickiss, there are many hundreds of islands in the area between Jumpinpin and Southport. In most instances they are mangrove islands on which professional fishermen have based their business over the years, and both professional and amateur fishermen now feel very strongly about the desecration of these islands.

The lease covering Griffin and Andy's Islands is only one of a number that the Lands Department has granted. The department received \$10 an acre for a lease of 510 acres on Woogoompah Island, at the mouth of Pimpama Creek. In this instance it is receiving \$50 an acre. Very good! The point is that the people concerned have not met the conditions of the lease, and that is why I say the lease should be cancelled. It is difficult to understand why a Government department has not taken action in these circumstances.

Mr. Rae: Why don't you speak the truth and give the facts?

Mr. D'ARCY: If the Minister has a look at the South Stradbroke area, I am sure he will be amazed at the number of boats there on Saturdays and Sundays. As many as 1,000 boats are in that area, yet the Department of Harbours and Marine is allowing dredging and pumping up in the middle of South Stradbroke Island. The main island in the area is being desecrated. The oyster men complain that their oysters are being ruined by the pollution caused by so many dredges and sand pumps working in the Broadwater area. One housing development alone on South Stradbroke Island plans for over 4,000 houses.

It would be interesting to hear the Minister answer the case of the tavern lease on South Stradbroke Island, which is situated just north of the land I referred to. This was a special lease granted by his department. I do not know the conditions of it, although I asked for them several months ago. I have not been told by letter what the conditions were—for obvious reasons, I should imagine. This lease on South Stradbroke Island was granted for some sort of commercial establishment, which now has a tavern licence. Today it was sold by auction, and I believe it was expected to bring something in the vicinity of \$100,000. Seeing that the Minister has

not answered my letter, it would be interesting to know what lease fee he is charging for this land on South Stradbroke Island.

Mr. RAE: I rise to a point of order. I object very strongly to the honourable member's implying that I do not answer his letters. He knows full well that I answer all his letters.

Mr. Tucker: It takes you three months.

Mr. RAE: It does not take three months. The honourable member knows full well that he gets a reply within a week. He gets the right answer, too. I object very strongly to his remarks.

Mr. D'ARCY: Those are the three points I wanted to bring out about land within the area. The Minister and his department have a lot to answer for to future generations of Australians. We are going to have a very populous area in the south-east of Queensland. The environment and the ecology in that area will be very important to future generations. Our children will want to be able to see a fish and a crab. They will want to be able to get away from the hubbub of urbanisation that will exist in that area in time to come. If the Minister and his Government continue with their present efforts, I am afraid that future generations of Australians who live in the area will be living in city-type slums that this Government has created.

While the Minister for Transport is in the Chamber, I will refer to the subject of road safety. At the present time there is an appeal by the R.A.C.Q. for more concerted action in the investigation of road accidents and in road safety research. Recently I have noticed advertisements which indicate that almost every other State is appointing medical research officers and research scientists to its Department of Transport to study the nature and causes of road accidents. I have not seen any evidence of such a move in Queensland. I hope it is coming.

Mr. K. W. Hooper interjected.

Mr. D'ARCY: Some years ago we did have some sort of investigation into these matters in Queensland. However, after 12 months it seemed to die a natural death.

Mr. K. W. Hooper interjected.

Mr. D'ARCY: The department might still be doing it, but from what I have seen it has no specialist medical officers on its staff, nor has it a scientific investigating officer.

One policy determined by the R.A.C.Q. is as follows:—

"R.A.C.Q. urges a vigorous uniform and planned approach to research into road accidents and calls for a greater co-ordination of bodies engaged in road safety research to ensure integrated policies, elimination of duplication of activities and more effective use of funds and resources provided by Governments for this purpose."

The Queensland Government must stand indicted because, despite what the Minister has said, it has not appointed the specialist officers that the other States have. It does not have the planning that the other States have in this particular field. We need this very badly.

Mr. K. W. HOOPER: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member is dealing with something that does not come within my jurisdiction. It comes under the Police Department, and it is carried out.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! There is no valid point of order.

Mr. D'ARCY: It seems a shame that the Premier did not shuffle his Cabinet as Mr. Whitlam did. One thing about the Queensland Cabinet is that there is no more talent available.

The hospital situation in South-east Queensland, so far as the Budget is concerned, is rather drastic. The Government has obviously scrapped the proposal to build a hospital at Miami. The honourable member for South Coast must be feeling rather superfluous at the moment, because he and his compatriot from Surfers Paradise have failed miserably in the fields of hospitalisation, education and transport in our area. Their representation and those of other Government members in this area over a long period have obviously failed or fallen on deaf ears.

Mr. BRUCE SMALL: I rise to a point of order. We have been listening to a gross distortion of the facts on several subjects.

Mr. Bousen interjected.

THE CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Toowoomba North has already been warned under Standing Order 123A.

Mr. BRUCE SMALL: I repeat that we have been listening to a gross distortion of the facts on several subjects, particularly the subject of hospitals. The facts are that \$6,750,000—

THE CHAIRMAN: Will the honourable member please state his point of order.

Mr. BRUCE SMALL: The facts are being so grossly distorted that I wanted the Committee to know the truth. \$6,750,000 has been provided—

THE CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member has no valid point of order.

Mr. D'ARCY: I am glad that the honourable member for Surfers Paradise rose to his feet. I remember that after last year's Budget a statement appeared in the Press to the effect that the honourable member for Surfers Paradise had said that \$6,000,000-odd had been allocated for the Southport Hospital. Of course, Sir Gordon Chalk had to get up the next day and deny it. But that

did not mean anything, because the honourable member is repeating it now. I have looked through the Budget and I have not found \$6,750,000—

Mr. BRUCE SMALL: I rise to a point of order. The Budget on which this debate is supposed to be based includes \$6,750,000 for a hospital at Southport.

Mr. D'ARCY: The honourable member must be looking in the wrong place, because that amount of money is not allocated in this Budget for a hospital at Southport. I do not know where he got his facts from. Obviously he has not read the Budget very closely. All that the Budget does is allocate some money for the resumption of land at Southport. That is the disappointing feature of this Budget, and it is the point I should like to raise. It allows only for a small amount of land to be resumed for future hospital expansion at Southport, in Little High Street. This has been going on since 1969, when the Minister for Health first announced that a new multi-storey hospital would be built at Southport. At the present time there is no sign of the hospital being built. Despite the honourable member's protest, when he reads this Budget again he will find that he is making the same mistake as he made last year. It is a pity the Treasurer is not here to refute his remarks.

Mr. R. Jones: They tell me they were not very kind to the honourable member at the meeting last night, either.

Mr. Bruce Small: I got out of it very nicely.

Mr. D'ARCY: The honourable member generally gets out of things.

It is gratifying to see today that the Australian Government is taking an interest in the hospitalisation situation in South-east Queensland, and that a community service area has been allocated to the Gold Coast, as one has been to many other Queensland centres. The point is that hospitalisation in South-east Queensland is probably the grimest per head of population anywhere in Australia, and, for a developed country, possibly anywhere in the world. It is almost frightening to have a heart attack and have to go to the Southport Hospital with the position in which it has been placed by this Government.

Mr. Bruce Small interjected.

Mr. D'ARCY: I am glad the honourable member has interjected, because, frankly, it is frightening to be at the Southport Hospital when a heart-attack victim comes in and has to lie on a couch, unattended, with the exception that a doctor rushes up to him and realises that he has had a coronary attack, but has to leave him, possibly for hours, because he had road-accident victims to attend to.

Mr. Bruce Small: That is absolute rot.

Mr. D'ARCY: Obviously the honourable member has not visited the hospital at the same times as I have. I have seen friends die on a couch at the Southport Hospital as a result of coronary attacks. Had they had proper medical aid and immediate treatment with coronary equipment, they would not have died. The staff cannot be blamed for this situation; the Government must accept sole responsibility for the failure to provide a modern hospital on the fast-growing Gold Coast.

I wish to deal finally with certain sources of the Government's income, which is derived largely from Consolidated Revenue. Some time ago the Government established the T.A.B. and instituted the bookmakers' turnover tax. In the past financial year it netted \$8,900,000 from the T.A.B. and \$2,500,000 from the tax. The sum that the Government nets from these two sources of revenue would be higher if it were not for the Government's utter contempt for the laws that it has enacted, for the corruption within its own ranks, and for its connivance with the huge S.P. betting industry, which operates in every city and town in Queensland.

Recently one of Australia's leading horse-trainers, T. J. Smith, was reported as saying that his main reason for increasing his training fees from \$55 to \$70 a week was to keep pace with the operations of the S.P. industry in Australia, particularly in Queensland, which is raking in huge sums of money that should rightly be passing to the Government and to the racing industry. The S.P. industry is a non-taxable one.

Mr. Wharton interjected.

Mr. D'ARCY: The honourable member for Burnett is fully aware of the fact that certain honourable members conduct S.P. betting transactions.

Mr. Bruce Small: They are all on your side.

Mr. D'ARCY: In deference to the honourable members involved, I shall not name them. It is sufficient for me to warn Government members to remain silent on this issue.

Government Members interjected.

Mr. D'ARCY: I think certain Government members have overstepped the mark in their association with the S.P. betting industry.

It is common knowledge that the S.P. betting industry is growing at a rapid rate and is robbing the Government of taxes that should rightly be paid to it. In turn, the small punter who takes advantage of the facilities offered by the T.A.B. is suffering as a result of S.P. operations.

If the Government directed the Police Force to stamp out S.P. betting, its Consolidated Revenue would grow to such an

extent that it would have ample funds available to provide many more of the education, hospital and social service facilities that are required. The T.A.B. itself, by implementing a system that relies heavily on information supplied by the racing industry—as the S.P. industry does—could help stamp out S.P. betting.

(Time expired.)

Mr. WHARTON (Burnett) (9.15 p.m.): In rising to join in the debate on the 1973 Budget, I sincerely compliment the Treasurer upon its presentation. I listened intently to what he had to say and noted with satisfaction many of the items in it. I may be a little critical of some items in it but, generally speaking, it meets Queensland's needs in these uncertain times.

Mr. Tucker: Have you read it yet?

Mr. WHARTON: Of course I have read it. I hope the honourable member has read it, too. Having read it, I know something about it. When the honourable member makes his contribution we will see how much he knows about it.

Having listened to the Treasurer introduce the Budget, and having recently attended a Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference overseas and listened to critical speeches by people of world-wide fame, I am sure the Treasurer could take his place confidently as a political figure of world class.

Mr. R. Jones: God help international politics!

Mr. WHARTON: I am afraid that some honourable members opposite could not make a worthy contribution.

No doubt the Treasurer derived some pleasure from the good seasons, which must have helped him considerably in framing his Budget. But, on the other hand, he has had to adjust his Treasury figures to cope with the inflationary tendencies and policies inflicted on us by the Federal Government in recent months by way of wage adjustments and so on. In this respect, his job has been made a little more difficult than it otherwise would have been.

Mr. Marginson: Isn't inflation world wide?

Mr. WHARTON: Of course it is, but that is no reason why we should not try to do something about it. I have heard A.L.P. members say that inflation is world wide, and for that reason we must accept it. How silly can they be! Admittedly the problem is common throughout the world, but when we are faced with a problem we should tackle it rather than pass the buck, like A.L.P. members, and say, "It is world wide."

Mr. Yewdale: Why not give us the benefit of your wide overseas travels and advance the solution?

Mr. WHARTON: I am sure that my answer would be useless to the honourable member, because he would be unable to assimilate it.

I listened to the speech of the Leader of the Opposition on the Budget and was very interested in what he had to say. However, he failed to make any suggestion that would assist in the presentation of the Budget or improve it in any way. He simply sniped at the Premier and the Treasurer without saying anything concrete or specific to help present a better Budget, which is what we should be trying to do.

The Federal Government's programme to nationalise the oil industry and control large industrial complexes will require that all domestic financial resources shall come under its control, and this is one of the great problems. Domestic savings will be controlled through savings banks, superannuation funds, life assurance funds and building societies, and, under this monetary policy, more and more funds will be transferred from the private sector. Increased taxation will be automatic following the Government's entry into the industrial field, and this concerns us greatly.

I listened very closely to the speech of the honourable member for Warrego, who blasted a lot of hot air into the Chamber. His speech will provide excellent reading in the Trades Hall, but I do not think it will be very good reading for the rural sector of his electorate. I am sure he will publish it in Brisbane, but he will not be game to publish it in his area because it detracted considerably from the needs of rural electorates such as Warrego.

Mr. Tucker interjected.

Mr. WHARTON: I have to confess that I was staggered.

Mr. Tucker: It is possible that your argument is wrong.

Mr. WHARTON: That may be so, but it has been said quite often and has stood the test of time.

Mr. Davis: Could I ask how you got over to the C.P.A. conference? I didn't vote for you.

Mr. WHARTON: I would not care to comment on what would happen if I depended on the honourable member's vote.

This State is suffering from increasing inflation.

Mr. Yewdale: Caused by this Government.

Mr. WHARTON: Talk sense for once. Inflation has resulted from increases in salaries and wages, and the recent inflationary measures of the Federal Government. Queensland faces a \$74,000,000 increase in its wages bill this year.

Mr. Davis: You're not still on wages, are you? You made a nice old furphy last year.

Mr. WHARTON: I am afraid that the honourable member's interjection is not worth replying to. He cannot accept that, with a wages increase of \$74,000,000, it is not inflation at the rate of 14 per cent.

The people who will pay most are the State Government and the local authorities, with their heavier debt involvement. The national debt has increased by \$77,000,000, and the cost of financing the total debt is \$87,000,000. I stress that local government can ill afford to meet these extra costs, and secondary industry and the primary sector cannot stand the Federal Government's recent increase in the interest rate to 9½ per cent.

Mr. Jensen: Industries have said, "Get big or get out." Why don't we do that with local government? Bundaberg could take over Woongarra Shire and Gooburrum Shire and make a good job of it.

Mr. WHARTON: I have never before heard anyone talk so much "gas". The honourable gentleman himself has probably said these things about "getting big or getting out". That is not my policy. Owner-operated businesses rather than huge complexes pay the biggest dividends, and I am sure the honourable member for Bundaberg does not like huge complexes.

The local authorities in my electorate have the ability to finance their operations. There is no question that they are close to the people and meet their needs. It will be a sad day if ever we lose the "closeness", if I may use that word, of local governments to the people in general. We want to preserve local government and do all we can for it. That is why Federal grants to local government are very important. They assist decentralisation.

I give credit to the Commonwealth Government for the grants it has made to local government, but the grants were issued through the State Government to the local authorities to relieve unemployment, which is important. If no employment opportunities exist in country areas, people move to the larger cities, particularly Brisbane, and we suffer population drift. This creates problems for the growing cities as well as for the small communities, which can ill afford to lose their work-force.

Mr. K. J. Hooper interjected.

Mr. WHARTON: It will not be the honourable member for Archerfield. He could not pick a winner on the T.A.B. or S.P.

Mr. Jensen: Why did you wipe out the small farms that were not economic?

Mr. WHARTON: It is true that some farms have gone. But the honourable member should look at the real cause. The Federal Government has ceased paying subsidy to the dairy farmers. It does not want

the dairy industry. The dairy industry is a national industry and national policies have affected it adversely.

Mr. Tucker: The ones you are talking about went broke before that.

Mr. WHARTON: They have gone broke over the years. It is true that they have had a problem for some time, but it has been getting worse. But now they have really got the hatchet.

Mr. Jensen: You gave some of them money to buy others out.

Mr. WHARTON: That is quite true, and it might have been better when there was only a limited number of them. They were not viable, anyway. It was probably a bad thing, but what was the use of keeping them there if they were not viable? This led to inflation, and it has been caused by the Federal Government.

Mr. Jensen: That is why I want to get rid of your council.

Mr. WHARTON: The honourable member is quite wrong. There is one of the smallest local authorities in Queensland at Mt. Perry, and it is a particularly efficient council.

I now want to deal with a few points in the Budget. I am particularly concerned about pay-roll tax. I raised this matter when it was last under discussion. I am disappointed that this tax has been inflicted on us. I know that it was inherited on a national level from the Federal Government, but I think it is a bad tax.

Mr. Jensen: It has gone up 100 per cent in two years.

Mr. WHARTON: That is true, and it is quite disturbing. It is a tax on companies, and it is determined on the number of employees and the wages paid to them. In my years of business experience before I entered Parliament, we wanted as much employment as possible because it was good for primary industry, secondary industry and the work-force.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Did you pay award rates and wages?

Mr. WHARTON: Yes; there was no problem there at all. Those who know me know that I believe that the worker is entitled to a decent wage and a good standard of living. I do not think I have to repeat that.

I want to make the point that pay-roll tax induces employers to consider employing fewer workers, and this is bad for Queensland and Australia. I believe that the exemption figure should be increased beyond \$22,000, because many small companies cannot afford to pay this tax. I know that some of the companies with which I am associated have a tendency to reduce rather than increase their numbers of employees. This country

will never be developed if employment opportunities, and opportunities for increasing trade and production, are reduced. These are things that concern me when I consider pay-roll tax. Although it was handed over at a national level and all States accepted it, in the ultimate it is not a good tax.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: What about a capital gains tax?

Mr. WHARTON: That would be about as silly as the honourable member for Archerfield.

Mr. Tucker: It was your Government that forced pay-roll tax on Queensland.

Mr. WHARTON: I would not say that.

Mr. R. Jones: You wouldn't say it, but it's true.

Mr. WHARTON: I have made my point on pay-roll tax and its effect on Queensland, and Australia as a whole. It is not a good tax, and it does not make for progress.

Mr. Jensen interjected.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I warn the honourable member for Bundaberg that persistent interjecting will not be tolerated.

Mr. WHARTON: I make the point for the Treasurer's consideration that the exemption level for pay-roll tax should be increased beyond \$22,000. The honourable member for Maryborough raised this matter today, and he produced some figures that I regard as very relevant. I believe that the exemption level should be raised to at least \$30,000. Wages are increasing and it is hoped that employment opportunities will increase, and each of these factors creates pay-roll tax problems for employers. If the exemption level is increased, there will be an incentive to increase productivity and employ more people. That is preferable to the backward line of thinking to reduce employment.

I must give credit to the State Government for the exemptions granted in land tax. Because of present high land values, this concession was overdue. The exemptions in succession and probate duty, which will cost the Government \$2,000,000, represent another step forward. I hope the time will come when this duty can be abolished completely. No-one wants to pay duties on the estate of a person who has passed on. This duty affects everyone, and it is quite wrong in principle. It affects not only primary producers but also businessmen and workers.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: The working man never has anything on which to pay probate.

Mr. WHARTON: I am sure that the honourable member does not wish me to show how ill informed he is. I know many working men who have sizeable assets and I give them credit for that. I also give the Government some credit for encouraging a man to own his own land, his own home,

his own car, and so on. However, when he passes on, his successors should not have to pay tax on his estate.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Do you think that a man who earns \$60 a week and has three or four children should be able to buy his own house?

Mr. WHARTON: The honourable member would not quite qualify on that basis.

Mr. Davis: He would not be able to buy any bacon on \$60 a week.

Mr. WHARTON: That is true. Nevertheless, it is a very good product, as the honourable member knows. I am glad he is advertising it, even if only in this Chamber.

The increase in the exemption from gift duty is important. It is being brought into line with the Federal Government's exemption, and it is interesting to note that the figure of \$10,000 is one that I have advocated for some time. I give credit to the Treasurer for taking that action.

It is disappointing that the return from rail freights has decreased. Some time ago the Railway Department made a profit of about \$2,000,000, but rising costs have made it impossible for it to repeat that performance. In the area from which I come, people try to use the railways as much as possible in their business. The employees of the Railway Department endeavour to do a good job, and it is a shame that the department is still losing money. It is a matter of great concern to me; I am sure that it also is of concern to many other people in the State. As the railways have the transport field fairly well sewn up, one would think that the operations of the department would be more profitable.

I shall not deal with education in detail, but it is of interest to note that the allocation for education has been increased to \$170,000,000. Small matters such as school transport, the provision of text-books, and so on, are important and will reflect credit on the Government's policies.

In the field of health, the Government has done some real work. I heard a cough from one of the back-benchers opposite. I remind honourable members that for many years the Government has provided the people of Queensland with a free health service, and it hopes to continue to do so. The only problem I see is that the policy of the Federal A.L.P. Government is making the people of Queensland sick. They will not get any better hospitalisation as a result of its implementation. I give full credit to the Minister for Health for the work he has done, which is evident from the amount spent on the hospital system.

Mr. Bousen interjected.

Mr. WHARTON: The population on the South Coast has increased, and new hospitals are being built. Much has been done already,

and the free hospital service is appreciated by the people. Problems arise in newly developed areas, and the Government of this State does not know what will be allocated to it by the Federal Government.

I wish to turn now to the subject of roads. When I was in Europe, I studied the road system there and found it commendable. Both Queensland and Australia must plan for a better road system, although great progress has certainly been made in improving the roads in this State. The honourable member for Albert complained about the lack of a railway to the South Coast, but at least he has a four-lane highway on which to travel. A number of highways and freeways have been built, and marked progress has been made in road construction since Country-Liberal Governments have been in office in Queensland.

But that does not mean that we should stand still. Our roads are good by the standards within Australia, but I am talking about world standards and the types of roads and tunnels that are constructed. I admit that in many instances tolls are payable, which makes it expensive for the motorist. On the Continent the road system is of a very high standard and caters for an extensive tourist population. This is what we have to aim at. Most accidents occur because drivers run out of road. We are aiming at roads of world standard. We need to push forward and achieve the standards that I saw on the Continent.

Mr. R. Jones: That is a veiled criticism of the Government.

Mr. WHARTON: Opposition members love to be critical; they are never constructive. I have not heard them say a good word for this Government. I am fair enough to give the Federal Government credit when it does something good. I certainly applaud what the State Government has done. Nevertheless, every Government member should strive to achieve something even better than what we have.

I wish to touch on the subject of irrigation, as it is very important to people in the Burnett and Isis electorates. We are in the process of constructing a vital scheme. This year \$5,620,000 has been allocated for the Monduran Dam. If we cannot get any more funds we will have a beautiful dam sitting there full of water but with no means of letting it out. I give credit to the Federal Government for the part it has played. We are stuck with a programme in which the State is involved. We have to provide about \$12,000,000 and we want the Federal Government to come in with \$18,000,000 over a period. It is not a matter of providing the money overnight.

Mr. Jensen: It will come good.

Mr. WHARTON: It is very good to hear the honourable member say that. At this point of time, it has not come good. That

upsets me to some degree. I know that on occasions the honourable member has said, "You are lucky to have your scheme started." We certainly want to finish it. We do not want to stop halfway through. We want to see the scheme completed. I make the appeal that with the co-operation of honourable members opposite we might be able to get funds from the Commonwealth Government to help us complete a worthwhile scheme that will serve an area containing 50,000 people. It will add a great deal to regional development, which is important from everybody's point of view. It will help the whole community, not only the primary producers who will have the first slice of the cake, but the millers, secondary industry and the work-force generally. It will bring security to the work-force.

Mr. Jensen: The honourable member for Isis and I have made representations to the Federal Government for this money.

Mr. WHARTON: I am well aware of that. I am waiting patiently for the results.

Mr. Jensen interjected.

Mr. WHARTON: All areas of the State deserve an irrigation scheme of some kind. There is no doubt that Queensland is a very dry State. We have made a start in the Burnett, and we want to see the scheme completed. I realise that other parts of the State want to satisfy their needs.

I now wish to say something about world policies as they affect the Queensland Budget. World politics affect Queensland. I wish to voice particular concern for the sugar industry. With Great Britain's entry into the European Economic Community we realised that we would need to find an alternative market for 335,000 tons of sugar covered by the United Kingdom-Commonwealth Sugar Agreement, which will phase out in 1974.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. WHARTON: I am a patient fellow. I am waiting again for something to be done but I cannot wait too long. I am looking for the results that have been promised. Honourable members opposite are like Gough—promise, promise, promise. I want a bit of action. If Dr. Patterson or the honourable member for Isis can fix it, well and good.

Mr. R. Jones: What's wrong with you?

Mr. WHARTON: There is nothing wrong with me. I am concerned about the market, as the honourable member should be. Britain has entered the European Common Market and the set-up is different now. Previously France used to say, "You cannot do this or that," but now that Britain has joined she will have a more dominating role in the market.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Will she be able to control it?

Mr. WHARTON: She will never be able to control it to any great degree, but she will exert a fairly big influence for her own sake and, if Britain succeeds, some of her success will rub off on us as well. If Opposition members will join us in that spirit, we may get somewhere. I am concerned about the sugar industry and I hope that we will achieve something from the International Sugar Agreement.

The problem in Europe is beet sugar. France has said that any increased needs for sugar in Europe will be met by the beet sugar industry. Of course, this upsets people in the cane industry and it also upsets me. It means a lot to my electorate, to the State as a whole and to the Commonwealth as well.

I am also concerned about the imposition of a tax on beef exports. I heard the honourable member for Warrego arguing today about subsidies that are paid. He argued that it is absolutely wrong to pay a subsidy in order to keep the price of goods down, yet it is apparently not wrong to tax someone who is making a "quid" by exporting beef to feed people. The honourable member cannot have his cake and eat it too. I noticed in Britain and in Europe a tendency to increase the market for meat and bacon. This might be to our advantage.

One matter that affects us greatly in Australia is the alteration of currencies. Recently, we saw two appreciations of our currency which considerably affected the incomes of primary producers. It has not accomplished any real gain for the people and has affected the work-force. I am sure that it will have a tendency to tighten up on employment in these industries, and I think we will feel the effects of it. One of the things that concerned me most when I was overseas was that, by the stroke of a pen, someone in Canberra, Brussels, London or New York, can alter money values in the world and make somebody rich or poor overnight. This seems all wrong to me.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: You should be on this side of the Chamber.

Mr. WHARTON: I should hate that.

In conclusion, I point out that Federal Government policies, as set out in its Budget, have not helped any of our primary or secondary industries. Its inflationary policies will affect the welfare of the work-force. Our State Budget provides quite a contrast to that, and I am sure it will do something for Queensland and for Australia.

Progress reported.

The House adjourned at 9.45 p.m.