

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**TUESDAY, 18 MARCH 1975**

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## RAIL FREIGHTS TO FAR WESTERN AREAS

**Mr. Burns**, pursuant to notice, asked The Treasurer,—

(1) Has he seen the statement reported in *The Longreach Leader* of February 28, of the Longreach Branch of the Graziers' Association criticising him for saying that low rail freights to far-western areas, involving the movement of stock, wool and essential supplies, were being subsidised heavily by profits on the haulage of export coal?

(2) Is he aware that this meeting was told that the Railways Department had made a profit from the Central Division without coal?

(3) Does he stand by his statement reported in *The Longreach Leader*?

*Answers:—*

(1) "No."

(2) "No."

(3) "I do not know what was reported in *The Longreach Leader*, but I do know that profits from the haulage of coal are subsidising losses on the rail haulage of stock and many other commodities."

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**TUESDAY, 18 MARCH 1975**

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Mr. SPEAKER (Hon. J. E. H. Houghton, Redcliffe) read prayers and took the chair at 11 a.m.

**PAPERS**

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Regulation under the Land Act 1962–1974.

By-law under the Education Act 1964–1974.

**QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE**

**NEW BRISBANE TOWN PLAN**

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

(1) Did the Government, when the Brisbane Town Plan was first established, give assurances to the Lord Mayor of Brisbane that, even though the Crown was not bound by the Brisbane Town Plan, it would nevertheless respect its provisions?

(2) If so, why did the previous Minister for Works change a Residential Zone "A" area of land at Magazine Street, Sherwood, to a Reserve for Biological Purposes, without conforming to the requirements of the Town Plan in relation to advertising and notification of adjoining landholders?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) "The Honourable Member's questions are not matters which come within the jurisdiction of my portfolio."

**IN-SERVICE TRAINING WITHIN  
PUBLIC SERVICE**

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

As in-service training is written into the Public Service Act and Regulations, will he outline the operation of these provisions, advise who qualifies for such training and state how many persons undertook such training in 1974?

*Answer:—*

"Provisions relating to the training of officers are contained in the Public Service Act and Regulations—in particular in Section 14 (1) and in Regulations 28, 29 and 111. Staff training is a responsibility of individual departments and also of the Public Service Board and training is carried out on a continuous basis, both by departments themselves and by the Public Service Board's Administrative Development Centre. All officers of the Public Service as well as other Crown employees (e.g. wages staff) qualify for training courses as determined by the permanent head concerned. During 1974, 614 officers attended specialised training courses conducted by the Public Service Board. Approximately 3,000 new entrants to the Public Service attended short induction courses which ranged from about 2 hours to one day in duration. No record is readily available of the numbers who have undertaken various types of training in individual departments."

**RUBBISH TIPS, CARINA-MURARRIE AREA**

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

(1) Regarding rubbish-dumping facilities in the Wynnum Road-Carina area, are the present industrial and household dumping facilities at the Murarrie tip due to be halted in the near future and, if so, on what date?

(2) Is it proposed that dumping facilities be provided at a later date in Fursden Road, Carina and, if so, on what date?

(3) Is it proposed to upgrade and seal the road from Wood Avenue to the proposed area and is the bridge on Fursden Road to be widened and/or elevated, in order to accommodate the increased traffic and decrease the undesirable dust problem which even now troubles nearby residents?

*Answers:—*

(1) "I understand that the Brisbane City Council proposes closure of the Murarrie rubbish dump before the end of 1975."

(2) "I am advised that a rubbish dump will be opened at Fursden Road, Carina following closure of the present dump at Murarrie."

(3) "I understand that the council proposes to carry out the road and bridge works referred to by the Honourable Member."

**TAVERN IN OLD CLEVELAND ROAD,  
BELMONT**

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

(1) What is the situation relating to the proposed building of a tavern in Old Cleveland Road, Belmont?

(2) Is the tender presently held by the Cambridge Credit Corporation?

(3) By what date must the tender be exercised?

(4) What situation will exist if the tender is not exercised by that date?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 4) "The tender for the tavern license at the corner of Old Cleveland and Creek Roads, Carina was submitted by Carina Development Pty. Ltd. In February this year, the tender was withdrawn by the company (receiver appointed)."

**CRIME RATE, CARINA HEIGHTS AREA**

**Mr. Byrne**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Police,—

(1) What was the crime rate per head of population in the Carina Heights area in 1974?

(2) What has his department done in that area in an attempt to decrease or prevent crime?

(3) Has his department given thought to placing a resident policeman in the area as part of its new scheme of community police participation and, if not, what is the reason?

(4) Can he give any assurance to the residents of this area that it will be made safer for them to walk their streets at night without fear of intimidation from the people who congregate and loiter in the area?

*Answers:—*

(1) "Statistics are not kept by the Police Department which would enable this information to be supplied without a great deal of research requiring the unnecessary wastage of manpower. In the circumstances, I do not propose directing that this research be undertaken."

(2) "Research is constantly being undertaken to determine ways and means of providing greater measures of protection to the public, thereby it is hoped reducing and preventing crimes in all areas of the State. Organisationally, research has indicated the desirability of providing extra police districts and whilst some new districts have been established, planning and implementation of other districts is proceeding. Initiatives have also been taken to streamline the general operations of the Police Force based on modern business principles and practices. The modernisation of equipment is continually proceeding consistent, of course, with availability of finance."

(3) "No. As the Honourable Member will know a pilot scheme involving the appointment of a community police officer is being established at Jamboree Heights. The results of this scheme will be carefully examined before any extension of this concept is considered."

(4) "There is no record of reports being made to the Police Department of 'intimidation' as suggested. Active attention is being and will continue to be given to this area by Camp Hill police. Continuous service is also given this area by mobile patrols."

**SALE OF REACTIVE BEEF**

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

(1) What agreement exists between the Queensland and Northern Territory administrations in regard to the selling of reactive beef to Queensland?

(2) What is Government practice regarding the sale of reactive beef?

*Answers:—*

(1) "The Honourable Member's Question could apply to both tuberculin reactors and brucellosis reactors. Normally tuberculin reactors in the Northern Territory are destroyed or slaughtered there and reactors to the test in Queensland are destroyed or slaughtered in this State. However, some reactors from the Northern Territory have been permitted to enter Queensland for slaughter at works where permanent inspectors are located. Brucellosis reactors are not permitted to enter Queensland from the Northern Territory as abattoirs in this State will not handle them. No reactors from Queensland are sent into the Northern Territory."

(2) "It has long been Government policy in this State as it has been in most parts of the world for tuberculin reactors and brucellosis reactors to be slaughtered at abattoirs and judged on their merits by competent meat inspectors. However, importing countries in recent years have refused to accept meat from tuberculin reactors unless the meat is cooked prior to shipment. As indicated above, brucellosis reactors are not being handled at works in this State at present."

#### CENTRAL STATE SCHOOL, MOUNT ISA

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

As the enrolment at the Central State School, Mount Isa, is declining because of changes in population, has his department made an investigation into the long-range use of the school? If so, what is the result and, if not, will he have one made?

*Answer:—*

"An investigation into the long-range use of Mount Isa Central State School has been made. Although enrolment at the school has declined, the intake of grade 1 pupils in 1975 is greater than in 1974. It is expected that the present enrolment will remain steady or slightly increase. The future of the school will be kept under review."

#### SEALING OF FLINDERS HIGHWAY

**Mr. Ahern** for **Mr. Bertoni**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Local Government,—

(1) Owing to the importance of the Flinders Highway to the North-west and the impassability of this road during the northern wet seasons, what is the scheduled completion date for the complete sealing of the highway?

(2) Will extra funds be made available for this project?

(3) What priority has the Flinders Highway with the State Government?

*Answers:—*

(1) "The scheduled completion date is the end of 1976."

(2) "Every effort will be made to allocate monies required for the above completion date but to achieve this funds will be required additional to those currently available."

(3) "It has high priority call on funds allocated to roads in the rural arterial category."

#### PRE-SCHOOL FOR MOUNT GARNET

**Mrs. Kippin**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Works,—

When will construction commence on the proposed pre-school at Mount Garnet and when will it be completed?

*Answer:—*

"Funds allocated do not provide for construction, or commencement of work on this project in this financial year's programme. Next year's programme has yet to be determined."

#### PRE-SCHOOL FOR RAVENSHOE

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

Is a pre-school planned for Ravenshoe? If so, when is it expected to be in operation?

*Answer:—*

"A pre-school centre is planned for Ravenshoe. Establishment of this centre is dependent upon acquisition of land. Action is proceeding in this regard."

#### GRANT TO JOHNSTONE SHIRE COUNCIL FOR FLOOD DAMAGE RESTORATION

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

(1) Did his department refuse a grant to the Johnstone Shire Council for replacing kerbing and guttering washed away in the floods early this year and, if so, what was the reason?

(2) Was the shire then given \$83,000 by R.E.D. to enable the work to be done?

*Answers:—*

(1) "No. Grants for restoration of flood damage were not administered by the Department of Local Government. While I would suggest that any further questions on this subject could well be directed to the Honourable the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, I am advised that a very large percentage of the Johnstone Shire Council's submission in early 1974 for flood damage funds was in respect of work that did not qualify as damage caused by flood submergence under the financial arrangements with the Commonwealth. A special

approach was made to the Commonwealth Government at the time to permit grant assistance in the case of damage caused by excessive wet weather conditions rather than actual flood submergence. However this approach was unsuccessful."

(2) "I understand that the council has received approval from the Commonwealth Government under its Regional Employment Development Scheme for kerbing and channelling in Innisfail estimated to cost \$73,692 and a toilet block estimated to cost \$9,098. Towards these costs the council must provide the sum of \$11,792. However, I must add that the terms of both schemes (flood damage and R.E.D.) were prescribed by the Commonwealth, and it is interesting to note that in the early stages of the R.E.D. Scheme the Commonwealth Government would not consider kerbing and channelling proposals. If the Commonwealth will also reverse its previous decision on flood damage, I am sure that the Queensland Government will be very pleased to pass on the appropriate grant to the Johnstone Shire Council and other local authorities."

#### COVERAGE OF TUESDAY RACE MEETINGS BY T.A.B.

**Mr. Houston**, pursuant to notice, asked The Treasurer,—

Concerning Tuesday race meetings covered by the T.A.B.—

(1) On galloping-only meetings, what agencies are open and what is considered to be a sufficient hold to cover the operating costs?

(2) What extra costs would be involved when a Lawnton greyhound meeting was held on the same day?

(3) During the operation of the T.A.B. coverage of greyhound meetings at Lawnton only, what agencies were open and what was considered the break-even hold to cover the agencies opening?

*Answers:—*

(1) "When an ordinary meeting, that is, not Melbourne Cup or some feature meeting, is held, 310 offices would presently be open and \$85,000 is estimated to be a sufficient hold to cover operating costs."

(2) "The extra costs involved include additional communication expenses, additional casual staff costs because of added turnover and the handling of separate pools, printing of race lists, agents' commissions etc."

(3) "The number of offices open would vary from 135 to 149 and the break-even figure is estimated at \$65,000. This estimate is based on direct costing only and does not include allocation of fixed charges such as rental of premises and telephones and other overhead charges.

For the further information of the Honourable Member, I table schedules marked 'A' and 'B' setting out details of the agencies referred to in items 1 and 3 of this Question respectively."

*Papers.*—Whereupon Sir Gordon Chalk laid upon the Table of the House the schedules referred to.

#### COMMONWEALTH FUNDS FOR LAND COMMISSION PROGRAMMES

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

(1) Is he aware of the report in the *Telegraph* of February 24 dealing with land prices in Sunbury and Meltin, Victoria?

(2) How much money has Queensland been offered in the Land Commission programme?

(3) How much has Queensland taken up?

*Answers:—*

(1) "I am aware of the report. I caused enquiries to be made at the time and I am informed that the State of Victoria is still negotiating with the Federal Government; the two Governments have not reached agreement."

(2 and 3) "The position in relation to Queensland is somewhat similar to the Victorian situation. Queensland is prepared to co-operate and negotiate with the Federal Government with a view to borrowing funds to provide fully serviced allotments in order to ease the shortage. Prices should be more acceptable if the supply of serviced lots meets the demand. However, one of the conditions imposed by the Federal Government on the borrowing of funds is that the land title to be given to the homeowner must be a restricted title; as I have said before, we are required to reserve in the title, for the benefit of the Crown, the ownership of the rights to develop the block. There are several sound reasons why we are not prepared to create this new form of land tenure. The State of Queensland has not borrowed any Federal funds for Land Commission or Growth Centre programmes and it is clear, at this stage, that the Federal Government will not lend funds unless we force restricted ownership upon the people of Queensland. We are still negotiating in the hope that the Federal Government will relax this stipulation. Land title is a State matter and principles vary from State to State; I cannot see the Federal Government continuing with this policy of imposing its will as a condition on loan borrowings. I repeat that agreement with the Federal Government will come quickly once the terms of Federal Government finance afford the people of this State the choice between unrestricted freehold or leasehold over a home site."

AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS COMMISSION  
GRANTS

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

(1) Is he aware of a Press statement that Dr. D'Urso, the person who has constantly encouraged defiance of authority in schools, has applied for a large grant from the Australian Schools Commission in order to promote the preservation of democracy in schools?

(2) Does the Australian Schools Commission consult with State Education Ministers as a matter of course in trying to ascertain facts which would assist in making a wise judgment in allocating taxpayers' money?

*Answers:—*

(1) "Yes, Dr. D'Urso received a grant of \$6,250 to provide the salary and incidental expenses of a co-ordinator of a model learning exchange centre to be established in Brisbane."

(2) "In the administration of the Innovations Program, the Schools Commission has established a panel of consultants in each State whose task is to review and report on each of the Submissions received. After individual reports have been prepared a panel of consultants makes a recommendation to the National Innovations Committee which ultimately makes recommendation to the Schools Commission itself about the funding of projects. Officers and experienced teachers of the Department of Education act as consultants. If any submission is judged to have implications for the administration of the Department of Education, the proposal is referred officially to the Department of Education through a designated liaison officer who is one of the consultants and who is a senior officer of the Department. These proposals are then discussed by the relevant senior staff in the department and the departmental view is officially communicated to the Schools Commissions review panel. A proposal such as that of Dr. D'Urso's would not be referred to my Department since it does not involve any of the programs administered by the department or any of the facilities maintained by the department."

SCHOOL BUS SERVICES

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

As many serious crimes implicating young children occur and as parents are becoming more concerned at young children having to walk two to three miles, often through populated areas, will he reduce from three miles to two miles the limit for school-bus pick-up stops for school children?

*Answer:—*

"I am aware that as a result of a move in one area of the State certain ineligible children were removed from a school transport service and I have no doubt this caused problems to some of the parents concerned. However, I am not aware of any widespread links between the occurrence of serious crimes implicating young children and the current provisions governing eligibility for transport, nor do I feel that the existing limits are unreasonable. I will have discussions on the matter with my Officers but at this stage I can give no undertaking that any alteration will be made to the existing provisions for transportation of school children."

COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO  
BEEF INDUSTRY

**Mr. Hartwig**, pursuant to notice, asked  
The Premier,—

As beef producers must have some indication as to what is going to happen to their industry over the next five years, will he appoint a commission of inquiry into all aspects of the beef industry as expeditiously as possible?

*Answer:—*

"There are a number of factors contributing to the present depressed state of the beef industry which are well-known. There could be other factors which would justify an Inquiry such as suggested by the Honourable Member. I shall have the matter fully considered and inform him as to the outcome of my enquiries."

CONTROL OF NOISE POLLUTION

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

(1) What is the legal position regarding the control of excessive noise?

(2) In what way is the proposed legislation introduced in the New South Wales Parliament this week an improvement on our existing laws?

(3) Will he introduce similar legislation, if a need exists, in an effort to control noise pollution?

*Answers:—*

(1) "There is no general law in Queensland covering 'noise pollution'. There are various provisions dealing with the creation of noise in certain situations and in certain ways. For instance, in the Traffic Regulations it is an offence to cause undue noise by the operation of a motor vehicle. In respect of amplified noise, section 35A of the *Vagrants, Gaming and Other Offences Act 1931-1971* makes provision and in accordance with the section there can be some summary action taken by a police officer. Reference should be made to the section, which is quite lengthy, for the

procedure to be adopted. In respect of licensed premises the Licensing Commission has power to regulate noise levels in respect of entertainment at those premises. Provisions dealing generally with noise are contained in many by-laws and ordinances of local authorities—for instance, Division 4 of Part 2 of Chapter 12 of the Brisbane City Council Ordinances. Essentially these by-laws cover the creation of nuisances which affect the comfort of, and in particular, the sleep of residents. Reference should be made to the particular by-law or ordinance. Individuals have, of course, civil rights where the noise constitutes a nuisance.”

(2) “No details of the New South Wales legislation have been received.”

(3) “It is suggested that the Honourable Member direct his questions to the Honourable Ministers for Local Government and Health respectively.”

#### HOUSING COMMISSION ACTIVITIES, INALA

**Mr. K. J. Hooper**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Works,—

(1) How many houses has the Housing Commission built in Inala for both rental and purchase?

(2) How many more houses does the commission plan to build there?

(3) How much land does the commission own there?

(4) Does the commission plan to build pensioner units at Inala and, if so, at what location?

*Answers:—*

(1) “4,622 dwellings comprising 1,573 ownership and 3,049 rental.”

(2) “The commission proposes to utilise its remaining vacant residential sites and would be prepared to acquire a limited number of sites in or adjacent to Inala. However it does not propose to make further massive land acquisitions or to extend Inala to any major degree.”

(3 and 4) “The commission has 52 surveyed residential allotments and also a few general purpose areas. A number of these residential allotments adjoin each other, and combined would provide 13 good sites for single storey or two storey aged persons units, or one or two bedroom accommodation. They are located near the Civic Centre and in the Skylark Street area. The allotments concerned are reserved for use in this manner, but this type of accommodation would be classed by the Brisbane City Council as ‘multiple-dwellings’. I raised this matter recently with the previous Minister, and since then the commission has again approached the City Council but to date has not obtained the concurrence of the council to the use

of these sites in this very desirable manner. The remaining 20 sites will be used for construction of houses.”

#### TELEPHONE LINKS WITH COUNTRY TOWNS FOR TEACHING

**Mr. K. J. Hooper**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Education,—

Has a system of teaching by skilled tutors using phone links with country towns been contemplated, to establish more specialised and speedy communication between tutors and students and broaden the number of senior top classes so lacking in country towns?

*Answer:—*

“No. I am informed that a system similar to this does operate in Tasmania at the tertiary level. However, it’s felt such a system would not be feasible in a large, decentralised State such as Queensland. The system could not replace a teacher but could be used only to supplement a correspondence course for students. Students wishing to undertake senior studies in centres where there are no senior classes may do so by correspondence. They can attend the local Secondary Department and receive help and advice from the teaching staff at the school.”

#### TELEVISION PROGRAMME FEATURING PREMIER

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

(1) Is the new television programme featuring the Premier being paid for from State Consolidated Revenue?

(2) If so, what is the cost of the programme each week?

(3) What allocation has been made by the Government for the continuance of the programme during the present financial year?

(4) Was any allocation for the programme set aside in his Budget presented to this Parliament last September and, if so, how much?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 4) “I refer the Honourable Member to the Estimates of the Probable Ways and Means discussed at length in this House during the Budget and Estimates debates last year. Included in these Estimates is an appropriation in the Premier’s Department for expenditure by the State Public Relations Bureau and it is from this appropriation that the expenditure referred to by the Honourable Member would be met. The responsibility for the detailed and itemised expenditure under individual appropriations and votes within these Estimates rests with the responsible Minister.”

## YORKEYS KNOB ROAD

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

(1) Have sufficient funds been made available to complete the Yorkeys Knob Road?

(2) When will the work be recommenced?

(3) Which will be the constructing authority?

(4) What is the expected date of completion?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "Work is due to resume in six weeks time."

(3) "Mulgrave Shire Council is the constructing authority."

(4) "Work is expected to be completed in September, 1975."

## DAINTREE ROAD, DOUGLAS SHIRE

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

(1) Is he aware of the state of the Daintree Road in the Douglas Shire and that the school bus can not and will not attempt to travel on the road when it is wet?

(2) What action is being taken to make this an all-weather road which will allow the children of Daintree to attend high school at all times?

Answers:—

(1) "The unsurfaced sections of the Daintree Road have deteriorated somewhat due to shortages in maintenance funds but some additional monies by way of unemployment relief have now been allocated for maintenance on this road. This should ease the situation as far as maintenance is concerned."

(2) "The prospect of funds for construction of these sections in the near future is remote. As previously advised there is real shortage of funds in the rural arterial category."

## KURANDA RANGE ROAD AND COOK HIGHWAY

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

(1) Is he aware that repair gangs on the Kuranda Range Road and the Cook Highway have been reduced to one, making it very dangerous to control traffic and work at the same time, thus neglecting the maintenance of the roads?

(2) Is he aware that there are not sufficient funds to have the high grass on the edges of the roads cut?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes, maintenance gangs have been reduced to one to make best use of resources with the funds that have been available. I am sure safety measures have not been overlooked."

(2) "Notification of a R.E.D. Scheme allocation for Kuranda Range Road has just been received. This will now allow an increase in the strength of maintenance forces and the high grass at the roadside to be dealt with in due course. An application for R.E.D. Scheme money for the Cook Highway has been requested and approval is awaited."

MISS CAROLINE MANN, STUDENT  
REMOVED FROM PUBLIC GALLERY,  
PARLIAMENT HOUSE

Mr. Frawley, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Police,—

(1) Is he aware that Miss Caroline Mann, the university student who was removed from the public gallery of Parliament on March 11, was the secretary of the University Labor Club?

(2) Has he any knowledge or evidence that Miss Mann was planted in the gallery to cause disruption of the proceedings of this Assembly?

(3) Was Miss Mann convicted of putting sugar in the petrol-tank of a tractor last year during a conservation demonstration?

Answers:—

(1) "The edition of *Semper Floreat* dated March 6, 1975 reported that Caroline Mann was the Secretary of the University Labor Club. This information has not been verified by the Police Department nor is it proposed to do so."

(2) "The control of this Legislative Assembly is vested in the Honourable the Speaker."

(3) "I have no information which would indicate that Miss Caroline Mann was convicted of an offence as suggested, under that name."

## DISEASED FISH, BALONNE RIVER

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

(1) Further to a preliminary report by his department on diseased fish from the Balonne River, has the bacteria causing the infection been identified and, if so, from what source does this bacteria come?

(2) Are fish carrying these external lesions fit for human consumption?



(3) Have fish carrying similar lesions been found in other streams in Queensland?

*Answers:—*

(1) "It is incorrect to say that bacteria caused the infection affecting these fish. The primary agent was a type of parasite called an anchor-worm. The initial lesions caused by these parasites have undoubtedly been further eroded by secondary bacterial infection. Although the bacteria taken from these fish have not yet been identified, they are expected to be common varieties normally present in river water, and likely to infect any fish with skin damage."

(2) "Although neither the anchor-worms nor the common bacteria found in these types of lesions pose a human health risk, one cannot rule out the possibility that the lesions might have become contaminated with bacteria injurious to humans if the fish have been swimming in water polluted by untreated sewage, for instance. However, this is unlikely to occur in the Balonne River."

(3) "Yes."

#### DRIVING LICENCE TESTS, TOOWOOMBA

**Mr. Warner**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Police,—

(1) Is he aware that at present the period of time necessary to gain a licence test in Toowoomba is reported to be five months, as there is only one testing officer available in this city of 60,000 persons?

(2) Will he consider the immediate allocation of another officer to relieve this situation?

*Answers:—*

(1) "The Inspector of Police at Toowoomba reports that the waiting period for prospective drivers requiring a test to obtain a driver's license for a motor vehicle, other than a motor cycle, is up to and including July 1, 1975. The waiting period for motor cyclists is up to and including July 30, 1975."

(2) "There is no provision on the estimates which would allow the appointment of another civilian testing officer at Toowoomba. However, a general survey is being undertaken throughout the State to assess requirements for the appointment of civilian testing officers and where extra civilian testing officers are required, a recommendation will be made to the Honourable the Minister for Transport. Pending the appointment of such testing officers, police officers will assist to ensure no unreasonable delay is occasioned."

#### PURCHASE OF HOUSING COMMISSION HOUSES

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

Will he detail the procedure used by his department when a tenant of a Housing Commission house requests a buy-out figure to purchase a Housing Commission property?

*Answer:—*

"When a tenant seeks advice of the purchase price of the State rental house he is occupying, the commission satisfies itself that he is eligible under the State Housing Act, and the Commonwealth 'Means Test' where applicable. The tenant must intend to use the house as a home for himself and family and not to resell within 5 years. He needs to have the financial capacity to pay the instalments and to meet the council rates and maintenance costs. The commission calculates a sale price based on replacement cost experience, and allows depreciation for the age of the house. When quoting a price, the commission, also advises the minimum cash deposit, and the amount allowed off the sale price for the principal paid by the applicant in his rent. The offer is held open for a reasonable period. If the applicant cannot meet the full deposit in cash he may build up the balance of deposit by regular instalments in addition to his rent. When deposit requirements are met and the applicant remains eligible the commission enters into a Contract of Sale with him. Normally the purchaser would pay off the debt by monthly instalments but if he wishes he may pay out the full amount at any time."

#### ALLOCATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT FUNDS TO LONGREACH SHIRE COUNCIL

**Mr. Yewdale**, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

(1) Did he recently receive a telegram from the Longreach Council strongly protesting against unrealistic allocation of unemployment funds to that council and, if so, was reference made in the telegram to the State Government disbursement of Commonwealth grant funds and the need for urgent assistance within this council area?

(2) What action has he taken since the receipt of the telegram?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) "The Chairman and Clerk of the Longreach Shire Council called on me last week. The question of the council's finances was discussed and the situation clarified."

MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS,  
CENTRAL QUEENSLAND

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

In view of the continued, protracted delays in having registration stickers and motor vehicle transfers processed within his department, will he consider creating a facility in Rockhampton for the purpose of having Central Queensland motorists supplied direct with stickers, number plates and transfers, thereby overcoming to a large degree the Brisbane backlog in his department and also creating at least some form of decentralisation, which his Government is always advocating?

Answer:—

“The issue of plates and labels at country centres has been accepted in principle. Some of the considerable work associated with changes to registration procedures has been done, and the number of people engaged full time is being increased to enable quicker progress.”

COMMONWEALTH MINING POLICIES

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

(1) What are some of the frustrations caused by the Commonwealth Government to mining companies in Queensland which have, by their entry and expansion, given employment to hundreds of Queenslanders?

(2) Are Commonwealth policies hindering expansion of mining activities in Queensland, thus hindering job opportunities at a time when inflation is running wild, causing heavy unemployment, resulting in insecurity for many families?

Answers:—

(1) “The extent to which the Commonwealth Governments have frustrated the mining industry over the last two years gives scope for a very lengthy reply. However, the chief causes of frustration are those in the general area of uncertainty. (i) There is an overall lack of certainty in the industry’s future in that Commonwealth policies on minerals and energy are yet to be clearly expressed; this is compounded by the difficulty both industry and State Departments have in establishing any reasonable dialogue with the Minister for Minerals and Energy. (ii) There is lack of certainty over financial arrangements—the industry does not know to what extent overseas financial participation will be permitted; it does not know if and when farm-in proposals will be approved; it does not know whether it will again be the victim of a see-sawing policy of revaluation and devaluation; it does not know whether it will be permitted to export any of the minerals it discovers. (iii) The greatest uncertainty it faces is the threat of nationalisation implied in the Petroleum and Minerals Authority

Act, the Pipelines Authority Act, and the Seas and Submerged Lands Act. Against these uncertainties, there are certainties that have been brought home to the industry and these are not in its favour—I speak of the substantial loss of taxation incentives and the knowledge that excessive internal inflation has greatly diminished profitability, particularly for small or marginal enterprises.”

(2) “Yes, particularly in the field of petroleum exploration, where recently available figures speak for themselves. Here not only jobs are at stake, but the future of the country in terms of limited degree of self-sufficiency and the prospect of falling petroleum reserves. On the mineral exploration side, many of the smaller companies have collapsed or have had to greatly curtail their operations.”

WASTE WATER DISPOSAL,  
MURPHYORES INC. PTY.  
LTD.

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

(1) Has the Water Quality Council been requested to investigate the disposal of waste water produced by Murphyores Inc. Pty. Ltd. as a result of Waterworks Licences 30145 and 30104?

(2) If so, what was the result of the investigation and, if not, will he have the relevant body investigate the position to make sure that no damage to the environment will occur?

Answers:—

(1) “The Water Quality Council has not been requested to investigate the disposal of waste water produced by Murphyores Inc. Pty. Ltd. as a result of Waterworks Licenses 30145 and 30104.”

(2) “Inquiries indicate that the water after use will be disposed of on land. An investigation by the Water Quality Council in conjunction with the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission will be arranged as early as possible.”

HOUSING COMMISSION HOUSES,  
BUNDABERG

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

(1) How many houses has the Housing Commission erected in Bundaberg?

(2) How many houses are now available for rental?

(3) How many applications for rental are on hand at the Clerk of the Court’s office, Bundaberg?

Answers:—

(1) “283 comprising 183 ownership and 100 rental including 12 aged persons units. Current contracts will provide seven further houses.”

(2) "There is no stock of old or new vacant houses, as such are let immediately they become available."

(3) "100 points category, 14; 80 points, 3; 60 points, 6; 40 points, 33; nil priority, 50; aged persons, 26."

**POLICE STRENGTH, HERVEY BAY**

**Mr. Powell**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Police,—

(1) What is the present strength of the Police Force at Hervey Bay?

(2) Is it intended to strengthen the force numerically during the forthcoming Easter holidays?

(3) If no increase is to be made during this holiday season, is it planned to strengthen the force at Hervey Bay in proportion to the large number of people who visit the area at holiday time?

*Answers:—*

(1) "The strength establishment comprises: 1 sergeant 1/C; 1 sergeant 2/C; 5 constables; and 1 civilian general assistant."

(2) "Yes. Four additional constables will be detailed for duty at Hervey Bay."

(3) "See Answer to (2)."

**QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

**ALLEGED TAPPING OF PREMIER'S TELEPHONE**

**Mr. BURNS:** I ask the Deputy Premier and Treasurer: Is he aware of the disquiet that could be caused to international businessmen by the Premier's allegations of phone-tapping of his calls to Japan? Will he arrange for the Federal Attorney-General, under the Telephone Communication (Interception) Act of 1960, to conduct an investigation into these most serious allegations so that the facts may be ascertained?

**Sir GORDON CHALK:** I read the Press report this morning of the statement attributed to the Premier yesterday at a Press interview, regarding phone tapping. It is true that the Premier indicated at a recent Cabinet meeting that he was suspicious that this was going on. On the matter of an inquiry I can only say to the honourable member it is a matter for the Commonwealth to decide, and it is up to him to discuss that with the appropriate Minister.

**MEDIBANK HEALTH SCHEME**

**Mr. LANE:** I ask the Minister for Health: Has he seen reports in yesterday's "Telegraph" wherein the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in this House was reported to have talked about a free vote in this Parliament on Medibank. Can the Minister enlighten the honourable gentleman on the current status of Medibank and the difference between it and the possibility of a new Commonwealth-State agreement?

**Dr. EDWARDS:** I was surprised at the statement by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition about a free vote in this Parliament on Medibank. It is obvious to me and to people who know the situation that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is completely ignorant of the facts concerning Medibank. I take this opportunity to remind him of his responsibility, as a member of this House and shadow spokesman for Health, to understand the facts of Medibank.

Obviously he did not listen to the statement I made in this House last week. I remind him that Medibank, whether he likes it or not, will be a fact on 1 July, and he, as well as other members of this House, will receive a Medibank card within the next few weeks. I also remind the honourable member that no matter what the vote in this House or anywhere else that situation will obtain.

The Commonwealth-State hospital financial agreement, which we are negotiating at the present time, is an entirely different matter. The honourable member is ignorant of that fact. I should like to make the situation clear: I have been instructed by Cabinet to continue negotiations with the Commonwealth Government on this matter. Negotiations will continue and I shall report back to Cabinet and the joint parties. I have no intention of recommending to the Premier or Cabinet that a free vote be held on this issue.

**PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY INTEREST RATES**

**Mr. CASEY:** I ask the Minister for Works and Housing: In view of the action taken recently by the Minister in New South Wales responsible for building societies to reduce the maximum deposit rate of interest by 1 per cent, thus providing relief for home-buyers in keeping with similar action by other lending authorities, will he take similar action to reduce interest rates for Queensland building societies?

**Mr. LEE:** I have been in constant touch with the advisory committee of the permanent building societies. To date it has not reached a decision on whether interest rates should or should not be lowered. Until it has tendered its advice and I have consulted my departmental officers and Cabinet, I do not intend taking any action.

**BANNING OF CANNED BEER AT FOOTBALL MATCHES**

**Mr. DEAN:** I direct a question to the Minister for Police. No doubt he noticed in yesterday's "Telegraph" the photograph and statement—

"Bugle-blowing Redcliffe fan, Alan Unsworth, above, this week will get a Brisbane Rugby League ruling on a police ban on his tooting."

Will he instruct the police to take the same action in regard to people taking full cans

of beer to football matches and ban them altogether during football matches and until the end of the afternoon?

**Mr. HODGES:** The matter will be investigated. We have been investigating this matter for some considerable time. The matter is being investigated and negotiated between the Minister for Justice and me.

#### AMENDMENT OF COURT CHARGE BY MINISTER FOR JUSTICE

**Mr. HANSON:** I ask the Minister for Justice: Has the Minister noted an article in "The Gladstone Observer" of Saturday, 15 March 1975, and a subsequent article in the "Sunday Sun", in which he was accused of using his ministerial powers to keep an attractive nursing sister out of gaol? In view of the statements that have been made, I ask: Is the Minister aware of those articles? What was the reason for amending the charge by deleting the words "being a person disqualified under the Act from holding or obtaining a driver's licence."? Is he prepared to make a statement on the matter?

**Mr. KNOX:** I am aware of both articles. The one in "The Gladstone Observer" is inaccurate because it states that I introduced the amendments to the Act, when in fact, as the honourable member knows, I did not do so. I think the burden of the article in "The Gladstone Observer" was whether I had any right to alter the charge as I had introduced the Act. The premise, of course, is incorrect, so the article's sentiment also is incorrect.

The article that appeared in "Sunday Sun" is correct. In relation to the comments that were made in the article—when I was approached by "Sunday Sun" I was not in a position to consult the files, and that is indicated in the article. I did so yesterday and found that I made the decision on 14 November last year; therefore, it is understandable that during the week-end I could not recall the circumstances. The circumstances of the case were such that after consideration by the Solicitor-General and advice to me, it was proper for me to take the course of action that I did in the interests of justice.

#### FORM OF QUESTION

**Mr. DEAN** (Sandgate) having given notice of a question about a rail stoppage—

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! In fairness—I do not think that the Minister for Transport could be expected to have that information at his finger-tips. The Minister would not know the name of the engine-driver or anybody else concerned. I suggest the honourable member put the question on notice.

**Mr. DEAN:** I bow to your ruling, Mr. Speaker, and put the question on notice for tomorrow. However, I point out that I do

not want to know the name of the engine-driver. I want to know who gave the instruction to put the wagon of pigs in that position on the train.

At 12 noon,

*In accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 17, the House proceeded with Government business.*

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY

##### RESUMPTION OF DEBATE—FIFTH AND SIXTH ALLOTTED DAYS

Debate resumed from 13 March (see p. 324) on Mrs. Kippin's motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

**Mr. JONES** (Cairns) (12 noon): As is usual at the beginning of a new Parliament I wish to affirm my loyalty and that of the electors of Cairns to Her Majesty the Queen.

I congratulate the new members who have taken their seats for the first time in this House. In accordance with tradition I should like also to congratulate the mover and seconder of the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. I trust that they and the other new members will find a great deal of satisfaction in belonging to this Assembly.

Having contested a number of elections I noticed during the last election that some aspects of it left much to be desired. I refer particularly to the action to be taken in accordance with section 35 (2) (a) of the Elections Act. Many people were disfranchised. Returning officers, presiding officers, poll clerks and all others officially associated with the receiving of votes, vote counting and recording of votes did a particularly good job, and must be congratulated for their smooth and efficient running of the poll. However, a good deal remains to be corrected in the running of an election.

With our changing society, rolls canvassing leaves much to be desired. In many households both the husband and the wife work and the canvass takes place while they are at work. In the last election people who had been on the roll for years were disfranchised because their names did not appear on the roll. In the light of changed circumstances, the Minister for Justice should look into this problem. We need an alternative method of enrolling constituents. I know of one person who had been on the roll for 35 years and was disfranchised. People do not take voting lightly, and they get very upset when they are told that their names are not on the roll. When a person is told by a presiding officer that his vote will not be counted, he gets really upset. Complaints are filtering through to me and, I am sure, to quite a number of other members about the disfranchising of people under section 35 (2) (a). When they claimed a vote under that section, their votes were not recorded.

On previous occasions I have brought to the attention of the House the trend of parties and candidates to use children at

polling places. I do not endorse that practice, and I take the opportunity to roundly condemn it. It is a bad precedent to expose children to the hurly-burly of politics at a tender age, particularly on election day. Juveniles should not be subjected to the rigours of the electoral temper at that time. Elections are a very serious and sincere exercise of democracy, and the exercise on polling day is not to be taken lightly. Children of a tender age should not be made to front up to the situations that arise. They should not be handing out electoral pamphlets, nor should they be canvassing at polling booths. The practice of children handing out how-to-vote cards could have a bad reaction among voters. In fact, many protested to me about this practice and said that they did not take too kindly to it. These methods were adopted not by my party in my electorate but by representatives of other parties.

I concur with those who say that it is a retrograde step to have children employed at polling booths. Unfortunately this was not the first occasion on which it occurred, nor is this the first occasion on which I have brought it to the attention of the House. I raise the matter again today because I am disturbed at the fact that it has happened again. I would not like to see this practice become the rule. If improvisation is the only alternative, the children should be left out of it.

Honourable members and the general public must be made aware of the startling disclosures that have come to light as to the cost of elections not only in Queensland but in other States and on a national basis as well. I realise that costs are escalating, but they could be kept to a reasonable level if political parties did not overdo their intense election campaigns.

I have no quarrel with the cost met by the Justice Department in educating the electors in how to vote and their legal obligations. I am, however, expressing concern at the expenditure by some political parties and candidates during the two most recent election campaigns.

Candidates could well look to the possibility of saturating the news media and of turning people away from politics as a result. The people may tend to ignore political issues. Candidates seem to be concerned more with creating images than with pursuing the issues at stake. We will be in a dangerous situation if we saturate the media to such an extent that we ignore the need to have people think about the issues involved in elections. It is an unhealthy state of affairs, and if we allow it to continue we will see undercurrents of hate as well as of emotive and inflammatory actions designed to divide the community. The result might well be that the voters will be filled only with emotion and not with the ability to think. I shall elaborate on that a little later.

I believe that in some electorates anything up to \$50,000 was the sum allocated for the campaign budget.

**Mr. Frawley:** That's fantasy.

**A Government Member:** Prove it.

**Mr. JONES:** I stand corrected. I hear the interjections. It is not my prerogative, nor my desire, to prove it. However, statements about sums of this magnitude have been bandied about. In fact, some people have even skited about them. If election budgets are allowed to remain at this high level they will lead the public to believe that only members of some financial substance are able to stand for Parliament. The average citizen will feel that he will not be able to nominate as a candidate. I hope that electoral budgets of this magnitude will be the exception and not the norm. I sincerely hope that we become aware of the situation that is developing and also of the high cost of election campaigns. Fortunately all of the big spenders are not elected. I hope that following the recent election campaign the pressure which has been applied may be regarded as a gleam of hope.

In this context I wish to emphasise the danger to democracy by citing the American situation. The ultimate conclusion which must be reached is that unless some restriction is imposed we will lead our people away from democratic procedures. Spending on elections should be limited by statute. Such a restriction applies in Great Britain, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Philippines, Rhodesia and Singapore. South Africa had a similar provision, which was repealed in 1972. Quite recently the United States of America implemented such legislation. Doubtless that was necessary in the light of the buying-the-presidency campaigns which were among the Nixon tactics.

Another aspect of the recent campaign which caused some disquiet was the utilisation of State facilities for the sole purpose of campaigning. This is contemptible. Public servants, like members of Parliament, have a responsibility. Neither section should allow itself to be so compromised in the election situation. I have purposely not referred to Government departments, but I believe that somewhere, someone—if not someone in this Assembly, it should certainly be a public servant—should have the bigness to say "No". If we do not say it and the public servants do not take a stand, we are letting democracy down by starting to play bunyip politics. It is high time that public rights and public money were protected. If this Parliament will not act, public servants have a role to play in putting this matter right.

I do not believe that the personalities of leaders should be emphasised as they are by the image-makers. They seem to build up leaders into something that they are not. I recall the situation dating back to the time of the image-building of former Prime Minister, Billy McMahon, who got to the stage where he said, "I cannot remember,

in all the time I have been in politics, that I have ever lied." That, of course, was to his detriment. Eventually everybody is caught in his own build-up or image. If we are to build up our leaders to the point where they alone are to be judged, that is dangerous to democracy.

I remind all honourable members, both new and old, that we all come here to be sworn and take an oath of allegiance. Perhaps some honourable members, in their excitement as new members, were over-anxious to get on with the job and like some participants in a marriage ceremony who take their vows lightly, did not pay heed to the significance of the oath of allegiance or what is entailed. We on this side of the House are often criticised on our attitude to the oath of allegiance, which, of course, we do not take lightly. However, I believe its significance is reduced somewhat by continual reference to it.

I do not believe that the Address-in-Reply debate should be necessary except at the beginning of the first session of each Parliament. When a new Parliament such as this Forty-first Parliament is elected, the Governor in his Opening Speech should outline what his Government intends doing for the following three years. The Address-in-Reply debate would follow and that should be the end of it till the next Parliament. To have an official Opening of Parliament each financial year seems to be a little redundant. In those circumstances we tend to lose sight of the true significance of Parliament or what it is all about.

It seems to me that it is a contradictory situation, calling almost for contempt, because we affirm our loyalty at the beginning of each new Parliament. From our point of view, that should be it. We should then get on with the job. We have all affirmed our loyalty. We commenced this practice in the cubs and scouts, performed it again on entry into the Royal Australian Air Force, and with others in the community have repeated it on many and diverse occasions. I believe this matter should be reconsidered with a view to having members swear their allegiance only once in every Parliament. I do not think we should be obliged to do it every time we enter an Address-in-Reply debate. It becomes almost buffoonery to do exactly the same thing time and time again, inviting ridicule and criticism.

As elected representatives we are here to get on with the job. We should heed the true significance of the oath, and take it once and once only. After all, we promise and swear that we will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. That is the way it reads. For the benefit of the new members I think it could be read again—

"I do sincerely promise and swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, as lawful sovereign of the United

Kingdom, Australia and Her other Realms and Territories, and to her heirs and successors according to law. So help me God."

It may be as well to observe that in addition to that oath, the Ministers of the Crown when appointed swear another oath at the Executive Council as members of the Cabinet. I am not sure, but I think they take that oath once only, at the beginning of their term of office in each Parliament when they are sworn in as Cabinet Ministers. They do not take the oath or reaffirm their allegiance each time Cabinet reassembles, or prior to a new session of Parliament.

In the light of what the honourable member for Bundaberg said and what I intend to raise in a moment, it is rather interesting to look at the oath taken by the Ministers. That oath is—

"I do swear that I will, according to the best of my ability, skill, and knowledge, well and faithfully execute the office and trust of (his portfolio) of the State of Queensland and its dependencies in the Commonwealth of Australia, and that I will in all things, honestly, zealously, and impartially discharge and exercise the duties, powers, and authorities appertaining to me in the said office. So help me God."

After they have sworn that oath, they subscribe the roll before an attestor.

I raise this matter because of the statement by the honourable member for Bundaberg that during the election campaign threats were made by the Premier. To my knowledge they were not made in my electorate, but I have heard of their being made in other areas. It has always been the proud boast of democracies based on the Westminster system, within Parliaments of the British Commonwealth, that without fear or favour Opposition members are treated equally with Government members in the allocation of funds for works and on a basis of equity in all other things.

I remind Ministers of the oaths they swore, and in relation to what was said by the honourable member for Bundaberg I should like an assurance from the Premier that this will not occur in future election campaigns, that the Westminster system will be adhered to and that there will be no breach of faith concerning that important principle. Owing to what has been said and the charges that have been levelled on this occasion, we want a direct pledge from the Premier. We want no warped view of the situation. We want responsible government. As members of the Opposition, we demand equality and equity with all other members of this Assembly.

**Mr. Jensen:** I said it was blackmail, and it was blackmail.

**Mr. JONES:** Yes. I heard and noted the honourable member's remarks. I am concerned about what he said, and I think every member of this Assembly should be concerned. I have no doubt that what he

said is true and correct. It has permeated campaigns and as Australians, Queenslanders, North Queenslanders, Cairnsites or whatever we may be, if Ministers of the Crown are able to say, intimate or indicate these things, we should be most concerned about the turn that our democratic system has taken.

**Mr. Jensen:** He has had plenty of time to answer the charges.

**Mr. JONES:** Yes, and he has not deigned to do so. I think it is un-Australian. We know that in the heat of a campaign some things are said that are not meant. However, I think that this was a dangerous statement and it set a dangerous precedent. I am most concerned about the situation that arose. As the honourable member for Bundaberg reminds me, when the editor of a newspaper highlights and condemns such a situation, it is time for the Premier to take cognisance of it and either apologise or deny the allegation.

**Mr. Houston** interjected.

**Mr. JONES:** To use the National Party phrase during the election—the Premier should have stood up and been counted on that issue. Not very many of that party were out in front on that occasion.

**Mr. Houston:** Apparently the Ministers presently in the Chamber must support the Premier's view, because none of them have said anything.

**Mr. JONES:** That is obvious from their silence. I think that all of the Government's attitude, action and verve are aimed in the one direction—being re-elected. We saw this highlighted in the last campaign. There was no thought for the welfare and good government of most of the people in the State. Money is channelled not necessarily into areas of need but into influencing the voting power of a section of the community. This is a dangerous precedent indeed.

I remember quite well that in October during the last throes of the previous Parliament the Deputy Premier and Treasurer took a fortnight to convince the Premier that it was the right time to go to the people. I believe it did take a fortnight for the Premier to wake up to the situation. It has been proved that it was the right political climate for him and for his brand of opportunist politics. He did not let the Parliament run its full term. However, I repeat that it took him a fortnight to make the decision.

I believe that the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, as the leader of the Liberal Party, missed a golden opportunity to take advantage of the situation when the Speaker resigned. He should then have thrown down the gauntlet to the National Party or the Country Party—I am not sure which it was at the time—and said, "Right, Mr. Premier, we will go our own ways during this election campaign. This is the time to go our own ways. This is when I will gain the ascendancy. This is when the Liberal Party will

elect a Liberal Speaker." They had the numbers, with the assistance of an open vote rather than a party vote in the House. If he had thrown down the gauntlet, he could have taken advantage of the situation, and I believe that that would have put him on full throttle for the election campaign. But he missed a political opportunity. Probably he missed the Premiership of the State, and once again he has been relegated to the position of bridesmaid instead of becoming the bride.

He is now in the unenviable position of having no alternative open to him. All that he can do is remain subservient to the National Party in this State.

**Mr. Casey:** It looks as though he might have been the bridesmaid at a shot-gun wedding, too.

**Mr. JONES:** Yes. And, as I said the other day, what begets the partnership will probably not be in the best interests of the State, either.

Among the reasons given for the Labor Party's poor showing at the last election, it has been said that we were judged on national issues and that it was the only time that a State Opposition had been defeated on Federal issues. It is said that, in the normal course of events, Oppositions do not win elections; Governments defeat themselves. If a State election is fought on Federal issues like nationhood and the demise of the States and on economic judgments beyond the control of State Parliamentarians and for which they are in no way responsible, that surely is a flaw in the argument that the States are sovereign and supreme. If we are to be judged on Federal issues, where is the argument that State issues are the ones at stake? If each State election develops into a mini Federal election, we will gradually eliminate the need for State issues, State elections or State Governments. Therefore honourable members opposite ought to be humble in their triumph, gracious in defeat, and tolerant of failure. I certainly am not discouraged by the present position.

**Mr. Lester:** You can invite Mr. Whitlam up here next time, too.

**Mr. JONES:** I think that interjection demonstrates the attitude of the National Party. We will be happy to have Mr. Whitlam up whenever he decides to have a Federal election. We will then be out on the stump with him. We do not doubt that in the long term he will be shown to be right, and we will be fighting side by side with him for the Australian Labor Party. A man must do what he thinks is right, and we all have that choice.

When honourable members opposite accuse the Federal Government of centralising, they should consider some of the centralism practised by the State Government. Those country members who are now bleating with their squeaky voices should have a talk with members of local authorities about subsidies

and about who hands out the money to them. Let them see whether local authorities are happy about the centralised control of local government funds. I might return to that subject later, but it is a matter to which honourable members opposite might give some thought.

I suggest that they might also look at the Queen Street control of Government departments. How many departments are controlled from areas or regions outside South-east Queensland? If Government members look at Cabinet appointments and many other matters, they might well begin to worry about where the Government is going and what effect its policies will have.

In my opinion, the Premier showed contempt for North Queensland and Far North Queensland—I have said this before; I shall keep repeating it—in appointing members of this Assembly to Cabinet. Some parallel aspects of appointments to Cabinet in other places also exist here and need careful consideration. Statements to that effect have been made by august persons such as His Royal Highness Prince Philip. I ask honourable members opposite to look at the Cabinet appointments in this State and see whether or not they are proud of them. If the Minister in charge of the House thinks that North Queenslanders will accept the sop of a nominal office of Northern Development, which is already provided for in the Federal sphere, he is falling far short of making a correct assessment of the situation. The Government of Queensland condemned decisions made by the Australian Government when Cabinet portfolios were being allocated in Canberra, and then aped the Australian Government in allocating portfolios in its own Cabinet.

I abhor the abuse and misrepresentation that was a feature of the recent election campaign.

**Mr. Moore:** You are supersensitive.

**Mr. JONES:** I am sufficiently realistic to accept that politics is sometimes a fairly dirty game. That is not to our credit, Mr. Deputy Speaker, of course. As has already been said, I am prepared to mix it with the best. Some people may think I am being a little bit naive in saying that, but I assure them I have been through the mill and have been in many worse situations. However, when people are abused and misrepresented as a matter of course by opposing political candidates, that standard of conduct leaves much to be desired. The excesses of the recent election campaign were unnecessary and uncalled for, and I think it is unhealthy to have undercurrents of hate dividing the community.

Then I come to the situation in this House. It is certainly a one-sided Parliament. In fact, it is almost like the Malaysian Parliament, to which a person is rarely elected if he is not a Moslem. I think this is a dangerous precedent, and I reiterate that I am

very concerned about the increasing intensity of the hatred that seems to be permeating election campaigns in this State.

**Government Members** interjected.

**Mr. JONES:** I also remind honourable members opposite, who are becoming rather vocal, that each swing has its counter-swing, and an equally big swing to the A.L.P. is the only thing that will enable the gerrymander in this State to be remedied.

There was another aspect of the campaign that I thought was rather nasty. I was freely informed by older members of the National Party in my electorate whom I number among my friends that instructions were issued before the Prime Minister's visit to Queensland that demonstrations were to take place in each area in which he appeared. As honourable members are aware, a demonstration took place on the Gold Coast; a similar demonstration took place in Cairns. In my opinion, the situation should be considered carefully and an attempt should be made to ensure that the rights and privileges that honourable members opposite ask for themselves are also available to others. That is the fundamental basis of co-existence. I have here an enlarged photograph of a demonstration at the Cairns Airport. The candidate who stood against me is prominently featured in that photograph. He is holding a placard.

**Mr. Moore:** Who is it?

**Mr. JONES:** The National Party candidate. I forget his name. The honourable member can look it up.

**Mr. Lindsay:** What is wrong with a peaceful demonstration?

**Mr. JONES:** I can answer that question conclusively. I have taken part in peaceful or non-violent demonstrations. There is nothing at all wrong with them. They are part of our society and part of our democratic build-up. But what happened at the Cairns Airport was no peaceful demonstration. I was a witness to what occurred there. Did the honourable member see their weapons of violence and hear their abuse? People were arrested and taken to court after the demonstration. Did the honourable member hear the abusive and foul language? Did he hear about the contempt for the demonstrators that was shown by the media, by D.C.A. officials, airport employees and others who wrote to "The Cairns Post" about the demonstration?

Did he see the distress of the mother of the girl on Mr. Whitlam's staff? Did the honourable member see the girl's distress? The daughter was left behind with me to look to her welfare after the Prime Minister's entourage went through the motley mob of about 32 people and about 13 cars. She was merely doing a job as a public servant. I had to take her out to her mother and assure that lady not to worry about her daughter's safety.



When I entered the airport I was followed around. I was chased all about the place. The demonstrators did not know where they were going. When the V.I.P. aircraft pulled into the D.C.A. terminal, they all rushed to that area in their cars. They jumped out of their cars and left the motors running. When they returned to their cars they found the keys had been confiscated. The honourable member opposite who is a former member of the Police Force will be interested to hear that they then started to threaten the police officers, who were doing their duty and trying to keep law and order. They said things like, "I've got your number. You'll hear about this. You'll end up out in Dirranbandi. We know who you are." And what language was used! They used four-letter words beginning with "f" and "c". Those comments were directed at the Prime Minister of Australia.

I had to come out in the Press next day and say to the people of Cairns, "Restrain yourselves." I had to say to my Labor supporters at the airport, "Restrain yourselves."

Mr. Lane interjected.

Mr. JONES: I say the same thing to the honourable member for Merthyr.

I had to say to my Labor supporters at the airport, "Restrain yourselves. The situation is well in hand. The Premier will be here tomorrow but I do not want any counter-demonstrations. I want to see that the office of Premier is respected. I want to see that his office is honoured while he remains Premier. I do not want to see any A.L.P. supporters out on the street getting down to the level of this stupid, ineffective way of conducting a political campaign."

Mr. Lane interjected.

Mr. JONES: I wholeheartedly condemn ratbag politics from either the Left or the Right. I have always stood by the A.L.P. platform from the time when I was in the union and had to stand up against fellows who were much more vocal and much more eloquent than the honourable member for Merthyr, and I had to defend the rights of the individual. I will always stand up and condemn ratbag politics from the Right or the Left, such as was instanced by the demonstration of the National Party on that November afternoon. It appeared to me that they were desperation tactics.

(Time expired.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Miller): Before calling the honourable member for Pine Rivers, I ask honourable members to extend to him the normal courtesy extended to a new member making his maiden speech.

Mr. AKERS (Pine Rivers) (12.40 p.m.): The residents of Pine Rivers are loyal subjects of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, and on their behalf I affirm their allegiance to Her Majesty and to her representative, His Excellency Sir Colin Hannah.

I strongly support the motion moved by the member for Mourilyan and seconded by the member for Salisbury. Although it is a standard motion, it expresses my feelings completely—that in this Parliament we will give careful consideration to matters brought forward and we will endeavour to aid the advancement and prosperity of this State.

Throughout my election campaign I stressed that Queensland needs a strong, stable, free and democratic Government now, if ever it needed one. The result of the election showed an overwhelming number of Queenslanders felt the same. But what has happened since then? One member of my party announced to the Press that he would cross the floor on the issue of more Cabinet Ministers; the Leader of the Opposition bleated to the newspapers about cramped office space (in my office there are four of us, and because the current newspapers are kept on a committee table the room has become a public thoroughfare, so it seems that the Opposition wants special treatment); next, the Opposition Leader offered an unworkable coalition with a party ideologically diametrically opposite to his own (he said "with no strings", and then went outside and in a television interview added strings to the offer); next the Premier, without consulting Cabinet, made a major policy decision involving coal and beef sales to Japan; and, to cap it all, one of my own party then called on our leader to resign.

These actions are not what Queensland voters asked for on 7 December. These actions, together with those on both sides in Canberra, have brought parliamentary government to a low ebb in the public esteem.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, many of my constituents know Mr. Speaker personally, and others know of him by his excellent reputation. On their behalf, and on my own, I congratulate him on attaining his present important position. I am sure he will perform his duties in the same honourable manner as his predecessors, Sir David Nicholson and Mr. Lonergan.

Other speakers in this debate have spoken on their electorates, but my colleague the member for Redlands, in describing his electorate, has adequately covered mine. With the exception of passion-fruit, some islands and a few changes in names, he has, in pointing up the problems of fast-growing areas, described my electorate.

Pine Rivers covers 86 square miles and has the largest enrolment in Queensland. At the 1972 election there were 16,700 people enrolled, on 7 December there were 24,500 enrolled. This is an increase of 46.5 per cent, or nearly three times the Queensland average of 16 per cent. The normal community facilities found in established towns and suburbs are missing from Pine Rivers electorate. It has a population of approximately 50,000 people, which is almost equal to that of Toowoomba and Rockhampton, larger than Cairns, Bundaberg or Mt. Isa and seven times larger than Stanthorpe.

Yet there is no public swimming pool, no public hospital, only one nursing home for aged people, and only one State high school. Nor are there any facilities for theatre. The list is endless. Areas with large populations, such as Strathpine, with a population of 7,500, and Brackenridge, with 6,500 people, have no public halls suitable for any form of youth activity.

These are examples of deficiencies which obviously reduce the quality of life enjoyed by the residents and are causing problems which, although not immediately quantifiable, will nevertheless manifest themselves in terms of a whole variety of social disorders. Whereas cities such as Toowoomba, Bundaberg and Cairns have developed as centres for rich hinterlands, my entire electorate has developed as a series of service nodes to meet the needs of rural populations. The major social and economic needs were supplied by Brisbane in sufficient quantity, albeit to a low satisfaction, to preclude separate growth in Pine Rivers.

Now, like Albert Shire, Pine Rivers is bursting far beyond its facilities. Urgent assistance is needed for both the Brisbane City Council and the Pine Rivers Shire Council to meet these needs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I acknowledge that local governments should provide adequate services to their residents without having to become mendicants to the State or Federal Governments. However, the shires at present undergoing rapid transition—including Pine Rivers and Albert—from rural to urban character urgently need assistance. Ultimately, they will possess prime city characteristics, but during the change massive capital investments are required to provide the infrastructure necessary to secure a liveable environment, transport and communications, and to provide health and cultural facilities for the existing residents and the ever-increasing number of immigrants to the area.

Administrations must be geared to serve rapidly increasing numbers of households and industrial and commercial enterprises. Ultimately, these services will pay for themselves. However, establishment costs, as in many businesses, are heavy, both in capital and outlays in the running-in period, until the density of users becomes sufficient to reduce the service-unit cost. This is one of the subjects I had hoped that the new Parliament would tackle early in its life.

I don't want assistance in the form in which it is being given by the Federal Government. It must be simple and straightforward. Mr. Whitlam tells us that his Government is doing more for local government than any previous Federal Government. He is probably correct, but it is costing local government dearly to get that assistance—if it can sort out how to get it. I shall give some examples of costs to the Pine Rivers Shire Council, which covers about 60 per cent of my electorate. Last year's submission to the Grants Commission, which had

to be made completely without guide-lines, cost the shire council in the vicinity of \$3,500 or \$4,000 to prepare and make. This year the cost will probably be more like \$6,000. Last year the total grant received was only \$184,000, compared with the best part of \$1,000,000 for many of the Sydney and Melbourne local authorities.

The R.E.D. Scheme is another wonderful idea, but it has taken months to get going. Pine Rivers was recently granted \$152,000. But here is the catch: it has to find \$17,000 of its own to receive the money. Even worse, Redcliffe was granted \$30,000, but had to match it with \$20,000. The application, in each case, must state how many men will be employed, and for how long. In other words, the project has to be fully designed and costed before the application is made.

To add to the confusion for local authorities, there is the area improvement scheme, which required the establishment of 17 local authorities. There is also the Australian Assistance Plan, which nobody seems to fully understand, and a whole array of programmes covering aged persons, community amenities, the national estate, culture and recreation, the tourism and recreation grant scheme, education, health, housing, immigration, social security and welfare, transport, water resources, tourism and the sewerage backlog scheme.

The sewerage backlog scheme must be the biggest-ever con job. Last year Press releases, with maps, were issued showing how the Federal Government was going to sewer the Albany Creek area in my electorate. What it did not say was that this was a \$600,000 repayable loan—not a grant as the Press statement said—at the current interest rate of about 9.5 to 9.9 per cent, and this was only a fraction of the cost of providing sewerage for the area. The usual subsidy of 40 per cent for this type of project that is available in Queensland would not be provided. The effect on the shire council's sewerage rates of this type of "assistance" is frightening.

The list of plans, programmes and what-nots is endless and already destitute local authorities have to find the manpower and finance to make applications to a great variety of organisations. Each of the plans and programmes has its own collection of fat cats and leaner cats—I should say less-fat cats—to control it.

This build-up of bureaucratic empires is an example of bungling socialism at its worst. Sir Winston Churchill called socialism the Government of the duds, by the duds, for the duds. He called it the philosophy of failure, the creed of ignorance and the gospel of envy. The duds have followed their philosophy in their assistance to local government. It costs at least as much as the assistance to a local authority under the system set up by the duds in Canberra.

The member for Redlands and I represent between us 47,700 voters, which nearly equals the combined total of the electorates of Archerfield, Bundaberg, Bulimba and Sandgate. I know we're probably twice as good as those honourable members, but I do not believe that is equitable representation of the people. Pine Rivers alone has 2,000 more voters than the electorates of Balonne, Gregory and Cook together.

I cite these figures only to show that there is far too great an imbalance between electorate populations at present. I know that I can get around my electorate by car in a day while the member for Gregory would take a month. However, there must be a redistribution within the life of this Parliament. If not, in 1977 Pine Rivers will have at least 33,000 electors in 86 square miles and Bulimba will have only 14,000 in 3.3 square miles.

My colleague the member for Baroona used figures to show that the A.L.P. failed in the December election because they received less than 50 per cent of the vote. I would like to go a little further. If the figures are the ultimate, as the Opposition would have us believe, they should have no seats at all. If they receive less than 50 per cent in each seat, they still win none. Figures can be made to prove anything the statistician wants to prove.

All of the bleating is humbug. The speaker who preceded me said that the last State election was fought on Federal issues. It was fought on Federal issues to the extent that the Federal Government had shown to the people of Queensland what socialism meant and what effect it would have on them if they put a socialist Government into power in Queensland. That is the issue that I stressed clearly in my electorate during the campaign. The same honourable member complained about the election costs. My budget was less than \$3,000. Other candidates in my electorate spent over \$10,000, yet I won. I believe that policies and the standard of the candidates win elections, not the amount of money spent.

As I have said earlier, the December election was overwhelming. Now the cry goes up, "We won't have an effective Opposition with only 11 members."

**A Government Member:** They never have had.

**Mr. AKERS:** I am sure that is true.

Let me make it clear that it takes only one man to be an effective Opposition, as the Premier has shown in his opposition to Canberra over the last two years.

I will now move on to the Works Department and the Housing Commission. I spent several years in the Works Department as an architectural student, so, to some degree, I understand the workings of that department. I am pleased now to be a member of the Government's works and housing committee

and hope to be able to use the experience so gained in considering that department's functions.

There have been enormous changes in the architectural output from that department in recent years—improvements which have grown from a dedicated group of architects and other professional staff and an enlightened administration. Inevitably there are faults, as might be expected, but I believe one of the worst examples is the new so-called temporary classroom. How can one believe that such a building is temporary, when it is built on a concrete slab in the position outside of the designed building zone, as it is at Bray Park State School and obviously at many others? If it were built where the slab could be re-used in a permanent structure later, the word "temporary" might gain some credibility. They are nothing but sub-standard permanent buildings. I say "sub-standard" because all other open-area teaching spaces are provided with wet areas, electricity, a withdrawal area and so on. Temporary buildings are not. The department needs to rethink this item urgently and to cease building these so-called temporary classrooms.

Another item to be reconsidered is the provision of fire-fighting equipment within schoolgrounds. Some buildings in the Pine Rivers District High School are more than 250 metres from the nearest hydrant. Adequate fire alarms must be fitted in schools instead of being left to the parents and citizens' associations to provide. An example was given on television recently where the hooter used as a fire alarm was locked in a cupboard in the principal's office. I believe the children are the first priority and expecting someone to find the cupboard, find the key, and then unlock the cupboard when the fire is probably in the same room, is close to cretinous. A simple system with strategically placed triggers is desperately needed, if possible with direct access to the local fire station.

A nightwatchman to protect a group of government buildings would, I believe, pay for his keep. One man in a car could adequately cover the Strathpine, Bray Park, Lawnton, Petrie and Kallangur State Schools, Pine Rivers High School, Petrie Opportunity School and the Lawnton Pre-school on hourly random checks. They are all within a reasonable distance of each other. He could cover my office also in his spare time.

Most fires result from vandalism or arson and usually amount to \$100,000 damage. So if he prevented only one serious fire in 10 years, he would more than pay for himself. The Government carries its own insurance and any insurance company worth its salt tries to reduce its risk in the ways I have mentioned.

I referred to the progress in the Works Department. I wish I could say the same for the Queensland Housing Commission. I am ashamed to say that the permanent head of the commission is an architect—ashamed

because of the complete lack of initiative in housing in Queensland under this man's control.

Just recently I had a complaint from a resident in Petrie that the commission was building a house next door to his, exactly the same as his own. I had been assured that this would never happen. When I checked further I found that his house was built nine years ago. As anyone knows commission houses have never been modern, so here we have a department of this Government building houses at least 10 or 12 years out of date. A commission with some initiative would have been investigating other forms of housing, such as medium density, town houses and villa types of family units and housing more amenable to aged people, such as that currently being used by the New South Wales Housing Commission.

This Government must investigate other forms of housing. I recently attended a conference addressed by the New South Wales Housing Commissioner. He gave me a copy of a document showing the housing intended to be introduced into New South Wales. It is an excellent form of housing. It is low cost, without the degrading effect of many of our Queensland Housing Commission homes at present.

This Government has introduced the Group Titles Act but our Housing Commission has not seen fit to even attempt to use this excellent method of housing made possible under the Act. Instead, we build to 10 and 12-year-old designs, completely out of character with the surrounding houses.

On the subject of aesthetics, last year the Commissioner of Housing (Mr. Campbell), assured me in an interview that it was not possible to tell a commission house from other housing.

**A Government Member:** Rubbish!

**Mr. AKERS:** Rubbish indeed! In every development they stand out like country lavatories.

In the same interview Mr. Campbell told us that he wanted to develop the large area of commission land at Lawnton without sewerage. He would bring the E.C.'s from Woodridge, paint them, put in a new thunder-box and perch them in the back yards of the poor unfortunates he wanted to house at Lawnton. To add to their comfort he wanted to distribute the sullage water over the ground with perforated hoses. This is frightful.

I know that some private developers do worse than this, and I know that the Commonwealth Government has put severe restrictions on money for housing, but these are not excuses for the policies I have just outlined.

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

**Mr. AKERS:** Before the luncheon recess, I was speaking about the Works Department and the Queensland Housing Commission. I said that I believe that the Works Department is showing initiative and progress in its work. In contrast, I have shown a complete lack of initiative on the part of the Queensland Housing Commission when, for instance, it provides E.C.'s and surface drainage in Queensland Housing Commission subdivisions. I said that I know that some private developers do worse than this, and I know that the Commonwealth Government has put severe restrictions on money for housing. But these are not excuses for the policies that I have just outlined. How two departments under the same ministerial control can vary so widely in standards is beyond my comprehension. I look forward to the new Minister for Housing using his undoubted drive to bring the Queensland Housing Commission up to such a standard that it will provide a reasonable living environment for those unfortunate enough to need Government housing.

I know that it is a little trite to refer to personal items in a debate such as this. However, I must place on record, as other speakers have done, my gratitude to several people who assisted me during the election campaign. I refer to my wife, my campaign director (Mr. David Burton), Mr. and Mrs. Carmody, Dr. Arthur Crawford, the Honourable Fred Campbell, and Alderman John Hodges, the Federal Member for Petrie. Without the moral support of these people, I would not be here today. I must also record my committee's appreciation of the National Party candidate, Mr. Don Hawkins, and the complete co-operative coalition effort in Pine Rivers. I also thank approximately 13,000 voters in Pine Rivers for their support. Without that, I would not be here.

But I am here, and I am representing the Liberal Party, of which I have been a member for only a short period. It is often said that this is a party of silver-tails, and not one for the average man. Let me make it clear that the membership of my branches in Pine Rivers varies from card-carrying union members through housewives, mechanics and salesmen, to managers for silvertails.

**A Government Member:** It is quite ecumenical.

**Mr. AKERS:** Quite.

It is said that we have unlimited funds for campaigning. My committee had to strive for funds for a tight and limited budget. On the other hand, some friends of mine in Central Queensland told me recently that a certain A.L.P. candidate spent \$30,000, and levies are still being placed on meat-workers to pay it off.

I chose my party because I want each man, woman and child to be able to raise his or her own standard of living and, with it, the strength of the economy of this country. The Liberal Party is for individual

people. I want people to be able to own their own homes. As the Minister for Lands said in answer to a question the other day, the socialist idea is that a person is allowed to live in a house and pay for it, but not really to own it. If it increases in value, he must get out, or pay the increase to the Government. Socialism is government of the duds, by the duds, for the duds. The housing policy of the socialists is certainly a dud.

I briefly reiterate what I want the Government to do. I want it to be strong and democratic. I do not want the mumbo jumbo of politicking at the expense of the State of Queensland. I include in that members of the Opposition. Their depleted numbers will not stop them from being an effective Opposition if they concentrate on subjects that matter and forget cramped quarters and inane coalition offers. I want assistance for fast-developing local authorities. I want an electoral redistribution, and a serious reconsideration of Queensland's public housing.

In conclusion, I reaffirm my support for the motion moved by the honourable member for Mourilyan, and I look forward to the people of Queensland receiving the type of government for which they clearly asked on 7 December.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order! The honourable member for Flinders. This is the honourable member's maiden speech. I ask the House to afford him the usual courtesies.

**Mr. KATTER** (Flinders) (2.20 p.m.): I wish first to express my loyalty to the Crown and those kindred institutions that provide Australia with a proud democratic tradition.

I congratulate Mr. Speaker and the Governor, Sir Colin Hannah, upon the decorum and dignity with which the opening ceremony was conducted.

At this juncture, I invite members of the Opposition to comment if they think they should.

The first word I have down in my notes is "history". The electorate of Flinders stretches in a narrow east-west line, running from the Great Dividing Range in the east to the barren pre-Cambrian ranges of Cloncurry in the west. The area encompasses mainly the Flinders River basin, a vast flat, treeless, black-soil plain, the sometime bed of an inland sea whose shores comprise geological strata as old as the planet itself.

Divine Providence has always had an ambivalent attitude towards this area. On the one hand, He blessed it with some of Australia's richest soil types and best natural grasses; on the other hand, He left the area totally bereft of any surface water, and, as the great inland sea retreated, so also did life, and all that remained on the silent, monotonous plain was the occasional fossilised remains of some pterodactyl—once the ultimate evolutionary achievement; now a

stone sculpture commemorating the cruelty with which nature deals with her mistakes. They remind me somewhat of what is left of the Opposition, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So this area remained for 100,000,000 years—lifeless, barren and sterile.

**Opposition Members** interjected.

**Mr. KATTER:** If some of this is going over the head of the Opposition, I apologise to honourable members opposite.

It was not till 30,000 years before Christ that an advanced race of dark-skinned people from southern Asia crossed the Torres Strait in dug-out canoes. These courageous and intelligent adventurers spread out over this vast land; but they could not settle the great inland plain, for it could not support life.

So we had to wait till 1860. In that year, Ernest Henry, a man who represented all the best of what Britain had to offer, galloped out of the coastal forest east of the Burdekin River and on to the magnificent inland plain. A new era had dawned. The white man dug wells and travelled on horseback, and life flourished where it once did not exist.

Let me reflect for a moment on a clash of cultures that occurred when the white man arrived in North-west Queensland. A significant proportion of this area was inhabited by an Aboriginal tribe called the Kalkadoons, whose life-style and beliefs were fairly well documented. These people not only believed in, but also rigorously enforced, what we now call zero population growth. Apart from numerous birth control methods, they also practised regulated infanticide. They not only believed in conservation; they made conservation the very basis of their religious beliefs, the breaching of whose totems meant execution.

The white man came from Britain, and no such beliefs prevailed in 19th century England, where the Britons were breeding with gay abandon. Their annual population increase was 12.5 per cent. The English people, I would submit, thought their farmers could increase their production and feed the extra population, and that their artisans could clothe and house them. But things were tough in Merry England, and in those days people were not fed unless they could produce something of value. These "extras" built steam engines and wrote books; they gave us the gun and parliamentary democracy.

What happened on the banks of the Cloncurry River, where Ernest Henry and Roger Sheaffe brought their cattle and opened up their mine? Every Aborigine within 50 miles—a long distance for people who travelled on foot—was offered free food if he worked at the mine.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper** interjected.

**Mr. KATTER:** En masse, the local Aboriginal population took up residence at the Great Australian Mine.

The interjection a moment ago from the member of the Opposition typifies the opinion prevailing at present that I am about to refute.

There was no destroying of their way of life. When the two life-styles confronted each other, the Aborigine simply abandoned his. Historical interpretations, such as we heard a moment ago by way of interjection, that the white man destroyed the Aborigine are simply untrue and do a grave injustice to those giants who pioneered this country. Let me say that the Kalkadoon tribe made a terrible mistake—a mistake that all but banished them from the gene pool of human progress. Let us not make the same mistake. A million fossils that litter the now great and productive inland plain are proof that nature passes a harsh, cruel and final judgment upon such mistakes.

The next heading I have on my notes is "neglect". The western half of the Flinders electorate lies in North Queensland. Let me dwell for a few moments on this area. It comprises the State electorates of Mt. Isa, Gregory and Flinders. It carries some of the world's richest ore bodies, over one-tenth of the State's cattle population and over one-tenth of the State's sheep population. It was in this area that Qantas was founded. It was here that "Waltzing Matilda" was written, and here that the Australian Workers' Union was founded and, therefore, of course, it is the birthplace of the Australian Labor Party.

This area provided the A.L.P. with the majorities that enabled it to dominate the politics of this State for half a century. I am proud to say that my great-uncle last century was one of the original trustees of what we now know as the Australian Workers' Union. My family, like 70 per cent of inland electors, showed a continuous and undivided loyalty to the Labor movement for nearly 60 years.

What did we get for 60 years of loyalty? Until I went away to school at the age of 14 years my brother and I lived on an open veranda under an unlined, galvanised-iron roof, with only a roll-down blind to protect us from the elements. We were not poor; we were one of the wealthiest families in the town. If politicians believe that the public has a short memory, I remember very vividly our annual holiday to Brisbane, where there were Coca-Cola, television and bitumen roads and where the children wore shoes and socks to school. I hope that such memories shall never dim because that was what North-west Queensland got by way of thanks for more than 50 years of unwavering loyalty.

Before I leave this subject I should like to explain to the House that the electorate of Flinders consists of a series of towns connected to each other and the coast by the Flinders Highway running east-west. This highway is the only road outlet for the 50,000 people who now live along it. When the A.L.P. went out of office in 1956 there was

not a single mile of bitumen upon this road. By the end of 1976 that road will be fully sealed, which is truly a great tribute to our present coalition Government, which I thank on behalf of my electorate.

The next item I have, which will interest the Opposition, is headed "Democracy". Let us not be too harsh on the A.L.P. One of the major reasons these areas have been deprived and oppressed is the tyranny of distance. It was difficult for party organisations to function properly, and so we were constantly burdened with candidates selected in Brisbane and farmed out to the far western and northern seats. Candidates came out and took their party tally, and then returned to their comfortable Brisbane homes.

If the honourable member for Belyando and I became a little heated in the House recently it was because I saw a man doing everything within his power to increase the size of western electorates. This man threatens to throw my area back two decades. This man talked about one vote, one value. Let me ask the House: Is there a single man in this Chamber who genuinely believes that the vote of a person who lives at McKinlay, 400 miles from his member, who lives in Charters Towers, could have a vote of equal value with that of a person living in Charters Towers whom a 10c telephone call or a two minute drive in a car would put in touch with his member? Does anyone genuinely believe that?

The Leader of the Opposition talked recently about gerrymandering. I am afraid he is confusing his terms. What this Government has done is preserve the electoral weighting given to sparsely populated country areas. On the other hand, gerrymandering is the rigging of electoral boundaries to favour one party at the expense of the other. A classic example of this is provided by the infamous redistribution of the A.L.P. Government in 1950. If a gerrymander exists at the present moment, at least it has some subtlety and sophistication. No such subtlety and sophistication existed with the 1950 redistribution.

I challenge anyone in the Opposition benches to come forward and prove a gerrymander by the coalition, as I am going to prove one that was done by the A.L.P. in 1950. Regrettably I did not have time to study all electorates, so I simply chose the areas with which I am familiar—the Far North and the West. All these seats were held by the A.L.P. with overwhelming majorities. There were basically six seats involved. These six fairly small western electorates had lost population to bigger city electorates; hence we could reasonably infer a need for redistribution. However, instead of making those six western electorates bigger, the A.L.P. made them smaller. The electorate of Charters Towers shrank from an enrolment of 6,900 to 4,800; Barcoo shrank from 7,100 to 4,700; Carpentaria shrank from 6,500 to 5,400; Gregory from

6,900 to 4,700; Warrego from 7,200 to 5,100; Maranoa, 8,400, became Roma with 5,300. One might ask: what happened to all those extra electors? Like a phoenix rising from the ashes, five new electorates were born. They were Balonne, Belyando, Mackenzie, Flinders and Mulgrave. In the West and Far North, where there had once been six seats, there are now 11—all, with one exception, having fewer than 5,500 voters. That is a gerrymander.

I would submit my own electorate of Flinders as classic evidence of the fact that no gerrymander exists in Queensland now. Under a Labor Government the area comprised two seats, each containing fewer than 4,800 voters. Under this coalition Government it is one seat, with 8,500 voters. So don't let any Opposition member accuse us of gerrymandering. Opposition members are well equipped to talk about it, of course, because they are masters of it; but don't let them point the finger at us.

I apologise for having dwelt upon this subject, but it is one of vital importance to the people of Flinders. If the Leader of the Opposition continues to advocate the smashing of the electoral weighting in favour of sparsely populated areas, he and the people of Flinders will become mortal enemies because he, albeit unwittingly, will be advocating the return of the bad old days. Of course his Federal colleagues are attempting to force upon the people of inland Queensland the conditions that existed in those days.

The Opposition has said, "One vote, one value". In a representative democracy the value of a person's vote can only be his representation in Parliament. Let me repeat that the value of a vote of a person who lives in McKinlay, over 400 miles from his member living in Charters Towers, is negligible. Notwithstanding that, the Opposition wishes to reduce the value of his vote even further. Let the Leader of the Opposition proceed at his own peril. I remind him that Britain lost America over this issue of taxation without representation. He would know better than I how much tax is taken from North and West Queensland, from people who work hard under harsh condition—those who constitute the poorest sector of Australia's population.

Let me turn now to my claim of poverty in the West. The cost-of-living index in the West appears to be probably one-third higher than that for Brisbane. Regrettably I cannot at this stage substantiate such a claim, as the cost-of-living study being conducted by the James Cook University and undertaken by me is not yet completed. It is sufficient to say at this stage that preliminary studies of grocery lines indicate a difference of nearly 30 per cent, and I am referring only to townspeople. This disparity could be double in its application to fethlers, cattlemen and other people who live in the bush.

If the poverty level is defined, as it was by one commission of inquiry, at \$4,500 a year for a two-child family, the figure would have to be increased to \$6,000 for anyone living in North-west Queensland. This would mean that, excluding Mt. Isa, one-half to one-third of the population of North-west Queensland is living in poverty. If we add to this analysis the fact that the graduated tax scale is levied on money incomes and not upon real incomes, we see the harsh injustice that is done to those who already exist on the poverty line.

Those people in North-west Queensland who receive social security payments are condemned by the high cost of living to a life of grinding poverty. It is easy for me to stand here and reel off nice-sounding statistics, but these do not help very much three old ladies who live in one western town and whose homes consist of unlined galvanised-iron sheds with dirt floors. In them the ground temperature often rises to 170°F. I am sure some honourable members recall the Japanese p.o.w. camps in which buildings like those were used as torture chambers. And buildings of this type still exist in inland Australia in 1975!

I would submit that the high cost of living, whilst being exacerbated by harsh living conditions, is basically the problem of under-population and of business being forced to work upon poor economies of scale as a result. Other problems, such as the lack of services and facilities and of course the high cost per head of providing these facilities, are only peripheral to the central problem of under-population.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** Your Fascist party represented that area.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order! The honourable member should watch his language in the Chamber.

**Mr. KATTER:** In referring to the problem of overpopulation, I point out that 40 per cent of the population of Australia's capital cities spend over an hour getting to and from work every day. That means that, today, in Australia, 2,000,000 man-hours will be lost as a result of overpopulation.

To deal with the cost of building a home—it costs my brother in Brisbane possibly \$25,000 to build a home and it costs me, in Cloncurry, \$25,000 to build a home. He pays \$10,000 for land and \$15,000 for his home, whereas I pay nothing for the land but still have to pay \$25,000 for the home simply because our builders cannot work on economies of scale. We are back with the problem—it is a sad reflection on Governments at all levels—that in Australia today we have the worst overpopulation problem of probably any country in the world and, most certainly, the worst underpopulation problem of any country in the world. Depending on how one gauges these things, the quality of life in country areas is extremely high.

Over the week-end I attended the annual Rugby League round-robin competition held in Julia Creek. In the various competing teams were to be seen sons of the wealthiest graziers and sons of the poorest council workers. At night, at the ball, the parents of the same people were to be seen mixing in the same social circle. In the teams there are full-blood Aborigines and people as white as the driven snow.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper** interjected.

**Mr. KATTER:** I shall ignore the honourable member's racist remark. In our area we do not have hardened class concepts or hardened race concepts which are exemplified by the honourable member for Archerfield.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** I thought your name was in the stud book.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order! The honourable member for Archerfield is not worrying the honourable member for Flinders one little bit, but he is starting to annoy me. I suggest that he restrain himself.

**Mr. KATTER:** In country areas we still have the dignity and integrity of the individual, something that has probably been lost in our cities. Having said this I wonder why there is a constant drift to the city. I submit that one of the major factors militating towards this drift to the city is the 5 per cent rule—the fact that 5 per cent of whatever money is spent by people in western areas, whether it be on matchboxes or taxes, is constantly ripped off us to be put into centralised, administrative bureaucracy in places like Brisbane. The population generated by this 5 per cent of the money taken from western areas and put constantly into Brisbane—never again to return to the North or the West—is multiplied because the multiplier effect works on population. A good example can be found in Mt. Isa where 5,000 miners are employed and a population of 25,000 has grown around that 5,000. There is therefore the 5 per cent rule and a multiplier effect of probably five. These two factors militate, more than anything else, in favour of the drift to the city.

I shall venture to suggest a number of solutions such as the provision of basic facilities, the infrastructure which is the first and primary necessity, the infrastructure which thanks to this coalition Government is now provided. I am talking about an adequate water supply, sealed streets, swimming pools, bitumen highways, television, doctors and communications, whether they be bus, air or rail. Speaking for my own area I should say that the greatest contribution of this nature would be a north-south feeder-road system from each of the small towns along the Flinders Highway.

To give a good example of the dramatic effect of a feeder-road system north and south of a town, I point out that Julia Creek

has a road leading north of it. It was a beef highway. When that road was built, the Julia Creek Town and Country Club was established to cater for the graziers and people working on properties on that road, who had not come to town before. Harking back to the egalitarian theme—that club is available to all members of the community and almost everyone in the town of Julia Creek belongs to it. That club was not established till the completion of the beef highway, but it now employs five people. So five extra people have been employed in Julia Creek as a result of the construction of that feeder road.

I now switch to the subject of equality of opportunity in education. In the electorate of Flinders there is no senior top high school outside Charters Towers. The towns of over 1,500 people in my electorate are Richmond, Hughenden, Julia Creek and Pentland, but there is no senior top high school in any of them.

Whilst we very much appreciate the remote-area allowance and the isolated-children's allowance, they are grossly and harshly inadequate. Until we have equality of opportunity in this field, inequality will be another force acting to push people out of the western areas and into the cities.

A third factor could be the reversing of the five per cent rule, the placing of governmental institutions, installations and personnel in inland centres. Two classic examples in my area are the Toorak Research Station and the Richmond D.P.I. Research Station. I would very much like to see our Government consider following a scheme instituted by the New South Wales Government, under which five inland killing works were set up. The one that I am quite familiar with is at Gunnedah, in the far west of New South Wales.

The greatest leap forward that we could make in inland areas, I believe, would be the provision of cheap long-term finance for the installation in every home in inland Queensland of evaporative air-conditioning. With a bulk purchase the cost would probably be only \$300 a unit, and probably only 10,000 homes are not already air-conditioned. To buy the air-conditioners outright would cost the Government only \$500,000 a year over the next six years. The provision of evaporative air-conditioning would overcome the West's biggest natural problems—those of dryness, dust, heat and insects. All would be eliminated by the provision of evaporative air-conditioning.

Finally, let me say that the greatest step forward that this Government could take in my area would be a brigalow-type development for the black-soil plains. However, instead of spending money on the pulling out of trees, the Government could provide water-storage dams with gravity-feed irrigation systems below the dam walls. The principle behind the brigalow scheme was



the spending of, say, \$2 an acre to double production. The scheme I suggest would be almost identical in concept.

The inland plain was settled in the first place because of the availability of wells. It was more closely settled after the inception of artesian bores, which are perennial man-made streams. The third step forward, which I hope is taken in our generation, would be the provision, as I have just outlined, of large shallow-storage dams with a gravity-feed irrigation system below the dam wall.

The basis of my argument is a scheme that presently operates on the property of Mr. Charles Phillott outside Winton. That scheme is a great eye-opener. In a year in which his property received only 2½ inches of rain, he was fattening 200 head of cattle on 200 irrigated acres, which took him approximately 15 minutes to irrigate. It was simply a matter of opening seven taps.

The provision of a development of this sort would create a completely revitalised town in my area. I speak of Pentland, which at present is a six-month town, providing some sort of service infrastructure for the Cape River Meatworks, which on an average operates for only six or seven months of the year. If the hinterland can be turning off fat cattle all the year round, the town of Pentland would be a full-time town, providing employment all year round for 1,000 men.

The provision of such a low-storage irrigation scheme would overcome our problem of drought, which scourges the inland in three out of every 10 years. It would provide the means of diversification whereby people could in bad years grow crops. Such a scheme would lead inevitably to the doubling of the population in my area.

I have dealt at great length with the problems of the West. I now turn my attention specifically to Charters Towers. Prior to the turn of the century, that city had 30,000 inhabitants. At that stage it was larger than Brisbane. The population is now less than 10,000 inhabitants and an infrastructure of beautiful old buildings is left empty. The service facilities that still exist are capable of supporting a population many times the present population, yet for the past 50 years Governments have squandered public funds on constructing building after building in Townsville.

These installations and their personnel occupy valuable land needed for suburban development and are straining essential services that are already overtaxed by the fastest growth rate of any area in Queensland. Many senior public servants still think that the earth is flat and that its edge lies at the Great Dividing Range. How long do we have to wait to see some of that five per cent rule money returned to those people who worked so hard to earn it? How long do the people of Charters Towers have to wait for a fair go?

Whilst Charters Towers, which is only 60 miles in a direct line from Townsville, with vast under-utilised infrastructure provides the ideal administrative centre for North Queensland, it also has the potential for the establishment of a thriving farming centre close to the huge markets of Townsville with a not infertile soil and a reasonable abundance of water. It has a near perfect climate and must in years to come be to Townsville what Lockyer is to Brisbane.

Provision for such development by the Lands Department and the Mines Department is essential to facilitate this growth and we hope that these departments will not, through lack of forward planning, preclude such future development. Charters Towers is now to the plains country what Too-womba is to the Darling Downs, and the implementation of a shallow-dam irrigation programme for the stations of the West will see Charters Towers, as the education and retirement centre of North Queensland, return to what it once was—a great and flourishing city.

Let me switch now from matters that specifically concern my area to matters that concern us as Queenslanders, Australians and people of the world. In the opening section of my address I denigrated the philosophical fads, programmes and promises of the trendies—such causes as zero population growth and conservation, to name but two. I now state that I consider the mass media and consumer crusaders, such as Ralph Nader, have done a commendable job in making the public aware of the problems of pollution and the possibilities of recycling. While zero population growth and other prejudices such as conservation fly in the face of history, recycling and solar energy awaken us to the possibilities of a greater future for our children than we now enjoy.

Let me briefly mention four areas where, but for the inaction of governmental bodies, giant strides could be made. Firstly I mention the area of food scraps which account for maybe two-thirds of our garbage and make the disposal problem worse than it need be. Food scraps can be readily converted into ham, pork, and bacon through their utilisation as pig-swill. At present we are tied up by some sort of agreement with the Federal Government whereby we are forced into a step that will probably drive us back 40 or 50 years in preventing the use of food scraps as pig-swill.

Let me move on to tin cans. I was associated with a project in my area to turn tin cans into "copper"—a very successful project. From tin cans we can readily get iron and tin. Let me deal with returnable bottles which are no longer produced. We have tin cans. Stamped across the top is the plea, "Do not litter." That is stamped hypocritically just beside the rip top, which is ripped off and thrown away.

Let me turn to what I consider to be the most important area of recycling—sewerage.

In this regard I pay tribute to the work of Mr. George Chan of the university in Port Moresby. From sewerage can be obtained four very valuable products. The first and most valuable is fuel. The second is nutrient-rich water. The third is bricks. The fourth, in the case of Brisbane, is the provision of a whole new bayside suburb.

Let me explain. Sewerage produces methane gas. In Brisbane we have the potential for producing the equivalent of 30,000 gallons of petrol a day. In a world that will have no fuel in 40 years' time, this is vital. In monetary terms we are turning into the sea near Brisbane \$15,000 of fuel per day.

In London sewage sludge is being used to make bricks. Where we are emptying sewage into the sea a whole bayside suburb could be built, thus relieving the pressure of over-population in Brisbane.

I switch very briefly to the subject of solar energy. I live in a house in which one of the first solar hot-water systems in Queensland was installed, and it has cut my electricity bills in half. Solar energy devices at present can produce and release hydrogen, which is a far more valuable fuel than petrol.

On the subject of education I wish to quote briefly a number of people I regard as authorities on it. First, Malcolm Muggeridge in a picturesque analogy said that education is somewhat similar to the giant armadillo, which in each succeeding generation clothed itself with more and more armour-plating for protection. Eventually the armadillo covered itself with so much armour-plating that it could not forage for food, and it quickly became extinct.

One of my railway friends in Cloncurry constantly refers to modern-day youth as over-schooled and under-educated.

A farmer attended a meeting addressed by Professor Zelman Cowen, who advocated longer and greater education for all. The professor said it was necessary to have pre-schools and refresher courses, and that all should take university degrees and undertake post-graduate studies. At question time, a little grizzled old farmer stood up and said, "Professor, while everyone is getting this education, who will be looking after the farm?"

Marshall McLuhan, one of the more gifted of modern educationists, said that the Vietnam upheavals were irrelevant so far as Vietnam was concerned, but they were very relevant in that they instituted the concept of the "teach in" as a new method of learning.

Let me now move on to Ivan Illich, at present the greatest American authority on education. In an interview in Queensland, he said that he considered formal education for more than two years a naive and laughable concept. Let me ask how many more hours out of how many more young lives are to be sacrificed at the altar of the new

religion of education? How many more young minds are to be manacled by the way they measure up to conventional wisdom?

Let me deal specifically with the universities. I submit that their proper function of searching for knowledge and teaching teachers has been submerged by the greed of the professional classes. Universities have come to be regarded as elitist institutions suppressing youth and grading society, fulfilling a role of producing the "have" class of tomorrow. The new academic czars now wield more power than any so-called capitalist ever dreamed of. I believe that the juggernaut of education is careering forward under the weight of its own momentum, and something must be done to arrest it before we suffer the fate of the prehistoric armadillo that lumbered on to extinction.

In questioning the unquestionable and desecrating the modern-day temple, let me pose a series of questions. What would have happened if Einstein and Keynes had failed at university? They both went very close to failing. If Keynes had failed, we would now be in the grip of a depression far worse than that of the 1930's. How many Albert Einsteins and John Maynard Keynes have already failed and been kicked out of the system so that they cannot contribute anything? How much does anyone in this House remember of what he was taught at secondary school? How much is now remembered of algebra, trigonometry or the conjugation of verbs?

Let me ask how valuable honourable members think a degree in the humanities is to society? I believe that it is of great personal satisfaction and value; but that is not the question that I am posing. I am asking how valuable it makes such a person to society. Let me ask how long members think it would take to reach a university standard of knowledge in a field in which that knowledge is needed.

Let me mention two friends of mine, both of whom spent six years at the university and both of whom left without degrees. In the two years after that, part time, both of them secured one degree, and one, in his third year, secured two degrees. When they were working in areas where they needed knowledge that was obtainable at the university, they quickly obtained it.

Let me question how valuable the ability is to be able to reurgitate conventional wisdom, and say that the person who can deal with conventional wisdom is not the creative person who can cause major breakthroughs. Having taken that theory, I went through what I considered to be the 23 major breakthroughs. Of those 23, 22 were achieved by people with no university training. Let me list a few—

Electricity: Faraday, entirely self taught;

Steam engine: James Watt—to grammar school, then into a workshop;

Telegraph: Morse—a house painter;

Telephone: Bell—no academic or scientific training;

Electric light and telephone: Edison—no secondary education;

Internal combustion engines: Otto, left school at 16;

Rotary engine: Wankel—no tertiary education;

Polarisation of light: Land, did not complete university;

Television: Farnsworth, did not complete university;

Jet engine: Whittle—no tertiary education;

Refrigeration: two Swedish students; neither finished his course.

Let me pose one final question: should the man with the big brain be boss; should the academic be on top or on tap? In my opinion, the people who believe this should be the case are labouring under the Piltdown skull psychology. The Piltdown skull was, of course, a hoax, just as the philosophy being perpetrated at the present moment is a hoax.

I should very much like to deal with socialism, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but let me conclude by saying that I come from an area that was conquered by bold and heroic men, men who opened new doors of opportunity for those without hope. I represent the people of Flinders, and I pledge myself to fight for them whatever their political persuasion and to carry on the traditions of those men who pioneered, and will some day plough, the great inland plain.

**Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG** (Townsville) (2.57 p.m.): First, I reaffirm my loyalty to the Crown, and I congratulate the Governor, Sir Colin Hannah, upon his Opening Speech. I wish to see the present system of parliamentary control of this country continue, and I congratulate the mover and seconder of the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Over the last 50 years we have heard a great deal of talk about the evolution and development of public health services and the control of the medical profession. In that period, all political parties seem to have been committed to providing some form of national health scheme. Members of the medical profession have not been adverse to that proposal, provided that they are not enslaved.

Because of the nature of their work, members of the medical profession seek "job satisfaction"—a term used very extensively by the socialist Government, especially prior to its mishandling of the employment and finances of this country. In fact, the Federal Government seems to have disturbed considerable numbers of people and not offered them very much job satisfaction, if one can judge from the unemployment figures.

Members of the profession need time to study; they need time and opportunities to improve their skills and knowledge by such

means as group discussions, demonstrations and practical tuition in post-graduate centres away from their places of work. They also desire to be able to live a free and happy life. They do not want to become slaves to their work, as some now do, or slaves to the tax-gatherer, as some now are, or to the bureaucrat, be he Federal or State. Above all, they are willing to agree to changes in the administration of medical practice. However, before a member of the profession agrees to changes in medical practice, he must be convinced that they are necessary, that the patient is not receiving the best treatment under the existing system and will receive better treatment under the proposed system. He must be persuaded also that the new system and the changes proposed under it are not so expensive that the country cannot afford them.

The reason the medical profession opposes the Hayden health scheme is that it is not convinced of the need for the change. It believes that the proposed changes will not benefit the patient and will cost the nation much more than it can afford.

It may be of interest to honourable members to know a little of the history of change in medico-political thinking over the past 50 years. I will endeavour to give a rough summary of the changes since the inception of the Commonwealth Health Department in 1921.

The B.M.A. at its Australian conference in 1920 had great debate and discussion on the advisability of planning a health scheme on a national scale. It approached the Commonwealth Government, and the Commonwealth Government said it was not interested as it did not think the cost warranted it. That must have been a very sensible Commonwealth Government. It studied feasibility and concluded that the cost did not warrant such a scheme. But the seeds of a national health scheme had been sown, and in 1926 the Commonwealth Government became interested. Australia was not the first country to think along these lines. In the United Kingdom somewhere about 1912 a lodge-practice scheme was commenced. As many graduates came to Australia from the United Kingdom they were not unfamiliar with that type of practice. They had seen the benefits and drawbacks of it.

In 1926 the Commonwealth Government set up a royal commission to investigate the feasibility of a national health scheme. Nothing more was done until 1928, when Sir Frederick Stewart introduced the first National Insurance Bill. It created a lot of consternation, and the Australian Medical Journal reported—

"All this notwithstanding, the principle had already been clearly enunciated and widely accepted that 'it is the duty of Governments to legislate so as to protect the less fortunate members of society', and that 'the care of health within the community is a social duty and no longer entirely an individual responsibility.'"

That was first enunciated in 1928. It meant that the attitude towards public health was to protect the individual but not to enslave him, to give a person succour when he needed it but not make him a slave of the system. The individual still has a right—an inborn right—to look after his own body and health.

We hear it said so much today, "You don't have to worry about getting knocked down while you are crossing the road, because we are going to run a national compensation scheme. There is no need to worry if you get hurt. If you pirate or hijack a plane and get shot by the guards, don't worry, we'll give you compensation. We'll give you up to \$25,000 a year. We'll pay your wages while the International Court is waiting to hang you." That demonstrates the futility of some of these schemes. A man still has the inborn right to look after his body, for example, by reducing the intake of toxic and dangerous drugs.

In 1937 the Commonwealth Government—it used to be called the Commonwealth Government then—invited Sir Walter Kinnean to visit Australia and report on health insurance. While he was in this country for 18 months or two years, the Commonwealth Government decided to set up a royal commission to investigate it even further. In 1938 the Federal Government—a Nationalist Government, a non-Labor Government—introduced the National Health and Pensions Act of 1938. The Minister who introduced the Bill was not the Minister for Health, but the Treasurer. In other words it was a money Bill, somewhat similar to what we have got at the moment, introduced by a paranoid economist. The gentleman who introduced that legislation was none other than the future Lord Casey. The legislation included a per-capita provision. Every doctor was to be given 11s. per annum per patient. That was for a 24-hour service provided to both employed and self-employed people. Anyone earning £365 or less was eligible. In actual fact the service was provided for 2½d. a week. Honourable members can imagine what the medical profession said about that. It was nothing more than absolute, unadulterated slavery.

The people behind this consisted of a group of highly influential members of the higher echelon of the medical profession who had not the foggiest idea of what general practice was like. They were all consulting surgeons and senior honoraries at various hospitals. I do not think any one of them ever carried a general practitioner's bag or practised general medicine. They knew nothing whatever about the ins and outs of medicine. They agreed with the Treasurer to enslave the rest of the medical profession for 2½d. a week.

At about that time the medical profession already worked under an amicable agreement with the friendly societies, which were offering a service to their members, in the city for £1/6/0 per annum per person and in

the country areas for £1/10/0. This service covered everything except midwifery and surgery. It provided arrangements for free medicine also. The scheme was a workable one and helped a large proportion of the community in both the cities and the country areas.

When the scheme to which I have referred was not accepted by the medical profession, the Commonwealth Government said, "All right, the medical profession will not accept Casey's Act, so we will appoint another royal commission." That Federal Government was a bit like the present Federal Government under Gough Whitlam; it was always holding royal commissions or setting up committees of inquiry.

So a second royal commission was held to inquire into matters pertaining to national health insurance. Before the commission, a large number of people gave evidence. The witnesses came from friendly societies, group practices and individual practices in the medical profession. Evidence was heard both in open court and in camera. But of all the commissions held in Australia this was the most ill-fated and the one that produced the least results. All the actuaries, financial advisers and members of the legal profession who were carrying out the investigation on behalf of the British Medical Association were killed in an aeroplane accident, and before the commissioner handed down his report he, too, died. The whole commission, therefore, ended up as merely a lot of paper with no results whatever. It was a complete flop.

In 1938, at a special meeting, the B.M.A. resolved that, as nothing was being done about providing health insurance, consideration should be given to the provision of a complete medical service to the public by means of contract practice. The medical profession was not averse to looking after the people of the nation as a whole. However, World War II clouded the issue. The members of the medical profession in Australia ceased playing politics and allowed themselves to be conscripted, thereby becoming the only group in the community who were so conscripted. Of a total of 6,608 doctors, 2,010, or 30.4 per cent, joined the services. The remainder submitted themselves to working long hours and to conducting the practices of those men who had joined the services. Some of them suffered disastrous results to their health.

In 1940 the B.M.A. was again upset about the general trend in health, and it appointed Dr. Bell and Dr. Simmons to investigate certain aspects of health planning and to submit a report. By this time other instrumentalities in the community were interested in health planning. For example, the National Health and Medical Research Council, which consisted of highly trained technical and intelligent people, decided it would help the B.M.A. as well as the Government of the day in investigating the

advisability and possibility of operating a form of national insurance or national health service. The National Health and Medical Research Council published a document entitled, "An Outline of a Possible Scheme for a Salaried Medical Service".

In discussing the Simmons report, a Dr. Price put forward the concept of a contributory scheme. In discussions with the A.M.A. and the National Health and Medical Research Council, Dr. Price—most probably he is now forgotten by everyone—was the first man in the world to put forward a form of contributory health insurance. In other words, he proposed that the patient be given a chance to pay something towards his treatment. His idea was that that would take away the feeling of accepting charity that some people may get; a man would retain his pride by being able to say, "I am contributing something for this service and I consider that the country should make its contribution." That is a very important matter to the Australian, who for many years—in fact, until recently—did not like accepting anything for nothing.

In 1943 the Federal Council of the B.M.A. stated in its policy what it considered should be associated with National Health, and I now quote from its paper—

"That the optimum efficiency of medical service to the people of Australia will be provided by the following structure—the existing consultant, general practitioner and hospital services with all adjuncts and these necessary additions:

- (a) Safeguarding and improvement of nutritional and housing standards.
- (b) Adequate provision for research and statistical investigation.
- (c) Decentralised diagnostic laboratory centres throughout the Commonwealth."

That we have seen in our own State. The paper continues—

"(d) An extended consultant service to make ready consultation available to all members of the community.

(e) Group practice initiated by members of the profession themselves."

That is different from our community health centres. The paper continues—

"(f) Extension through Government grant of the Flying Doctor Service.

(g) Increased subsidised practitioner service to outback centres.

(h) Extended industrial, venereal, immunological and other preventive medical services.

(i) Extension of the present maternity service with the establishment of hostels for waiting mothers.

(j) Extended hospital construction and equipment with special reference to tuberculosis and mental diseases, the crippled, bed ridden and aged, and the provision of private and intermediate wards at all public hospitals.

(k) Extension and improvement of standards of postgraduate training with a subsidy to medical practitioners unable otherwise to avail themselves of these facilities."

On reading those facts it makes me shudder to hear and see the likes of Hayden and Whitlam saying that the medical profession has no thought for suffering humanity. What poppycock! It is all written and documented if they would only read it.

In 1944, after the B.M.A. put forward the policy which it thought should be implemented, the socialist Labor Government enacted the Pharmaceutical Benefits Act of 1944. It was designed to give free but limited medicine on a Government formulary. The formulary was set and doctors could prescribe medicine from it. This legislation was invalidated in the High Court on the ground that it was ultra vires the Constitution, as the Commonwealth had no power to set aside or fund money for pharmaceutical benefits. This was the crux. It will be seen that this is the time when Fabian socialism got its mechanism of gradualism into action. The socialists never rest, and in June 1944 Federal Minister McKenna said to the B.M.A., "Co-operate and come quietly or we will use force." That is very much like what Mr. Hayden is doing today. Mr. McKenna then threatened to introduce salaried medical services just like we are to get today.

Between 1945 and 1946 the B.M.A. set forth plans to create what it called a voluntary health insurance scheme in the Medical Benefit Fund of New South Wales. A considerable number of members subscribed to it. It was a non-profit organisation, which immediately became successful. From it grew all our other medical funds.

In 1946, a referendum sponsored by the Federal socialist Labor Government resulted in a "Yes" vote. The result of the referendum was that the Commonwealth—

". . . might make laws with respect to the provision of maternity allowances, widows' pension, child endowment, unemployment, pharmaceutical sickness and hospital benefits, medical and dental services (but not so as to authorise any form of civil conscription), benefits to students and family allowances."

The Government was returned to power and it sought the powers that it had been given in an Act called the Pharmaceutical Benefit Act of 1947. This enabling Act closely resembled the 1944 Act, which had been declared ultra vires the Constitution. It was obvious to the public and the medical profession that the socialist Government of the day knew nothing about medical administration and had no idea of what it was about. However, it introduced this enabling Act and decided that the scheme would be controlled and ruled by regulation

—a most iniquitous form of administration—so the extraordinary powers of government by regulation were written in.

The B.M.A., with the help of a sympathetic public, boycotted it from 1947 to 1948, with no detrimental effect to the health of the public. In 1948 Mr. McKenna, not to be undone, had a health Act called the National Health Service Act of 1948 tabled in the House of Parliament. That was passed. Once again, under that Act all details were to be determined by regulation. How extraordinary that men elected to the House of Representatives could legislate an enabling Act without including any details. However, with the knowledge of what and who they are, one can fully appreciate that, although they do not have many brains, they have enough low cunning to realise that they can ensnare and entangle people's freedoms with legislation of that type.

It almost reminds me of Hitler's day. The poor old medical profession, I often think, has been treated by the socialist Labor Party a bit like the Jews were treated in Germany. Its members have been baited, maligned, cast upon and now administered against.

The year 1949 was another interesting one. The socialist Government, annoyed by the obduracy of the medical profession, introduced an amendment to the Pharmaceutical Act of 1947. One of the clauses demanded the use of a special form to order any medicine under the formulary. The underlying reason for that was that doctors had to co-operate or lose the right to prescribe certain drugs. In other words, even if the patient was sick and the drug was required, unless the doctor co-operated with the Commonwealth Government he could not obtain the drug. That also was taken to the High Court, which ruled that it was ultra vires the Constitution—that it was a form of civil conscription—and it was thrown out.

1949 also saw what was probably one of the happiest days Australia had had since the end of the war—the Labor Party was defeated in the Federal sphere. In that year, too, the medical profession made a very important move: it linked itself with the friendly societies. People forget that friendly societies are old and honourable institutions. They have been operating for over 100 years, have been well-managed and have served the public extremely well. The medical profession, which had a liaison with the friendly societies, decided to build a scheme of voluntary health insurance that would provide the public with a choice of doctor, a wide range of services and a fee for service, so that the individual had the nice freedom of saying, "I am paying you, doctor. I am not receiving charity." That was a very important thing.

Then Sir Earle Page introduced an interesting Bill called the Pharmaceutical Benefits Act of 1950-52, which gave at no cost to the patient a wide range of life-saving drugs which could be ordered by the doctor on his

own script. It was supported absolutely by the public and the profession and was a success.

In 1951, following discussion with the medical profession, the Medical Benefits Act was passed. It gave 8s. a day to all patients in hospitals and established additional benefits to insured patients. Under the ministry of Sir Earle Page there was all-time discussion and co-operation and it probably was the happiest and most progressive era for medical administration this country has seen, especially in the sphere of public health and national insurance.

In 1953, Sir Earle Page brought down the National Health Act under which we have been operating until just recently. The Act was amended almost yearly and updated, but it did not adequately provide for pensioners and those in the low-income group. Because the Government, following the 1964 referendum, had complete power to prescribe and fund for pensioners, this is extremely hard to understand. There was no need for it to be mean, miserable and miserly in its attitude to pensioners. But it evidently used the pensioners as a punching bag or kicking ball; I am not sure which. The main aspect of the National Health Act was that the patient had to contribute something. Again contribution came into it. The Australian character did not like receiving charity, so this right to contribute was given back to him.

It is rather interesting that about this time everything was quite in order and members of the public were happy. As far as I can see the main weakness was delay in the return of medical and hospital benefit rebates. The time varied in different States. In Western Australia both were rebated in five days whereas in New South Wales the delay was 35 days. But any businessman has to wait 30 days or sometimes three months to get a cheque for goods so there was not that much difficulty about it. The big problem concerned those in the low-income group, migrants and pensioners.

Members might be interested in hearing the Labor Party policy as laid down at the Twenty-third Commonwealth Conference in Canberra in 1959. It reads—

"The general practitioner service envisaged includes: (a) encouragement, with adequate subsidies, of group arrangements with medical practitioners for medical services to groups on either a salaried or per-capita basis; (b) repeal of the requirement that to obtain Commonwealth Benefit the patient must be a subscriber to a registered society, with the provisos that some financial responsibility should remain with the patient and that voluntary insurance would be encouraged;"

The recent Act is a complete about-face.

The policy continues—

"(c) provision of a salaried medical service for sparsely settled areas and provision of funds to subsidize medical and

nursing services in country areas generally. The hospital policy has two main points: (a) a national hospital service including hospitalization without charge and without means test in public wards of public hospitals and equivalent financial benefits for patients in approved private hospitals and in intermediate and private wards of public hospitals; (b) repeal of the requirement that to obtain a major portion of the Commonwealth benefit, the patient must be a subscriber to a registered society, with the proviso that voluntary insurance would be encouraged."

Voluntary insurance is not being encouraged now; rather it is being stamped out.

The policy continues—

"The policy with regard to specialist services is that patients in all wards of public hospitals should have the option of utilizing, without charge, the services of specialists (particularly surgeons) remunerated by salaried or sessional fee, the number of such specialists to be increased as the demand for their services increased."

It is also interesting that, in 1971, in his Fabian lecture, Mr. Gough Whitlam said—

"The major act of socialism in the traditional sense to be undertaken by a Labor Government in its first term of office is through the establishment of a single Health Insurance Commission."

They were the words of fate.

Representatives of the A.M.A. approached the Liberal-Country Party Government 18 months before its defeat in 1972 with a plan to remove the inadequacies that existed in the National Health Act of 1953. Their voices fell on deaf ears. The members of that Government must shoulder a considerable portion of the blame for the present universal health insurance scheme. They appear to have been completely unaware of the process of gradualism of Fabian socialism. They appear to have been too preoccupied with their own interparty squabbles to realise that their lack of interest in the A.M.A. proposals would be most disastrous for this country, and for the public. The Federal members have a lot to account for.

I now come to the present universal health insurance scheme of Mr. Hayden, another paranoid economist. The scheme is not an insurance scheme; it is financed directly from taxation, and has no limits or safeguards on its utilisation. There is therefore no apparent control over its total cost. Nowhere in the world has a socialist Government introduced a health scheme that was removed by a conservative Government that followed at the next election.

There is no such thing as good, cheap medicine. Fee for service is the nearest approach to good service that has so far been evolved. Mr. Hayden has refused to nominate the cost of the universal health scheme. In "The Australian Financial

Review" of 7 March 1975, he said that he did not know how much it was going to cost. Yet on 17 March 1975 he made the statement in a telecast, which was reported in "The Townsville Daily Bulletin", that he thought it would cost \$1,400 million.

**Mr. Lamont:** You can always cost our scheme.

**Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG:** That is right. Preliminary figures give one the idea of things to come. I shall give the House some of the preliminary figures. The computer, which it was said would cost \$6,000,000, has now been costed in the Federal Budget at \$30,000,000. That is a big jump. The Federal Government therefore cannot be believed on the first issue. It is said that this cost will be written off over several years. The central computer is claimed to be able to process 90,000 returns a day, giving a five-day turnabout. This actually takes place in Western Australia now. The computer will therefore provide no improvement for Western Australians. They are among those who do not want to come into this hospital scheme. In New South Wales, for ordinary personal illnesses a return is made in 35 days, and, in the case of hospitalisation, in 28 days.

The total staff of the so-called Medibank, or socialised medical insurance, is to be 35,000, 700 of whom will be in Canberra. In 1974-75, the Commonwealth Budget for administration of the Health Insurance Commission alone is \$9,500,000. These are some of the hidden costs that have appeared lately in budget estimates. Publicity alone of the Department of Social Security has been budgeted not at \$1,500,000 but at \$2,280,000.

For community health centres, the Commonwealth Government has budgeted \$35,000,000 for 1974-75. These centres are being embraced, very surreptitiously, by our own Government in this State. The Department of Health has now created in Queensland little cells and nests of socialised medicine. They are the medical counterparts of the Australian Assistance Plan, which is one of the most iniquitous things in our society at the moment. These community health centres will look after the community's welfare, just as the A.A.P. is doing, until everyone is looking after everyone else. We will then end up with a regime like that of Chairman Moa or the Bolsheviks. Everyone will be looking after everyone else, and no one will dare to speak about anything. Brother will be looking down brother's back, and sister down sister's. It will all be controlled by Big Brother in Canberra—most probably with a computer costing \$60,000,000.

I consider that community health centres are a costly arrangement. Their economics have been costed very accurately by actuaries at 61.5 per cent more a visit than visits under the old general practitioner system. And here is another very interesting point. The latest circular that I received

from the local community health centre in Townsville stated that the hours are 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.—Public Service hours. People do not get sick only in Public Service hours. They get sick at odd hours. People are not knocked down on the road only in Public Service hours. But that is the attitude the Federal Government is trying to inculcate in the administrators, and they are indoctrinating young doctors and nurses with a similar attitude—"Get sick inside our limit of hours or die", or, "Go and see someone else, but don't come and see us." The days of the old general practitioner are gone.

The nearest I can get to the cost of the hospital component of the universal health insurance scheme is \$1,160 million. That is the estimate given by the National Hospitals and Health Services Commission, but it does not agree with what Mr. Hayden says. Ananias was a very famous man, but I think he will be outshone and superseded by Mr. Hayden on the subject of health costs. It is said that \$760,000,000 of the \$1,160 million will come from the Commonwealth and \$400,000,000 will come from the combined States.

The money for the hospital component will not be handed to the hospitals in the States through State Health Departments. It is expected that a Hospital Works Committee will be set up in each State. It will comprise three members from the commission and three members from the State Health Department. By accepting that money, the hospitals will then be expected to send a return each quarter to Canberra or to the Hospital Works Committee—it has not yet been decided; in fact, very little has been worked out in detail under the Act, and it is simply a matter of saying, "You can do it this way or you can do it that way. We have plans."—giving actual receipts, expenditures, utilisation, details of payments to medical staff, nursing staff and ground staff, the number of outpatients, cost per out-patient, and number of casualty patients. This will mean a considerable increase in clerical staff and equipment, and perhaps it could lead to the installation of many small computers, especially in big hospitals, because the work-load of clerical staffs will be colossal.

It all aims to bypass State Governments; yet one finds members of our own Government parties saying, "Let us put our feet under the table blindly with these fellows." I say to them, "If you sit down with a socialist, he will eventually chew your toenails off." Mr. McKenna, the vice-president of the Health Insurance Association of Australia, has estimated that the scheme will cost \$5,000 million when it is in full operation. Neither Mr. Hayden nor anyone else has denied that. Take that in conjunction with the cost of the Federal Government's supposed national compensation scheme, which it says will cost at least \$1,900 million per annum when it is fully operative, \$1,500 million for defence and \$1,500 million for

education. Where will the money come from? If there is not to be a huge increase in taxation, there must be something wrong with my figures.

Before any State Government accepts the offer from the socialist Government in Canberra of 50 per cent of the running cost, or \$40,000,000 or \$50,000,000, or whatever it might be, it should realise what the position would be in New South Wales, for example. The Federal Government offered New South Wales 50 per cent of the running cost of State hospitals. In 1972, the State Government of New South Wales paid 50.3 per cent of the running costs. In effect, therefore, the Federal Government's offer amounted to only an additional .3 per cent. In 1973-74 the Government of New South Wales paid 57 per cent of the running costs of State hospitals. New South Wales would not gain anything, and that is why it is standing out for 70 per cent. If Queensland takes anything less than 75 per cent of the running costs of State hospitals, there is something wrong with the Government's idea of money. Personally, I do not blame New South Wales in the least for not accepting the Federal Government's offer. Once it accepts that offer, it will also lose \$13,000,000 a year from worker's compensation. In New South Wales, of course, all worker's compensation is payable to the hospital.

Before concluding, I wish to make one further point. One hears a great deal about the marvellous medical set-up in Canada. In fact, it was a very vicious socialistic medical programme. On 15 October 1970 the Legislature passed the notorious Bill 41. It was passed by a Government that could not control the epidemic of kidnapping, murder, terror and the like. It had to bring in Dominion troops to calm down the cities. Once the medical system denounced the fee-for-service system in favour of a modified salary system, the Government introduced that legislation. It provided penalties that we would not impose on criminals. Fines of up to \$500 a day and terms of imprisonment were provided for. Any association that encouraged its members not to conform with the Bill were liable to be fined up to \$50,000 a day. That could happen in Australia. Do not let us run away with the idea that Canada is a free country. It has a poor medical service which has become a financial burden to the Canadians.

It makes me hang my head in shame when I see what goes on in the Federal House. Before I close I should like to read from the policy statement on health and welfare adopted by my own party.

"2 (a) Every citizen should have access without discrimination to the correct standard of health care possible and is entitled to exercise a right of choice in the selection of services for his individual needs.

. . .



"3 (b) The unique public hospital system in Queensland should be progressively upgraded with the increased provision of intermediate and private beds.

"8 (b) The government should encourage community co-operation based on church and service club organisations by providing finance with minimal control, for the setting up of homes for the aged and chronically sick."

The present Federal Government will choke all the charitable organisations. It does not want anyone else to be involved in welfare work. The religious orders will be choked. Our charitable institutions in Townsville are being financially choked by the Federal Government's refusal to fund them adequately. This is going on right throughout Australia. It is trying to make everyone dependent on a single, monolithic, socialistic Government. Soon we will not have any say at all; we will be controlled by an army of socialists.

**Mr. YEWDAL** (Rockhampton North) (3.38 p.m.): At the outset I should like to express my thanks to the people in the electorate of North Rockhampton for displaying their confidence in me and returning me to this Parliament as their representative. I trust that I can live up to their requirements as a member, and I assure each and every one of them that I will be available as often as possible within the electorate. I extend my thanks to my campaign director, Dave Ryan, and the innumerable workers who devoted unlimited hours to the campaign.

To all of the new members I extend my congratulations. It has been particularly interesting during the debate to hear the contributions of the many new members who have spent considerable time espousing the democratic processes which led to their attaining a seat in this Parliament. Many speakers referred to the rights of all sections of the community to be heard and to be given a fair go.

As a relatively new member, let me say that I came to this Chamber full of enthusiasm and eager to do something for my electorate, the people and the State. I soon found that in many quarters I was confronted with complete frustration or with little chance of resolving what I considered to be a justified representation on behalf of my constituents. In making that statement I do not want to give the impression that each and every person and each and every member can be satisfied by a department or by the Government. One must accept that there are only so many eggs in the basket, and that someone has to miss out or wait until later.

By far the greatest frustration occurs in the internal functioning of many Government departments. Certain procedures are required to be carried out, and naturally some departments are more efficient than others. However, delays of two, three or

four months in receiving replies from Ministers on specific matters are just not good enough. Many honourable members on each side of the Chamber will back up my criticism of this aspect of the work of Government departments.

One of the worst offenders in day-to-day matters concerning the community is the Consumer Affairs Bureau, which operates under the portfolio of the Minister for Justice. Whenever someone makes an approach to the bureau he is met with instant response and courtesy from the officers employed there. However, he finds it almost impossible to have positive action taken by the bureau against those companies and firms that continually hoodwink the public with deceptive devices of all types, false advertising, mail-order schemes, door-to-door sales pitches, mock auctions and so on. Currently, betting schemes are advertised in utter contempt of the law, yet the Minister for Justice is not prepared to do anything about them.

I can recall the occasions on which my parliamentary colleagues and I spoke for hours on end about the infamous Dare to be Great and Glen Turner Enterprises, which were peddling their wares in Queensland. Other Opposition members and I consistently asked the Minister for Justice to do something about the activities of these organisations. He told us repeatedly that he was aware of their activities, was gathering information and witnesses in relation to them and that he was going to do something about them. While we waited, thousands of people, particularly in Brisbane, were fleeced of thousands of dollars. This matter is now history—much to the sorrow of many families.

All the Minister does is talk about doing something. He takes no action whatever on many problems that confront the community. We see the creation of two-dollar companies that crop up repeatedly and reap a rich harvest from peddling their wares, such as home-cladding and paint compositions, throughout the State. They offer 15 or 20-year guarantees and a host of other things, but the guarantees are not worth the paper they are written on. The Minister knows all about this, yet he takes no action.

The principals of these firms go into liquidation, dispose of whatever materials they have, dismiss their employees and disappear. Then, six months later, they float other two-dollar companies, and away they go again. As I say, the Minister has positive evidence of the activities of these firms; he is in possession of written statements and the Consumer Affairs Bureau has been flooded with complaints, yet he does nothing about them.

Another department in which inordinate delays occur is the Main Roads Department. I have raised this matter on many earlier occasions. Those members who represent electorates outside the metropolitan area will

substantiate my claim that motorists wait as long as three or four months for their registration labels and, while waiting, are frequently asked by police officers where their current registration labels are. The police demand to be shown the receipts from the Main Roads Department.

We have been told that these delays are caused by an overtime ban. We have also been informed that the ban was lifted a few days ago. I do not accept that the ban was the sole cause of the delay. I suggest that it could have been overcome if the Government, instead of merely talking about decentralisation, had established branch offices of the Main Roads Department in decentralised areas. What is wrong with a branch of the department in Townsville issuing registration labels and number plates? What is wrong with such an office in either Rockhampton or Bundaberg catering for the needs of motorists in Central Queensland? I do not see any reason why court houses and C.P.S. offices cannot provide this service. Many motorists are embarrassed by becoming involved with the police through the Government's failure in this direction.

It would seem that in many Government departments supervision is sadly lacking and no initiative is shown in developing more streamlined methods of processing paper work. Nobody would deny that. It seems that, while public servants are polite and courteous to members of Parliament, their courtesy does not extend to ordinary citizens. Public servants do not tend to show as much interest in inquiries made by people who come in off the street. I firmly believe that there needs to be a complete upheaval in the internal functioning of many departments and that the Ministers should make themselves conversant with the activities and procedures of the departments under their control. They should get down to taintacks and talk to those officers in control of their departments. I make those criticisms on a genuine, constructive basis, hoping that at least some Ministers will look into them.

When legislation is dealt with in this Parliament, it is mainly presented as a fait accompli. By that, I mean Ministers come forward with a prepared brief, which very often they do not know much about, and in most cases they will not deviate even if the most constructive and beneficial propositions are brought forward by Opposition or Government members. On many occasions the Minister presenting legislation, or the Premier, moves the gag on discussion to suit a personal or Government desire, the idea being to stifle a debate which might highlight a failing of the legislation or of the Government in an area. Many new members will see the gag applied by Ministers or the Premier for a distinct personal or departmental reason. That is not good enough, and I know that many Government members feel as I do, but it is what happens with much legislation coming before us. When people in our electorates ask us, "Did you involve yourself in the

debate on a certain matter?" we will only be able to say, "We were prepared to be involved; we had our notes ready; but the Premier or the Minister gagged the debate and we were unable to express ourselves in the way we should on the complaint you have with this legislation."

**Mr. Moore:** That happens on occasions.

**Mr. YEWDAL:** I am glad the honourable member accepts that.

**Mr. Ahern:** It happens in the Federal Parliament, too.

**Mr. YEWDAL:** I agree. I am speaking as a member of State Parliament and that is where I leave my contribution. I trust that when the new Government members experience this situation, they will express their resentment to it.

Many Ministers will discard the arguments and suggestions of Opposition members yet in many cases, at a later date, they use in legislation the very suggestion put forward by Opposition back-benchers. The same applies to policy matters raised by Opposition members during election campaigns. The very policies expounded by Opposition members in the last few election campaigns in Queensland have ultimately been taken up by Ministers and introduced as legislation.

**A Government Member:** They do that in Canberra, too.

**Mr. YEWDAL:** I will concede that, again. We should get more consideration, and Ministers should be more receptive to constructive suggestions.

Much concern was shown by many new members about needs in their own electorates, with special reference to education, housing and local authorities. Some honourable members will no doubt argue that former representatives did not make sufficiently competent representation and they will embark on a vigorous campaign, as new members, to improve the lot of their constituents. Many of these enthusiastic members will be thoroughly disappointed when they see that their objectives are far from realised. Any inadequacies now prevailing in any electorate are a direct result of the failure of the present State Government under the Premier's leadership. If I were to reiterate everything that former speakers have argued was needed in their electorates, it would certainly be shown that the Government has a lot to answer for. The argument advanced by the honourable member for Flinders this afternoon is an indictment of the Government. It is pertinent that until 1972 the present Government's counterparts were in power in Canberra and that the Government has been in control of the State for the past 18 years.

I have many problems concerning my electorate that I could ventilate this afternoon but it is not my intention to work the parish pump. I prefer to speak in general terms on a State basis.

On the matter of housing, I feel that an immediate crash programme should be introduced, preceded by a realistic and positive approach to land resumption and purchase by the Queensland Housing Commission. That would allow an uninterrupted programme of home construction, which is badly needed in the State. This programme should be based on the present and future needs of housing of this type. It should have included in it distinct consideration of environmental and ecological studies of where houses are to be constructed.

Playgrounds for the young and parks for the old and the community generally should be given high priority in development areas. I can with certainty quote one example by digressing slightly and referring to my own electorate. In one area where houses are being constructed, the land set aside for the provision of a playground and/or park is low-lying and is at the extreme end of where the housing is situated. More careful consideration should have been given to the siting of those facilities.

**Mr. Hodges:** Wouldn't you say a series of smaller playground areas would be far better?

**Mr. YEWDAL:** Yes, I agree wholeheartedly. The Government should show some initiative towards private-enterprise involvement in this field by insisting, through the local authorities if necessary, that many more small areas be provided.

**Mr. Byrne:** The Brisbane City Council won't do it, though.

**Mr. YEWDAL:** I suggest that the Government should show its strength by exercising its authority and legislating for this to be done. If that is not the answer, we should continue to put the pressure on the powers that be. I can cite examples, as I did in relation to the Housing Commission, where the playground areas in the green belts set aside by private developers are stuck away in a corner or up on a stoney ridge, inaccessible and of no use whatsoever. They are making a token show of interest in this area.

**Mr. Doumany:** Clem Jones gives them away.

**Mr. YEWDAL:** The honourable member can have his say about Clem Jones. I am talking about my experience.

I wish to refer to a topic raised by many honourable members, namely, education, a field in which there have been a number of failings by the Government. Particularly in the country areas, the Government has attempted to rush out and establish facilities for children in areas of mining and mineral

development. I accept that facilities should be provided for those children, but in the long term the facilities that are being provided will be found by the teachers and children using them to be not entirely adequate. P. and c. committees, principals, and teachers' union advocates are arguing about the department's not providing adequate essential facilities. I am not talking about the provision of additional facilities as a school develops, but rather in the initial establishment of a school. These necessary facilities are not being set up. The honourable member for Belyando elaborated on this subject earlier in this session.

Demountables were introduced by this Government for use in areas of rapid development in which the number of children requiring education was greater than had been anticipated. I accept them as being a very useful part of the department's equipment in such instances; but I will not accept that demountables should become permanent fixtures as has happened progressively over the last few years in Queensland. Very little is being done to remedy the situation.

In schools that have had demountables for a long period there develops among children a "class" attitude of, "I am in a good class. I am up top and you are in the old metal demountable." I know that teachers develop a similar attitude. The new Minister for Education should study this as soon as he possibly can, conduct a survey of where they are and what they are being used for, and develop a programme accordingly so that demountables are set up in areas where they will serve the best purpose.

During the last election campaign the Government made pious promises about pre-school facilities. Because I can be factual about it, I will cite an example. The Treasurer promised a pre-school facility at the Frenchville school in North Rockhampton at the commencement of last year. That school was provided; but, believe me, few stones were left unturned to ensure that it was.

Apparently the Education Department and the Works Department are conjointly considering the provision of pre-school centres on the basis of siting them on grounds already held by the Education Department. Pre-school centres are being built on these grounds, encroaching on the playground areas of existing primary schools. The p. and c. committees and principals are screaming about it.

**Mr. Moore:** Generally speaking, it is desirable to have them close together.

**Mr. YEWDAL:** I agree, but not if it is necessary to take over playground space. The department could either resume or take up space in an adjacent area or a property across the road. In some cases properties are being resumed.

Some p. and c. associations and principals have told me of these problems, although not necessarily officially. They have taken me to school-grounds and told me how many children attend the school. They have indicated where a tennis court or a cricket pitch is needed and a pre-school is proposed. I have had this reaction from these people.

**Mr. Frawley** interjected.

**Mr. YEWDAL**: I am saying that in many cases they are not big enough. We are being told by the experts that the children must have more involvement in sporting activities on playgrounds. I will go along with that. We are engaging more people in that field in the secondary area. However, I do not go along with it if there is not enough room.

**Mr. Moore**: We won't have enough money left if we have to accept Medibank.

**Mr. YEWDAL**: The honourable member wants to get me into an argument on Medibank and I do not think I have the expertise to argue it.

**Mr. Hodges**: Do you say that this happens in the older schools as well as the newer schools?

**Mr. YEWDAL**: Yes, definitely in the older, established schools, where there is a built-up housing and business area around the schools and it is difficult to try to resume or take over land. I still think the problem should be overcome to allow the current primary-school areas to be retained.

**Mr. Frawley**: It is being done in a lot of cases.

**Mr. YEWDAL**: Yes, but not in others. If the new Minister for Education acts as a new broom, I hope he sweeps a bit cleaner than his predecessor.

A number of high schools are developing into what I call mass-production schools. A school I could use as an example has an enrolment of 1,500 to 1,600 children. I do not think this is in the best interests of the children, the teachers, the community generally and the parents who are doing their best to become involved in the education of children. In this mass production area teachers cannot find the time to create the relationship with the children that they would like to create. They cannot get close enough to the children. Consequently the schools are run in a stereotyped, mass-production manner and this matter is not being looked after as it should be.

**Mr. Moore**: What is the solution?

**Mr. YEWDAL**: We have to provide a given area and given number of facilities for a given number of students. Somebody has to say, "We will stop at that figure." I do not think we can go much higher than 1,400 or 1,500 children. As far as I am concerned even that figure is too high. This matter should be looked at closely.

We should also look at the education of disadvantaged and handicapped children. I spent a few minutes the other day during the Matters of Public Interest debate talking about what is happening in overseas countries, particularly Japan, regarding handicapped and disabled children. I reiterate that the Minister for Education in Queensland should look to his departmental officers and advisers and embark on some sort of television programme similar to that in Japan. It is compulsory in Japan, where the 20-minute programme is viewed by some 200,000 disabled children. It is repeated over a period.

There is a lot of frustration among parents of disadvantaged and handicapped children as well as committees who are doing their best to provide amenities for the children. We do not have enough teachers to handle the problem. The Education Department is not producing sufficient teachers with the expertise to cope with it.

I appreciate that there must be a certain number of children in an area before facilities and a special teacher can be provided. I know the problem my colleague had in Rockhampton to get a deaf school. It is very much appreciated. The numbers are holding and in fact are increasing.

At this point I shall get onto a party note and say that in the last 18 months or two years the Federal Government has given a tremendous boost to the education system. I do not think that can be denied. Assistance has been given in the field of handicapped children and dental service to school-children. The Federal Government is paying enormous amounts of money to establish the dental service. It has been put forward by the Queensland Minister for Health. The Federal Government has provided in the dental field something that was virtually unknown in Queensland.

A further criticism concerns the school sister service in Queensland. It is drastically understaffed. As explained by the former Minister, the procedure is that the school sister should visit each primary school at least once each year. I could name schools where there have been no visits for three or four years. I obtained that information from the Minister, so it is fairly authentic. More school sisters should be appointed. Although I know that there is a problem in obtaining qualified staff, this is a Government responsibility, and the Government should look into it.

Finally on the subject of education, I again raise a hardy annual. I do not think that sufficient use is made of school facilities such as playgrounds, libraries, tennis courts, and so on. There should be a scheme under which someone is available, not necessarily on a full-time basis, to make school facilities available at a time when they are normally locked up. This is when vandals enter schoolgrounds and cause damage costing thousands of dollars. If a scheme could be

developed under which someone was in attendance during holiday periods, children could make use of school facilities and the community would be better off.

Another matter to which I feel the Government should direct attention in Queensland is household, personal and motor-vehicle insurance. This cause has been espoused by many others. Members who have had some little experience in their office will know that from day to day, and from week to week, complaints are received about insurance companies, and from people in all walks of life. They are not received from people connected with insurance companies as that is not the done thing.

But members do constantly receive such complaints, and it is very hard to obtain satisfaction for the complainants. We hear the story, for example, of the fellow who signs up for motor vehicle insurance. The person behind the counter will pat him on the back and say, "We will allow you one windscreen a year." In a month's time the motorist has a windscreen broken. The insurance company pays for the new windscreen, but when the time comes to pay next year's premium the motorist finds that his premium has not been reduced. It will therefore cost him about \$30 for the windscreen. Insurance companies do not tell people taking out policies that this is how they operate, and motorists do not read the small print on their policies. I know a girl who worked in an insurance office and whose services were dispensed with because of a reduction in staff, and she told me that the policy of that company was never to explain this situation to those seeking insurance cover. The policy was, "Just sign them up and get them out the door."

I think the Government should be strong enough to initiate an inquiry into all forms of insurance. Insurance companies are erecting buildings of 15 to 20 storeys, in the metropolitan area in particular, and in most cases complete floors of those buildings will be vacant for a long time. They also invest a great deal of capital in hire-purchase activities, which are a little more lucrative. Whilst this is going on, the man in the street is paying high premiums for insurance of his house, household goods and motor vehicle.

I now wish to move on to a matter that has been ventilated by many others. I should like to touch briefly on the continued obstruction of the Federal Government by the Premier. I think that his behaviour contrasts markedly with the Treasurer's attitude of trying to co-operate, live and work with the Federal Government. I personally believe that the present situation is detrimental to Queensland, and, in particular, to Queenslanders. I equate the Premier with the boy who cried "Wolf". I do not need to finish that story—he cried out once too often and nobody came to his aid.

I also suggest that the Premier's vaudeville act, and his attack on Dr. Everingham, a Federal Minister, at a National Party meeting at Yeppoon, were completely unwarranted. They were, in my opinion, the acts of a demented man on the precipice of destruction, and they certainly did not endear him to his audience or the community generally. One would hope that suitable treatment by a qualified person will correct this problem of the Premier, and the people of Queensland will then be able to receive the care and attention that a Premier should give them.

**Mr. Hodges:** You must admit that the Federal Government is now doing many of the things he has suggested.

**Mr. YEWDAL:** I am opposing his continued obstruction, his continued "No, no, no", his continued lack of co-operation, and I am contrasting it with the Treasurer's endeavours to co-operate with the Federal Government in the interests of Queensland.

Finally, I wish to commend the new Speaker of this Assembly, who has occupied that position for only a few weeks, for his very welcome activity in having committees of the Parliament meet. He has indicated that he intends having regular committee meetings, and that he wants them to function in their own interests and also in the interests of the people who are affected by their action.

**Mr. Ahern:** The Opposition should have supported him before.

**Mr. YEWDAL:** The real decision was made by some Government members, so I suggest that we might well let sleeping dogs lie. If the Speaker continues to act in a progressive manner, I am sure he will have the complete support of members of all the parliamentary committees.

**Mr. M. D. HOOPER** (Townsville West) (4.7 p.m.): I join with other honourable members in offering a message of loyalty from my electorate to Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

I offer my congratulations to the mover and the seconder of the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, and I also congratulate Mr. Speaker on his appointment to his responsible office. He has already shown that he will treat all members impartially, and that he has the ability to handle the business of the House with dignity and decorum.

As a new member who has spent his more recent years in local government, I think that I should speak of some of the problems that are menacing the continuation of the third tier of government not only in Townsville but also—and perhaps to an even greater extent—in the 130 local authority areas in this State.

According to the booklet published by the Queensland Parliament, local authorities are charged with the provision of such

services as reticulated water supply, sewerage and drainage, parks, sports grounds, swimming pools, libraries, and public halls for civic, cultural and social activities. They also are responsible for town-planning, the supervision of building construction and maintenance, civic cleanliness (including garbage disposal and the registration of dogs), and sometimes public transport services.

The main source of income for local authorities has been the rates levied on properties within the local authority area, the general rate being calculated at so many cents in the dollar of the Valuer-General's unimproved value of the land. Although higher values on parcels of lands zoned either commercial or industrial allow a local authority to get additional general rate revenue from the developments the present Local Government Act does not allow them to get a higher contribution from the many multi-unit dwellings, motels or holiday resorts that may be located in a residential zone. It is a ridiculous situation that the owner of a private dwelling could be paying \$100 per annum in general rates whilst the adjacent property, on which may be erected 10 to 20 flat units, would be paying the same general rate because the land values are equal.

It is only natural that the occupiers of the multi-unit buildings in cities are placing heavy demands on roads, water and sewerage services, parks and libraries, etc., supplied by the local authorities, yet they make no contribution to the general fund. I know that some argument will be advanced that the occupiers of the units indirectly pay rates which are included in their rental, but I reject this claim. Rental costs vary according to the law of supply and demand for accommodation. If a city is going through a period of boom building construction and imported labour is seeking accommodation, rentals increase dramatically. After the boom period, when the labour force departs, flat rentals fall, particularly if there has been an upsurge in the building of units subsequent to the excess demand. In other words, the landlord may get some icing on the cake for a brief period, but the poor old local authority misses out right along the line. Both State and Federal Government departments exempt themselves from paying general rates, and they are offenders also in this regard.

Owing to wild inflation in the past 18 months, which the Federal Government seems powerless to control, and the spiralling costs of wages and materials, coupled with increasing demands by ratepayers for improved services, many local authorities now find themselves in a desperate financial situation, where at least half of their general rate revenue is wiped away by loan repayments and interest charges, leaving very little revenue in kitty for the maintenance of existing services, let alone new constructions. Unfortunately, rates are levied nearly one year in advance, and rising costs today are

making it difficult to complete existing capital works in hand, let alone carry out loan requirements. There is no growth factor in local authority budgeting to make up the anticipated shortfall.

Honourable members have all heard the hackneyed phrase that local government, the third tier of government in the Federal system, is the grass-roots level of government. I would resort to the same expression myself as the definition is an extremely sound one. At local government level the citizen can speak to one of his elected aldermen or councillors, as the case may be, on any day of the week and get assistance with his particular problem. The council members receive deputations. They make inspections of proposed developments, and they can give John Citizen an on-the-spot decision on his submission. They are the governments that give real service to their constituents. At all costs the State Government must ensure that the system is preserved so that the people have a direct say in the progress of their area.

Submissions to Brisbane, which in many cases is 1,000 miles or more away from the local authority area, seem to take a long time to get settled. Clearly, quick action by Federal and State Governments is necessary to improve funding to local authorities. Rural areas have their problems, and so have the coastal cities which have experienced a high growth rate.

Last year the Townsville City Council received a grant of \$250,000 from the Commonwealth Grants Commission. Most of the grant has been applied towards drainage schemes in the older urban areas, plus \$50,000 for an outdoor stage in an open-air amphitheatre where outdoor entertainment can be conducted. Some money was directed towards improvements in the library. The grants were the first positive help given to local authorities. It is pleasing to see that the State Government is preparing to set up a similar organisation in Queensland to make further grants to local authorities.

There are many exponents who say that local authorities should have access to the common taxation pool. I presume it would be proposed that a local authority would get so many dollars per head of population. This would favour only the larger cities, and would be the death-knell of some of the rural areas with a sparse population, where the people are in need of more amenities and cultural facilities than their brothers and sisters in the cities. I favour the existing system, as long as a State Government Grants Commission would top up local loan programmes on an impartial basis, where assistance was most needed.

This year, as is so often the case, many local authorities had difficulty in raising their loan allocations, particularly in the depressed rural areas. There is no indication that the borrowing climate is improving. It may well be that the situation will deteriorate

in the present investment climate, and the unwieldy procedures involved in loan-raising. I believe that the present difficulties in raising loan allocations are rooted in changes in the Australian investment and banking structure. These changes, in the last few years, have altered the whole climate in which local authority borrowing operates, particularly for those forced to rely on the medium of the private debenture loan. I may be repeating the obvious but the main factors are—

1. The emergence of the private bank;
2. The inter-company money market;
3. The growth of building societies;
4. The now adventurous investment policy of insurance companies and super-annuation funds;
5. The growth of wider investment opportunities for private individuals; and
6. The multiplying effect of private development which, while attracting funds away from local authority investment, is in its turn increasing the demand on local authorities to provide more services.

Solutions appear to be either the matching of interest rates with those obtainable in the private sector or more compulsion on institutional bodies to invest in local authority loans. I mean by that an extension of the existing 30:20 rule. In passing, it would appear that the institutional lender is tending to bypass the private debenture loan for negotiability and administrative simplicity of inscribed stock available only to the capital city authorities.

Several years ago the Townsville City Council made a submission to the North Queensland Local Government Association for application to the Treasury for the creation of a central borrowing authority issuing inscribed stock and raising loans in the North Queensland local government area. However, the submission received little support from country areas. This year there was an unprecedented rush to the Treasury for assistance to fill loan programmes.

There is no reason why the Treasury could not be the central borrowing authority for all local authorities. Perhaps the Treasury would not welcome this additional work-load any more than would some of the provincial cities and towns, which would see it as centralist policy in our State. Perhaps the 10 regional organisations in the State could give this matter some consideration.

The administrative waste involved in the present spectacle of over 100 councils approaching the same lenders at the same time each year is appalling. The present system of individual debentures for each project or group of projects practically ensures that a council with a sizeable loan allocation has funds that must be reinvested at a loss. This is, of course, reinforced by the need to take funds when offered and not when needed. A system of pooling all loan funds and averaging terms should not be

difficult to administer. This, allied to a central borrowing authority, must ensure a more flexible use of loan funds.

Some of this nation's leaders seem convinced that we can and will have to learn to live with inflation for some years. If this is so, local government will survive only if it becomes more efficient and achieves greater productivity with the staff and mechanical plant available to it. In saying this I do not envisage staff retrenchments.

There is a good case for a reduction in the number of local authority areas, particularly east of the Great Dividing Range, where developing cities are overflowing their existing boundaries into adjacent rural shires. Honourable members will know that there are many examples of this, and the sooner the Government sets up a boundaries tribunal to sort out some of these problems, the more efficient and productive the work-force of local authorities will become.

A little more than two years ago the Government declared 10 regional organisations in Queensland. These organisations have side-stepped discussions on boundary alterations, although outside of meetings the members of the Northern Regional Council, including the Townsville City Council, have generally agreed that boundary alterations are necessary.

The suggestion is not unique. The boundary of the Townsville City Council area has been extended outwards at least twice to my knowledge over the past 50 years, and now extends approximately seven miles from the centre of the city. I would guarantee that the majority of people residing up to 15 miles from the city would consider themselves to be citizens of Townsville—and quite rightly so. After all, the great majority of them are employed in Townsville and spend their income in the city area. However, because the Thuringowa Shire Council has always been predominantly rural in nature, with extensive areas of land devoted to sugar and beef development, the urban areas of Thuringowa are sadly lacking in the provision of facilities and amenities.

In making these comments I am not trying to stir up any hornets nest under parliamentary privilege as I have made public statements similar to this before. The councils of Thuringowa and Townsville do try to reach agreement on issues that affect both councils, but unfortunately in both councils there are members with parochial tendencies, and they cause minor differences that, instead of being settled quickly, drag on for years before final agreement is reached.

The point I am endeavouring to make is that more regional planning should be instituted by the Government through the regional councils when developing cities cannot help sprawling over their boundaries into adjacent rural areas. It is not common sense that two adjacent local authorities suffering problems of this nature should have two separate administration complexes with highly paid

staff, two planning departments, two engineering departments, two health departments, and two separate yards full of expensive mechanical equipment—all serving the needs of what should be one urban community. This is one avenue in which large sums of money could be saved with obvious advantages to the residents of the area.

In the city of Townsville alone, there are 354 km of roads that are not sealed between the carriageway and the kerbing. Three of our busiest arterial roads—Bayswater Road, Palmerston Street, and Fulham Road—are in my electorate of Townsville West. All are 1½ chains wide. Every wet season the gravel or dirt shoulders become quagmires because the city council does not have funds to seal the roads from kerb to kerb. The most recent estimate for upgrading the non-sealed gravel road shoulders is \$6,000,000. The city also needs \$10,000,000 to install proper drainage schemes for urban areas. In some cases much of the surface storm-water comes from the shire into the city. I again stress the need for proper regional planning of the greater Townsville area under one authority.

The service and standard of urban bus transport in Townsville need upgrading. Unfortunately the railway lines leading north, south and west from the city traverse sparsely populated suburbs and no great assistance can be given by the railways to help relieve the situation. Bus transport in Townsville is owned by three private operators, who are subjected to a lot of unfair criticism from time to time because of a situation which they acknowledge exists but which is outside their capacity to rectify.

The Director of Transport Planning and Development in Queensland recently revealed that whilst the population of Townsville had grown from 55,000 in 1964 to approximately 85,000 in 1975, bus patronage had fallen from 2,500,000 passengers a year in 1964 to under 2,000,000 in the current year. That is a rise of 45 per cent in population and a loss of 20 per cent in patronage. At the same time, the effects of salaries and wages on the cost of operating a private bus service have caused a spiralling increase in costs.

In 1964 the average private bus operator rarely paid more than 40 per cent of his total costs in salaries and wages, and direct operational wages were about 25 per cent. Now, in 1975, he is paying over 60 per cent of his costs in salaries and wages. Costs of fuel, spare parts and accessories are also increasing rapidly.

Fares have obviously risen but the increases have been insufficient to maintain a reasonable profit and provide for the purchase of new buses. At the same time, fares have got to the stage where there is now resistance by patrons. I am concerned particularly about the plight of pensioners and young students. It is not uncommon for a student to have to pay \$2 and more weekly

for bus transport. The Government has an excellent policy of paying bus transport for children who live more than 3 miles from school. It is time we as a Government accepted the liability to transport all children to and from school. I know the scheme would be expensive, and it may be impossible to implement in one year, but I urge the Government to budget in the next financial year for the gradual introduction of student travel by giving subsidies to bus operators. I shall name but a few of the advantages which, I am sure, are well known to all honourable members—

(1) Bus operators will be able to improve the standard of buses by the purchase of new vehicles;

(2) There would be a reduction in road deaths if children did not have to ride bicycles or walk to schools;

(3) There should be a reduction in the number of two-car and three-car families. In many cases this situation is brought about by the desire of some mothers to drive their children to school. In fact, many students 17 years and over have a car solely for travelling to and from school.

(4) There would be less traffic on the road with consequent reduction in road maintenance, parking and pollution problems.

In recent years we have heard a lot about improvement in the quality of life. That subject has been bandied around by many sections in the community. It sums up an ideal to which every member of every Government should subscribe. One simple step to improve the quality of life would be for this Government to introduce effective legislation to allow proper control by the police and local authorities of noise nuisance. The complaint is probably more common in the city than in rural areas. The complaints about noise cover work on construction sites outside normal working hours, vehicles with insufficient silencing equipment, amplified music in residential areas, roosters crowing in the early hours of the morning, and tradesmen working on week-ends at home.

**Mr. Moore:** There is nothing wrong with roosters.

**Mr. M. D. HOOPER:** They are all right in the pot. The simple fact is that a noise that one person might rightly consider to be a nuisance need not necessarily be one that should not be allowed to continue. We should have effective legislation setting out the allowable noise level in residential areas.

Western Australia introduced legislation last year allowing local authorities to institute by-laws suitable to their own areas in order to have legislation enforced. The basis of the A.S.A. standard code of noise assessment in residential areas could set the guidelines as to what the ambient noise level should be in particular zones. Permits would



have to be obtained in advance before construction could start on a new project and the hours of operation would be stated on the permit. Any offence against the Act could be dealt with under its clauses. It is simple legislation that would certainly improve the quality of life for many people in urban areas.

Another matter which concerns the people of Townsville and other North Queensland centres is the failure of the Government to permit the operation of intrastate trade by the Australian National Line in Queensland. For some years now the Townsville Harbour Board, with the support of the Townsville City Council, the Development Bureau and the Chamber of Commerce, has made detailed submissions to the Government setting out the advantages and known disadvantages of the proposed introduction of this searoad service. We have acknowledged that there could be an early possible loss to the Railways of \$1,300,000 in the first year; but this loss should quickly be taken up with future developments taking place on the east coast of Queensland. The many advantages that would accrue to the people of North Queensland with the introduction of the service would far outweigh the disadvantages.

One early reason given by the Government for the refusal to allow intrastate shipping by A.N.L. was that the jobs of several thousand railwaymen would be in jeopardy. This was quickly discounted by the railway unions themselves. As recently as last November, the railway unions were even suggesting that the Railway should not proceed to open a new line from Duchess to the rock phosphate deposits, as they were so understaffed that railwaymen were being refused their annual leave when it became due.

Business houses in Townsville would confirm that congestion in the Townsville goods yards is extremely severe at times, and it is not uncommon for them to wait several weeks for the delivery of goods from Brisbane by rail.

The Queensland Government is responsible for the transport system as a whole and not for one section of it. No form of transport should be disadvantaged by favoured treatment to another. This is the free-enterprise system—the policy of this Government. Efforts should be made to integrate the different systems for the well-being of the people of the State generally. The people of Queensland, through the Government, have invested substantially in the ports of Queensland.

It is generally considered opinion that for short distances—say, up to 200 miles—road transport is the quickest and most economical form of transport for the delivery of goods and from that distance up to, say, 500 miles rail transport would be the most efficient and economical; but, in excess of 500

miles, sea transport would win hands down, particularly for containerised cargoes. There is also better protection against pilferage.

The Government has actively advocated a “Buy Queensland Made” campaign to promote development and employment opportunities in this State. I ask honourable members to consider that a substantial amount of business must be lost to Brisbane from North Queensland, as some local firms find it cheaper and more convenient to buy directly in Sydney at capital city prices and have goods shipped by container on the A.N.L. service. These people would no doubt buy in Brisbane if they could.

It is just not common sense, now that we are aware of the acute energy crisis, that the ships running between Brisbane and Townsville northwards have their holds half empty because we do not allow the Australian National Line to engage in intrastate trade.

It has been suggested recently that the Government is suspicious of the prospect that the A.N.L. shipping service would deliberately cut its freight rates in order to obtain business. I remind honourable members that the Australian Coastal Shipping Act, under which the line operates, provides that the line should operate as a commercial undertaking. The Act requires that the shipping commission pursue a policy directed towards securing revenue sufficient to meet all expenditure properly chargeable to revenue and to permit the payment of a reasonable return on capital. Allowing A.N.L. to trade on a basis of less than cost would require repeal of the Act or amendment to it. If the A.N.L. attempted such a foolish policy in Queensland, it would be bombarded with similar requests for freight reductions in all other States of Australia where it is allowed to operate.

It is not anticipated that the northern steel prefabrication business would have anything to fear from Brisbane competitors if A.N.L. intrastate shipping is introduced. The ships are built specifically for two kinds of freight, namely, containerised cargo and roll-on, roll-off motor cars. The A.N.L. officers in both Townsville and Brisbane, have assured me that, owing to the design of their ships, shipping of awkward-shaped articles would probably attract higher freight rates than would be acceptable to the shipper.

The people of Mackay, Townsville and Cairns expect this Government to allow greater flexibility in the transport of goods to them from their wholesale suppliers in Brisbane. Two years ago in the long and heavy wet season experienced in North Queensland, which is not an unusual occurrence, neither road nor rail routes were open at various times, and the people of North Queensland suffered shortages of many commodities, even down to food. At the same time as the people in the North were suffering these shortages, the Australian National

Line, unaffected by the heavy rain, were running their cargo ships north from Brisbane with empty space in their holds.

Townsville organisations have been told recently that the Government is anxious to protect the interests of small businesses and the jobs of their employees, who they feel would be disadvantaged by the introduction of intrastate shipping. While this policy is reassuring, the statement is rather nebulous when no specific instance can be found of what small business could be disadvantaged. The Townsville District Development Bureau has just sent out over 250 questionnaires seeking information from firms who felt they could be disadvantaged by the introduction of the A.N.L. sea-road service and not one reply has come back to it expressing any concern.

I will restate briefly some of the arguments in favour of the introduction of the A.N.L. intrastate shipping service to Mackay, Townsville and Cairns—

1. Brisbane manufacturers are at a disadvantage in comparison to those based in southern States.
2. This transport facility, with its specialised advantages, should be available to the people of North Queensland, as it is to other Australian centres.
3. Reports and publicly stated opinions by instrumentalities, businessmen and unionists indicate that the service would not pose a serious threat to the jobs of railway employees.
4. The A.N.L. sea-road service would offer reliable and scheduled delivery of goods, thus allowing merchants to take advantage of operating with smaller stocks, thus conserving working capital.
5. Competition is the basis of a free-enterprise system and is the best stimulus to any organisation.
6. In recent months the A.N.L. have had to increase their freight rates by approximately 25 per cent; but if they were permitted to use all their available cargo space northbound from Brisbane, they should be able to contain their freight rates and offer competitive rates with road and rail transport to the advantage of North Queenslanders.

In short, the people of North Queensland feel that some person, or persons, have been over-cautious in their advice to the Government claiming that permission to allow intrastate trade by the A.N.L. sea-road service would be ruinous to businesses and their employees in North Queensland. The proposal has been thoroughly investigated by responsible organisations in North Queensland and not one firm or employer group has spoken against its introduction. If the Government is still reticent about the consequences of its introduction, I would like to suggest that the A.N.L. could be allowed to operate to the far northern ports for, say, a trial period of 12 months. I urge an open inquiry into the proposal so that we

in North Queensland can find out who is against the introduction of the service and for what real reason?

I was pleased to hear recently of the announcement by the Deputy Premier and Treasurer that the State Government will invest approximately \$45,000,000 over the next five years on the development of a theatre and complex of cultural facilities in South Brisbane. These projects will be of immense value to the residents of Brisbane and those fortunate people living in South-east Queensland. I am concerned, however, that residents of a large percentage of Queensland—I am speaking of area and remoteness—will rarely have opportunities to enjoy these amenities.

I suggest that a similar complex, certainly on a reduced scale, should be erected in North Queensland to give people living north of Mackay similar opportunities to engage in cultural activities and to enjoy live theatre performances by Australian and overseas artists. The Townsville City Council have plans prepared, and they are ready to call tenders for a modern civic theatre with seating for about 1,000 people, which will be the most modern in North Queensland. On present estimates, it will cost about \$3,000,000 to erect; but, with inflation running riot, its final cost will be in excess of that figure. With other capital works in hand already escalating in cost, Townsville residents fear that the council will not be able to proceed with the erection of this fine theatre. Such decision would be a tragedy for theatre-goers in Townsville, and surrounding North Queensland towns. The city lacks a theatre at the present time.

I urge the State Government to look at the erection of the civic theatre in Townsville on a regional basis, and to regard it as the foundation-stone for a northern regional cultural complex. Liberal grants should be made available to the Townsville City Council to allow us to proceed with the first stage of the complex by starting the new civic theatre in the year 1975-76.

**Mr. LANE** (Merthyr) (4.36 p.m.): It is traditional in this debate for members to pledge their continued loyalty to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and, indeed, to make a public committal, on behalf of the electors whom they represent, to the personage of Her Majesty and all she stands for. Accordingly, I follow tradition and do so here today. The monarchy is an institution in which I deeply believe, and it is with good grace that I follow the tradition of the past.

In addition, I should like to compliment the Governor, Sir Colin Hannah, on the efficient, realistic and down-to-earth way in which he carries out his tasks as the Queen's representative in this State.

There is, of course, in the first general debate in this Parliament a great temptation to say something about the party that now makes up such a tiny Opposition, namely,

the Australian Labor Party. I feel sorely tempted to say something about Labor members today in view of the arrogant way they boasted and postured and jumped about in this place prior to the election last year. Now we see their number depleted to a miserable 11. This is a party that was once great, and one which, had I been born a generation or two earlier, I would probably have joined. But not today.

It has become the party of power-seekers; of "heavies" from the Trades Hall; of stand-over merchants; of big bosses of the trade union movement who stand over the working man and have little regard for the individual freedoms that we enjoy so much in Australia. However, tempted as I may be to comment upon the Australian Labor Party, I shall refrain from doing so because there is another matter of greater importance, and perhaps of greater relevance, on which I wish to speak. The events of 7 December last are now history, and the disastrous result—

Mr. K. J. Hooper interjected.

Mr. LANE: I knew he would have to come in eventually, Mr. Deputy Speaker. He has nothing to boast about here. He lost in a ballot for positions on the Q.C.E. a week or two ago. He is a man who runs the ticket from the Trades Hall. As usual he hawked it around party members and tried to stack the current Q.C.E. He did not have the numbers. Always in the past he has come up with them. A little fellow named Gerry Jones used to be in this Assembly, and also a very flash young fellow named Bill D'Arcy. They did not look much here, but they managed to get on the Q.C.E. The ticket that they ran was much more effective than the Trades Hall ticket that was carted from pillar to post by the honourable member for Archerfield. I therefore suggest that he should sit here and lick his wounds for a week or two until they have healed.

I should like to devote my contribution today to the Australian Assistance Plan. This is a welfare plan that is now well on its way to implementation throughout Australia, and particularly in the city of Brisbane. In the Prime Minister's policy speech prior to the 1972 election, he promised that his Government would establish a national hospitals, health and welfare commission to examine the needs of Australian society in these areas.

After the election, the present Government decided that a separate welfare commission should be established to advise on all aspects of social welfare, to integrate national programmes, and to evaluate the success of these programmes.

On 13 April 1974 the Prime Minister advised the Premier of this State that a National Commission on Social Welfare had been established under the chairmanship of Mrs. Marie Coleman, who was formerly the Director of the Victorian Council of Social Services. This commission met and, of course, it made some recommendations.

The terms of reference of the commission were—

"1. The commission will report directly and be answerable to the Minister for Social Security, and its reports will be published and tabled in Parliament. The commission will be served by a secretariat under a senior administrative officer and have access to technical, research, administrative and library resources of the Department of Social Security.

2. The commission has the right to confer with and accept submissions from people, organisations, private and public, including Governments."

The Labor Government, in setting up this commission, quite specifically outlined its functions. It said—

"1. Identify, report and recommend on community needs in the development of social welfare programmes.

2. Make recommendations consistent with the development of a nationally integrated social welfare plan in which—

(a) Priorities are set;

(b) Programmes are developed on a regional basis and wherever practical their administration is localised;

(c) Provision is made for user representation in administrative programmes;

(d) Commonwealth, State, local government and voluntary agencies are encouraged to co-ordinate their activities;

(e) Planning is periodically adjusted as required in the light of changing community circumstances, attitudes, and the capacity of the economy to sustain the development of programmes; and

(f) Identify and make recommendations to avoid duplication between authorities so as to maximise efficiency and effectiveness of the total community welfare effort."

The commission then sat down and came up with what has become known as the Australian Assistance Plan. This is a programme that seeks to regionalise social welfare payments. I must make this point in case anyone thinks I wish to knock it from the outset: without doubt, the Australian Assistance Plan has generated a very stimulating and healthy debate about the future of community welfare services in Australia, because it is certain that the prospect of a more systematic approach to social welfare policy at national, State, regional and local government level is highly desirable.

On 30 August 1973, the Australian Assistance Plan Discussion Paper No. 1—the first product of the commission under Mrs. Marie Coleman—was presented to Federal Parliament. The aim of the paper was to initiate discussion on the possibilities involved. The paper was disseminated widely throughout the country, with particular emphasis on political bodies and universities.

May I register some disappointment at this stage, Mr. Deputy Speaker, with the fact that the Queensland Government, despite a quite deliberate inquiry from the Premier to the Minister for Social Security, was refused permission to participate in the Social Welfare Commission.

**Mr. Hanson:** You rubbished it.

**Mr. LANE:** The honourable member for Port Curtis has a vested interest in it. A regional council for social development has been set up in his electorate.

**Mr. Hanson** interjected.

**Mr. LANE:** The honourable member had it before the Australian Assistance Plan.

**Mr. Hanson:** No. Your party has been running round all the electorates in Queensland trying to prostitute it.

**Mr. LANE:** If any political prostitution went on in the electorate of Port Curtis, I am sure that the honourable member for Port Curtis would have been part of it. He would have had direct responsibility for it. In fact, if there was prostitution of any kind in the Port Curtis electorate, I dare say he would have a finger in it somewhere. However, I do not wish to be distracted from what I would like to be a serious speech.

Discussion Paper No. 1 having been presented in Federal Parliament, the task then fell to the officers of the Social Welfare Commission to spread the plan throughout Australia. In deed, the chairman, Mrs. Marie Coleman, visited Brisbane to discuss with interested parties in this State just how the plan could be implemented in the Greater Brisbane Area. She took up first of all with the Social Welfare Subcommittee of the Lady Mayoress's Social and Welfare Committee of the Brisbane City Council. In fact, she invited that body to make representations as to how the plan could be implemented in the Greater Brisbane Area. She also had a conversation with a group of university academics in the Sociology Department. She had further discussions with the officers of the Queensland Council for Social Services, an excellent voluntary body existing on rather meagre subsidies that was already carrying out some of the tasks envisaged under the A.A.P. Following these visits all these people met and came up with an interim committee for the Greater Brisbane Area, which eventually put forward a recommendation to the Social Welfare Commission as to how the scheme could be implemented in Brisbane. That interim committee, headed by some quite eminent people in the field of social welfare and university academics, proposed in a document which is now available publicly how Brisbane should be divided into seven regions, each of which would be presided over by a regional council for social development. Each of these regional councils for social development could then carry out the tasks laid down in the discussion papers under the Australian Assistance Plan.

It is interesting to note that political influence began to creep in. The Labor aldermen from City Hall could see what a great bonanza this would be to them. They could see it as a great new political milking cow whereby they could exercise political patronage to their mutual benefit in Brisbane. It did not take them long to put forward a submission to the Social Welfare Commission—an individual one quite separate from the submission of the official interim committee which was prepared and put forward under the auspices of the Social Welfare Subcommittee of the Lady Mayoress's Social and Welfare Committee of the Brisbane City Council.

It was an interesting document. I have a copy of it here which is marked "Confidential". The suggestion which came from City Hall ran fairly parallel to the one put forward by the interim committee. It did, however, have an additional emphasis, an emphasis which orientated it towards City Hall. It sought to place power under the Australian Assistance Plan in the hands of that large group of Labor aldermen who hold temporary seats in City Hall, Labor aldermen who outnumber their opposition by 20 to 1. They proposed that there should be a central body based at City Hall to co-ordinate the regional councils in the seven regions in Brisbane.

In the terms of their recommendations to the Social Welfare Commission it seems quite clear that they intended that they would in fact be the controlling committee, and the committee with the power to say yea or nay as to where welfare grants would be made. These Labor aldermen would have the power of political patronage to which I have referred. On receipt of these two reports the Social Welfare Commission very wisely rejected this politically biased proposal of the Brisbane City Council. It accepted the one made by the broadly based interim committee, one that certainly envisaged seven regional councils and a central co-ordinating committee but did not give the power to say yea or nay to financial grants to the 20 Labor aldermen.

It may well have been this rejection that resulted in some of the dissension that arose between the members of the Social Welfare Commission and the Minister for Social Security. Half-way through last year the Press hinted that the commission may be abandoned or that its role would be downgraded. Obviously comments of this type were leaked from the propaganda machine operated by the Minister for Social Security to bring the members of the Social Welfare Commission into line. I must say that I admire the integrity of some of those members who withstood this nasty political pressure from the Federal Minister.

On 23 April last year, following six months of preliminary preparation and negotiations with the social welfare sub-committee of the Lady Mayoress's Committee, the City of

Brisbane interim committee was established to implement the Australian Assistance Plan in Brisbane. The committee was to hold meetings as well as to call public meetings. Its role was the general phasing in of the scheme in Brisbane. The constitution of the interim committee outlined one of its proposed activities in this way—

“(a) To form a number of corporate non-profit-making bodies to undertake the functions of regional councils for social development in Brisbane.”

In this State any organisation that is formed to solicit public funds by way of contribution or donation or to spend public money has to register itself under one of three Acts. It may become incorporated under the Companies Act or, alternatively, if it does not wish to have the standing of a limited company, it may register under the Religious Educational and Charitable Institutions Act or the Collections Act. It may be that there will be some constitutional conflict in this matter, but when these regional councils are formed it is necessary that they be registered.

**Mr. Hanson** interjected.

**Mr. LANE:** The honourable member for Port Curtis would know that the regional council in his area found it necessary to apply for registration under one of those Acts.

**Mr. Frawley:** Are there any jobs for the boys in this?

**Mr. LANE:** This is full of jobs for the boys, and I have no doubt that when some of those “boys” who presently occupy the Opposition benches lose their seats at the next State election they will be found jobs within the framework of the Australian Assistance Plan. No doubt they will be accompanied by jobs for the girls!

The second proposed activity of the interim committee was the formation of a Brisbane-wide co-ordinating body consisting of three elected persons from each regional council for social development and such other person as the interim committee may determine. On completion of its work the interim committee would then be dissolved.

The Committee first met on 3 May 1974 in the Brisbane City Council's training room. Since that time it has obtained its own rented premises in Edward Street, paid for from the public purse. It may be interesting if I put on record the names of the people who constitute this committee. The Minister for Social Security was asked—

“Who are the members of the City of Brisbane Interim Committee under the Australian Assistance Plan?”

In his answer in the House of Representatives on 23 October last year he listed them as—

Name	Organisation represented
Miss D. Carpenter ..	Australian Government
Mr. W. Burton ..	Local Government
Mrs. I. Brusasco ..	Local Government
Mr. F. Waters ..	Trades Hall
Mrs. E. Thiele ..	Welfare Consumers
Rev. A. W. Laurie ..	Council of Churches
Mr. O. Blau ..	Service Groups
Mr. B. Alcorn ..	University of Queensland
Mr. T. Kelly ..	Queensland Council of Social Service
Miss E. Jorgensen ..	Red Cross Society
Rev. B. Gilmour ..	Methodist Church
Councillor J. Harding	Albert Shire Council
Mr. D. Cochrane ..	State Department of Industrial Development
Professor A. Brownlea	Griffith University
Dr. J. Ward ..	Griffith University
Mr. D. Arrent ..	Brisbane City Council

A short time after that a representative from the State Health Department, in the person of Mr. Smyth, the liaison officer for the Minister for Health, was added to the committee.

Not one State parliamentarian was on that committee. One has only to cast one's eyes over the committee members to see that it was structured so that the State Government would have very little influence on it. I think we are entitled to be a little suspicious of it.

When the Committee was established it tackled the task of forming the Regional Council for Social Development throughout the Greater Brisbane Area. To do so, it employed staff, and it needed funds to pay the salaries. The Minister for Social Security acknowledged that the grants made in the pilot period of the Australian Assistance Plan in Brisbane included a grant of \$5,000 for 1973-74 and up to \$40,000 for 1974-75. When commenting on the Brisbane interim committee in Parliament in October last year—at that time no funding had been approved for 1975-76—the Minister said it was estimated that staff of the Brisbane interim committee would include an executive officer, a project officer, a stenographer-secretary and two community development officers. No funds had been approved for projects during that period. All the taxpayers' money was to be spent on setting up an office and a secretariat and employing expert staff in the field of social development projects.

**Mr. Lamont:** Expanding the bureaucracy.

**Mr. LANE:** That is one of the most worrying aspects. I shall comment on that later.

**Mr. Frawley:** You had better stir Opposition members a little; they are not listening.

**Mr. LANE:** I do not speak for the benefit of the depleted Opposition.

**Mr. Frawley:** You should try to help them a bit.

**Mr. LANE:** The honourable member may feel sorry for them, but I do not.

This staff has yet, I might say, to carry out one act of charitable or welfare work for the community. It is engaged on planning and equipment, and has expended moneys in those areas—staffing and equipping an office, buying a car and paying salaries of community development officers.

The Australian Assistance Plan is based upon the Canadian model of welfare planning and, as I said, proposes regional councils for social development which are to be vested with responsibilities for allocating Federal funds to regional local programmes on the basis of a social planning approach. That is what these officers were employed for—to carry out that social planning.

In the last week or two some further moves have been made to expand the programme in Brisbane. At a public meeting held at the Salisbury State High School a week or two ago, an interim committee was set up for region 5, which is based on the Salisbury-Acacia Ridge-Inala area on the south side of Brisbane. I am advised that notices have been sent to people who it is supposed would be interested in such things that a public meeting will be held in respect of region 6 on 10 April this year at the Sunnybank Progress Hall.

Prior to those meetings being called, the community development officers employed by the Brisbane regional office travel from suburb to suburb interviewing persons who they think would be interested in the proposal.

**Mr. Moore:** Screening them.

**Mr. LANE:** Yes, very likely.

It is interesting that two of the four community development officers who have been making their way round the suburbs are named Blazeovich and Hungerford.

**An Opposition Member** interjected.

**Mr. LANE:** I know that members of the Opposition would be disappointed if I did not have some comment to make about them. Mr. Hungerford, the secretary of the Petrie division of the Labor Party, is an A.L.P. stooge employed by the interim committee on the public payroll. That is a classic example of jobs for the boys. He has the responsibility of convening these public meetings—of staging them, no doubt, for the benefit of the Australian Labor Party.

**Mr. Frawley:** He is going to stand for Petrie at the next election.

**Mr. LANE:** Yes. He will be defeated in Petrie at the next Federal election. I think that might be a more correct way of putting it. He is a light-weight politically, anyway.

The other gentleman, Blazeovich, is a long-term member of the Labor Party. He was in the Young Labor association and held a position on the executive of the Queensland Students' Union at the university. He fled from the university when it became known that he was embezzling funds. He is a

typical member of the Australian Labor Party. I understand he is a close colleague of the honourable member for Archerfield.

**Mr. Lamont:** Fancy handling Federal Government money with a record like that.

**Mr. LANE:** It is shocking that such a thing could happen, but he is one of the persons upon whom these massive amounts of public moneys are being expended. The salaries of Blazeovich and Hungerford are being paid from the public purse. It is a classic local example of jobs for the boys. In fact, if Blazeovich and Hungerford were any more Left-wing than they are, it would be a classic example of jobs for the comrades.

Apart from them, some reasonable and quite decent people of good heart are employed by this organisation, including young social workers and other young persons who were formerly students at the Queensland University and who, I believe, are quite genuinely interested in social welfare. It is a great shame that their future is uncertain because of the peculiar nature of this plan.

It may well be that the situation is parallel with that which existed in the United States a few years ago when the "War on Poverty" was introduced there. It was commenced on the initiative of President Kennedy in, I think, 1962 on the recommendation of the National Association of Social Workers in the United States.

The organisation recommended to the President a method by which it thought the welfare mess in the United States could best be solved. Legislation was brought down to implement it. In 1962, the Social Security Act became law and in 1964 the Economic Opportunity Act was passed. Both pieces of legislation were responsible for the establishment of the Office of Economic Opportunity, which was to have quite a different approach to social welfare, something that was very much needed in that country at that time.

Under the Economic Opportunity Act, money was made available on a very large scale. Tertiary education for minority groups was funded under that Act. Deprived races and indeed persons in poor economic circumstances were financed in the educational institutions so that many thousands of social workers, lawyers and people who were required to put the war-on-poverty plan into effect came out of the university. In fact, new schools of social science were set up.

Social workers came out with great enthusiasm and a genuine desire to do something on behalf of their fellow citizens in the United States. Many of those from the deprived races wanted to do something for their own people. The scheme was highly commendable and their hopes were raised at that time. Lawyers were trained in the universities to staff the legal aid agencies to

add to the assistance that could be given to people living in the ghettos or in lowly circumstances at that time.

However, it became apparent after a while that such a plan was not to be successful and in fact it was not long before people were commenting that very few were actually lifted above the poverty line by the programme. There was great disillusionment; hopes were dashed and, indeed, many trained people were retrenched because the great amount of money pumped into the programme in the 1960's could not be maintained or sustained over a long period. I think it is rather cruel that such a thing should happen.

I see a parallel to that system in the establishment of the Australian Assistance Plan, under which universities are being encouraged by the injection of extra funds to train additional social workers, social planners and people to take staff jobs under the regional councils throughout Australia. Young people enthusiastic about making a career in the field of social work really might not have a great future. I have been able to detect among them a degree of uncertainty about their careers and their futures even up to now.

In fact, I have spoken in this House on two previous occasions about the Australian Assistance Plan. I have always hoped that it would get off the ground and really do some good for the community. I must say that a person would have to be blind if he could not see some of the flaws that have existed in it up to this time.

**Mr. Chinchin:** Mr. Hayden said that the Australian Assistance Plan will not come under the Audit Act. I wonder why. It is public money.

**Mr. LANE:** That is one area of great concern.

In the few minutes of my time that remain, I should like to deal with some other things that concern me. In the first place, in common with other interested parties, I should like to question the legitimacy of the involvement of regional councils in the administration and dispersion of fairly sizeable grants for regional and local projects. This is taxpayers' money. Whilst regional councils consist of elected and nominated members, the breadth of their mandate and the basis of their elected status are somewhat suspect. Regional councils will become suspect in terms of the criteria upon which they make grants within their regions. It is unlikely that the councils elected at public meetings will ever become much more than bodies of dubious legitimacy in terms of their representative base. From all the documents that I have read on the subject, nowhere have I been able to obtain a clear outline of how this representation will be taken, and how it will come together at regional council level. What is the franchise of the people who put them there? Unless regional councils can

substantiate a very sound approach to their social-planning role, their administration of grants will probably aggravate local dissension and conflict. Local jealousies will grow up.

Secondly, the Australian Assistance Plan appears to try to undertake too many separate functions, some of which may be incompatible. It claims to be a basis for regional social planning and dispersal of funds from the Australian Government as a means of community development, as an approach to co-ordination and integration of local and regional effort. Above all, it claims to be the basis for the establishment of national welfare policy.

All these claims are insufficiently defined, particularly in so far as they relate to existing structures, organisations and legislation, and it is of some concern that the Australian Assistance Plan claims so much but defines so little. It is true that the Australian Assistance Plan has brought some desirable innovative thinking, as well as an injection of funds, or the prospect of an injection of funds, into the field of social planning. It is also desirable to see a potential increase in the funds distributed to local community projects. However, the major burden of health, education and welfare services still remains the responsibility and prerogative of the States.

Consequently, we have a potentially dangerous situation where a Commonwealth-sponsored and funded plan aimed at promoting service development and community awareness may become isolated from the level of Government with the major responsibility for the most costly and complex services.

Unless there is a complementary increase in the resources available to the States to upgrade their health, education and welfare services, the Australian Assistance Plan will probably aggravate undesirable and unnecessary conflict between the two levels of Government.

Indeed, we have seen this in the fact that already Victoria and New South Wales have challenges to the plan before the High Court of Australia.

Already there is considerable concern in Queensland, particularly in the private sector of social welfare, among agencies and organisations that provide a State-wide service but are not necessarily well represented at a regional level. I refer to organisations with a broad base but with sparse membership, such as organisations that cater for the deaf and the blind. They do not have vast memberships of thousands, but they have members spread right across the State. These are organisations that could not be properly represented on local regional councils.

The plan appears to emphasise a fairly high level of professional staffing of the secretariats to the regional councils. Not only will this factor aggravate the existing national

manpower shortage of trained welfare personnel, but it may also tend to bias the nature and structure of programmes funded by regional councils.

(Time expired.)

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order! The honourable member for Cook. I remind the House that this is the honourable member's maiden speech.

**Mr. DEERAL** (Cook) (5.15 p.m.): It is with pride and a deep sense of humility that I rise on behalf of the people of Cook to support the affirmation of loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen.

I congratulate His Excellency the Governor, Sir Colin Hannah, on his Opening Speech.

At the outset I wish to thank the people of Cook for the trust they have placed in me. I would also like to express my appreciation to all those who worked so hard on my behalf during the election campaign.

In the short space of the past three months, and since I was elected, I have visited almost all parts of my electorate—I point out to honourable members that this is the equivalent of travelling from here to Mackay, or here to Canberra—much of it by light aircraft, boat and car. I have seen many problems, and I am glad to say that so far my representations have succeeded in gaining the following improvements for the people of Cook—

Continuation of the rail service from Normanton to Croydon.

A teacher problem at Laura solved. The children of Laura now enjoy the same educational benefits as those in other small communities in Cook.

Free life-saving drugs kept at Karumba.

Upgrading of the Engineers Wharf at Thursday Island at a cost of \$310,000.

Improvements to the Normanton School amounting to \$185,973.

Improvements to the Weipa School amounting to \$16,170.

Repairs to the Thursday Island State School.

Approval for a maternal and child welfare clinic at Edward River.

Installation of a public telephone at Hopevale.

There are many more.

I do not intend to relax my efforts on behalf of Cook. We are away to a good start, as you have already heard, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It is my ambition to see more industry established in Cook, but first we must have good all-weather roads. I want sealed all-weather roads from Karumba through Normanton, Croydon and Georgetown to Cairns for the benefit of the existing beef and prawning industries. For development of my electorate, it is essential that we have a sealed all-weather road from

Mareeba right up the centre of the Peninsula through Coen to Bamaga at the northern tip, with good all-weather sealed branch roads to Cooktown, Weipa, Aurukun, Edward River, Iron Range, Portland Roads, Chillagoe and Kowanyama.

I want more research into fishing in the Gulf of Carpentaria and the Torres Strait, with emphasis on fish-farming and canning.

We need to see greater use made of our tourist potential, especially at Chillagoe and Thursday Island. We seek research into the pearling and trochus industries. I understand the trochus industry could be revived by a new process of adding crushed trochus shell to plastic, making high-quality buttons.

There is no end to the possibilities of this remote area, once science and initiative are applied. I can hear the knockers saying, "It won't work. It will be too costly." I dispute this; but if it is true, is it not better to employ people on projects creating wealth, even at a loss, than to pay them the dole and create nothing for the money spent? The people responsible for handing out cash for no effort are condemning them to oblivion. No man can continually accept hand-outs without losing his initiative and self-respect. Many Australians have lost their initiative and self-respect because of lack of job opportunities. We must try to restore their pride and initiative.

I would like to see more done for the Aborigines and Islanders in apprenticeships for young men. For outstanding students I would like to see scholarships given for such vocations as commercial pilots. I intend to keep these matters before the eyes of our Government.

I would now like to turn to two major issues that involve Aborigines, Islanders and all other Australians. These are the border questions, which are of great concern to Islanders, and the general question of the future of Aboriginal and Islander people. As did the Premier, I went and consulted with the peoples in the Torres Strait Islands on their feelings, and I must record that we are the only two political representatives who have in fact done this. The leaders of the Torres Strait Islanders and the people told me that they do not want the border with New Guinea changed. They do not want any part of their land or the waters around it given away. They wish to continue their traditional friendly relations with the people of New Guinea. I have also spoken with leaders of the people inhabiting the villages on the coast of New Guinea alongside Torres Strait. They, too, do not want any change. I intend to continue to support strongly the stated wishes of the people of the Torres Strait area.

For me this is an important occasion. I think it should be equally important for every member of this Assembly, regardless of party. I am the first Aboriginal member of this House and, I think, the first Aboriginal member of any State Parliament. Because of



this there are a number of things I want to make clear. The first is that my forebears were both Aborigines and Islanders, and that I am at home in both English and Kokoyiminir, my native tongue, but I am first an Australian from Queensland.

Although I have a feeling and an understanding for the people of my birth, I also represent and possess a similar understanding of the problems and feelings of all members of my electorate, regardless of race. I am not here to press for the advantage of any particular group, but to represent honestly and fight for the advancement of my electorate and the people who live there. I am also a member of this Government, and I am a member of it because I believe in its policies and in the future that it promises for the State.

To be a parliamentarian of Aboriginal and Islander descent has advantages and disadvantages, particularly if one is the first of his kind. I doubt if any member of any Parliament within this nation comes from a family with such a lengthy association with his electorate. The Deerals have lived in Cook over 20,000 years, so if length of residence is any indication or really interested representation, I must surely have a huge advantage.

My primary concern is to ensure beyond all possibility of doubt that as member for Cook I am recognised as the representative of all the electors there. Those who have elected me have done so knowing this is my attitude, and under no circumstances will I betray their trust.

There is nonetheless another advantage to be gained from my election and it, too, has to do with my race. I mention this in the hope that it will be noted outside the borders of our State. Queensland has been described as a racist State; it has been referred to as the Deep North, and legislation for Aborigines and Islanders has publicly been criticised as repressive. Every opportunity has been taken to criticise the Government and the people of Queensland by many in the South who should know better.

I state quite clearly that I will be prepared to discuss the attitudes of those people when the States in which they live have Aboriginal parliamentary representation. I think the remarks that have been made are based upon the shame they have at the fact that Queensland is the only State that has provided Aboriginal representation in both Federal and State Parliaments.

For the moment I demand that these people cease making further comment until they have dealt with their own difficulties.

I look forward to being able to talk over these matters with fellow Aboriginal parliamentarians from other Assemblies. Until this time arrives I am not prepared to waste my electors' time by involving myself in issues that are based upon lack of knowledge and jealousy of Queensland.

I will upon occasions be asked to voice the wishes of Aboriginal and Islander Queenslanders, and the House will hear my views. I do, however, ask that honourable members realise that Aborigines and Islanders do not speak with one voice any more than do other groups in this great State. However, a fundamental issue is being forced on people by the Commonwealth Government. I am sick of having Aboriginal and Islander people, many of them my constituents, turned into beggars and mendicants by hand-outs and a lot of nonsense in which we are assured that if we work hard and are good children we will soon be like all other people. I am sick of this because I resent that attitude, I resent the policies, and finally I resent the paternalism that is implied.

The Aborigines and Islanders of this State, and of my electorate, do work. They are as much aware of their responsibilities as is any other person, and they have already contributed to the livelihood of all of us. They share my resentment and my annoyance at the constant stream of social scientists that the Commonwealth feels are an essential prelude to any work being undertaken. I do not think it is necessary to look always to the past. I am not interested in being studied, investigated, cross-examined or in having my privacy outraged by a group of people who feel that their professions and their learning give them the right to act like a group of Peeping Toms. I propose defending all my constituents against this.

I do not want to be negative. What I propose is the best that I can secure for my electorate and for the rational and proper development of it. I will not be confined by any racial limitation, because in that sense I do not recognise race. I do, however, recognise, and will support, the greater good of all Queenslanders, and this is not limited by any narrow and confined views.

Imagination, sympathy and money are needed to develop the North. In Cook, we have imagination and sympathy and we will need money. That has already started to flow to us.

I would, however, remind honourable members of my initial comments, and ask them to remember that many of my constituents are indigenous citizens. Consequently, it is essential that finance for this development is not to be regarded as a pious charity, which is the viewpoint of the Commonwealth Government, but rather I demand that all of my electors, regardless of race, are seen for what they are, and that is as equal participants in a great project.

I know, and you know, that there are differences. There are differences in language, in culture and the simple differences that are implied by distance and surroundings. These are not the monopoly of Aborigines and Islanders. However, I must ask honourable members to remember that I am not impressed by differences but rather by similarities. Men and women want to raise

children and they want to create security for them; they want to work together for this end. They want so many things in common that I oppose and resent theory differences and the friction and the intolerance that they breed.

I have already expressed my worry concerning many of the policies that have been put into practice by the Commonwealth Department of Aboriginal Affairs. I have expressed my concern with the attitude that the department has adopted. I am convinced that it represents in a grossly magnified way a return to the old hand-out philosophy of past generations. I must remind honourable members that it was this philosophy which did so much to destroy the initiative and development of Aboriginal and Islander people. I do not exclude the Commonwealth from any participation in this field, but I feel that this should be limited to the provision of funds that can be used by the Queensland Government for the overall benefit of Queenslanders and particularly those who live in the remote areas, many of which are in my electorate. The policy followed by this Commonwealth at the moment, is one that will inevitably lead, as I have previously said, to friction and intolerance, and I see little chance of this changing.

The policy that has been followed by Queensland has achieved a great deal. It has achieved parliamentary representation. The development of communities in the North will play a major part in our development with increasing numbers of Aboriginal and Islander graduates in Universities, adequate housing for thousands of people and an excellent relationship between the majority of citizens and the statutory agencies of the State.

All of this is important and it has been largely brought about because people have worked together in an environment that is not a centralist one. Decisions have been made by people on the spot or people very close to what they are doing—a situation that will not apply to a centralist organisation such as the Commonwealth department.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, and honourable members—it is a great honour for me to be a member of this Parliament. The people of Cook have made me their member and with the guidance of Almighty God, I will do all in my power to honour that trust.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): The honourable member for Toowoomba North. This is the honourable member's maiden speech. I ask the House to extend him the usual courtesies.

**Dr. LOCKWOOD** (Toowoomba North) (5.34 p.m.): In taking part in this debate in reply to the Opening Speech of His Excellency the Governor of Queensland, Sir Colin Hannah, I associate the electors of Toowoomba North with my expressions of loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. She and the Royal Family are

held in unique esteem by the people of Toowoomba, who value the Monarch as the traditional figurehead of the State. The Monarch is above politics and is concerned primarily with the total welfare of all her subjects. In Toowoomba, as elsewhere "God Save the Queen" is sung more than ever at social functions as an expression of loyalty.

Our Governor is serving the whole State as Her Majesty's personal representative, an office to which he was appointed after an extremely distinguished career in the Royal Australian Air Force. We assure him, too, of our loyalty. Since World War II there has been much agitation to end Australia's allegiance to the Crown. Such agitators would rather have a republic with a president as its head. We must never allow the stability of this country, with States and their Governors and a Commonwealth with its Governor-General, owing nominal allegiance to our Monarch, to be destroyed by substituting the chaos of a republic for our present system.

Consider that bastion of democracy, the United States of America. Presidents there exert tremendous political power. They propose legislation, which is then handed down to the two houses for deliberation. We have recently seen the office of the President of the United States of America continuously assailed until President Nixon resigned in ill health. Eleven years ago the then president was assassinated. The real facts behind that extreme act are still not known. When his brother, a senator, was also shot down, fears of continued conspiracy were widespread and they still cloud the processes of that country's Government.

In many emerging countries we have seen republics degenerate into dictatorships because a president used his power to stifle opposition. Even in Europe, republics have been politically unstable. One needs only to mention the difficulties of France, Italy, Spain and Portugal in modern times to be reminded how fortunate we in Australia are. Australia as a republic would be just as prone to polarisation of political parties and power as all other nations of the world have been. We should be thankful and grateful that we have a Queen as nominal head of this country, with a Governor-General in residence to attend to the duties of government.

I mention these matters to illustrate that the world has no better system of government than that devised in England, with Parliament as legislator and the Monarch as a stabilising figurehead.

I was elected to continue my support of the Westminster style of Government here in Queensland. I would like to thank all those who gave generously of their time and effort during our election campaign. The space made available in the Toowoomba "Chronicle" to me and other candidates in its area of distribution during the campaign was truly appreciated. Radio stations 4AK and 4GR were extremely patient in helping

all candidates record election messages. Our local TV channel DDQ 10, 4, 5, deserves special mention for generously showing nearly all the candidates in the viewing area—as a public service to the electorates.

I thank the electors of Toowoomba North for returning me as their representative. They were extremely tolerant of me and my political views during the campaign. Even those who held widely differing views from my own found that they could, with no effort or hardship on their part, discuss our mutual problems. Conversation with a great many traditional Labor supporters showed that they were as genuinely concerned with inflation, unemployment and increased taxation as I was. All general workers hate their tax moneys going in good times and bad to people not unemployed, but who simply refuse to work. The standard joke of the unemployed glass blowers and lion tamers has now progressed to that of persons who behave in such a manner when they are presented with a reasonable job, feigning all manner of illness and disease, so that the employer offers them the door in the first five or 10 minutes. We have seen a very firm line taken on these matters by the employment office, only to have a very, very soft line taken down the road by the Social Security Department. The electorate has never been so well informed in matters affecting Federal, State and local government. The electors fully realise the far-reaching effects of every political decision taken in Canberra, Brisbane or locally.

The electorate now ignores political rallies, a fact which, I am sure, has become apparent to all. The politicians' noise pollution with loud speakers in residential areas, shopping centres and parks has left the electorate dead. The public do not attend the rallies. They do not want to hear candidates' views. They have already had enough facts and opinions on which to make their own decisions. That is their inalienable right and they are sticking to it.

The electors seek truth in all things. They seek social truth behind all laws. They are desperately seeking financial truth instead of continued experiments by economists using the whole country as a guinea-pig—to survive, sicken or die according to the way the economists devise the experiment. They seek political truth compatible with their religious and moral ideals and, having found it, they are now more than ever before willing to cut across former party ties on a matter of policy or principle. They expect parties to publish their policies and implement them when elected. Empty promises and platitudes from the political stump will never again win any person election to government.

Education is now the undoubted right of all children in our State from pre-school, through primary and secondary school, to tertiary level. Education policy and services command tremendous respect wherever they are

mentioned or planned. Toowoomba has its share of growing pains in education. The first State high school in the centre of the city served it well until the post-war baby boom resulted in the growth of the city and necessitated the implementation of a high-school building programme.

The State high schools located at Mt. Lofty in the north-east corner and at Harristown in the south-west corner were then built. They were enlarged to meet the continually increasing enrolment over recent years. The south-east corner has now had a school built at Centenary Heights. To date, the Toowoomba North electorate does not have a State high school within its boundaries. Pupils travel across the whole breadth of the electorate to the huge Mt. Lofty school, which now has 1,350 pupils, or further across the electorate to the Harristown High School in the south-west. The 1,350 pupils can be accommodated in the grounds only because the buildings have been built one upon the other with a host of temporary demountable buildings. Much of their envisaged playground has vanished under temporary buildings.

A school of this size is way beyond the optimum for any administration. Form teachers do not know all of their pupils and rosters have been impossible to work out. While teachers willingly strive to achieve their educational goals, they are finding increasing difficulty when dealing with anonymous pupils, in making themselves aware of the students' social or moral needs during their school hours.

Indeed, schools of this size require an investigation to find out the extent of the pupils' social problems with a view to adding trained, full-time social workers and perhaps even full-time chaplains. They would not engage in formal classes or education but would be available to help the headmaster and his staff to cope with the needs of the children. They should also be available for direct access by the children to discuss any matter they feel comes within their ambit.

The distances travelled to schools and their overcrowding clearly warrant a fourth high school in the western suburbs of Toowoomba. Approximately 2,000 children living in the Toowoomba North electorate attend State primary schools. When their turn comes to go to high school they will be disadvantaged because of the extra distance they have to travel. Toowoomba is still growing rapidly, particularly in the north and west, and a high school in the north-west sector is an absolute must. The previous member for Toowoomba North raised this matter repeatedly.

We are indeed fortunate in that a pre-school centre is being erected at Harlaxton State School and it will be opened very shortly. It is also fitting that Harlaxton children should have early access to pre-schools as they have no kindergarten approved by the Creche and Kindergarten Association within miles of that school. The

public appreciates the need for the commencement of pre-schools and this part of Government education policy has been hailed by all. The only problem is that demand will exceed supply for the next few years. Throughout the State, the department is establishing pre-school centres. Many of them are as yet in rented halls, but the important thing about them, including the one at Wilsonton, is that they are there and functioning quite well. Parents are pleased to have this facility, although it may take some time for the State to spare all the capital for all the pre-schools necessary in my electorate and elsewhere throughout the State.

The electorate of Toowoomba North is well served with four primary Catholic schools, and it has two well-established Roman Catholic colleges, namely, St. Ursula's for girls and Downlands for boys. They have amalgamated their resources, particularly in the senior forms, as a matter of sheer economic necessity. This move, taken in desperation, has produced rivalry between boys and girls in their senior years for the award of dux of the school. It has revitalised interest in education, particularly in some boys who were remaining at school only till they were able to leave. They now have to face the possibility of the dux of Downlands being a girl. And that is very likely if the boys don't watch it! The administrators of the schools are to be congratulated on daring to put aside the very old tradition of segregation in religious high schools.

There are three sawmills in the Toowoomba North electorate, and they illustrate many of the problems of decentralised and inland industries. Between them they employ 132 men directly, and they allow a great many more to be employed in felling, transport of the logs, transport of the timber, and building work that flows from the production of timber. The logs come from far and wide. Hardwood comes from Wandoan, Ravensbourne and the Esk district, whilst cypress pine comes from the Tara district. Logs for transmission poles are hauled from the Clarence River district of New South Wales, tanalized in Toowoomba and then hauled as far afield as the Northern Territory via Mt. Isa. The end products of hardwood, soft timber, termite-resistant and tanalized timber, and packing-case timber, are marketed locally in the Lockyer district, the Darling Downs and the Maranoa district.

Road tax and other road levies that are to be progressively reduced by the present Government add greatly to the cost of timbers. One of the mills in Toowoomba pays up to 37 per cent of its gross earnings in taxes for using the roads. This firm, with others, is anxiously awaiting the total abolition of these fees. Owing to the length and bulk of logs, and the size of the transport needed to haul them safely, the taxes paid are out of all proportion to the

weight of logs. Taxes are also paid on the return journeys of unladen and empty vehicles. Road taxes effectively limit to about 300 miles the distance that logs can be economically carted to mills.

Queenslanders should note with awe that logs can be imported from Malaysia cheaper than they can be brought down from North Queensland. Sales are also limited by road taxes and road duties to a semicircle with a radius of about 300 miles west of Gatton. It is interesting to note that sales outside the area of normal competitive marketing have been regularly made to Housing Commission authorities in Brisbane, Sydney, Mt. Isa, and, before the Christmas cyclone disaster, even in Darwin. This suggests an unfair advantage in the building of houses to those Governments with Housing Commissions. Double road tax on goods imported through the port of Brisbane generally prohibits the marketing in Brisbane of any products manufactured in Toowoomba.

The building industry in Toowoomba has seen steady growth. During the last few years, two major projects have given a great boost to residential construction and caused, first of all, shortages in houses for purchase and, later on, shortages in the whole range of housing from flats right down to single rooms. There was the establishment of the army aviation base at Oakey and, secondly, the building and development of the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education at Darling Heights in Toowoomba South. These events came at a time when land prices had begun to soar everywhere as speculators and general investors alike poured cash into property for security.

Many of the large old timber dwellings within a mile of the city centre were demolished. Boarding-houses and cheaper flats vanished, making way for new flats with higher rentals. Last year, 312 flats and about 350 houses were built in the small city of Toowoomba. Pensioners were displaced from these areas by young working couples who, with two salaries, were better able to afford the higher rents.

The major events of 1974—inflation, credit squeezes, various strikes, and bankruptcies of builders—brought a halt to most of the rebuilding in the city centre. Owners were reluctant to improve buildings that should have been demolished. Finance was impossible to organise. All that newcomers could find vacant in Toowoomba were abandoned buildings, disconnected from the electricity supply. I regret to say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that many people have taken up domicile in such buildings. The demand for reasonably priced dwellings listed for sale was such that often they changed hands before the vendor could get home.

With the failure of monsoon rains for many years, this State has suffered prolonged drought. Poor wool prices and failure of crops on marginal land have brought hardship beyond the imagination of city dwellers.

Many primary producers in the hinterland have been financially ruined although they are thrifty and expert in their own form of primary production. They are unable now to afford hired help, and they work very long hours trying to manage their properties. These factors, and others, have forced many people from the land to seek employment elsewhere.

The various contractors and married couples on properties were the first to be forced to leave western districts. Later, the retailers, mechanics, bankers and, finally, agents had to leave the towns. Now the very houses in western towns are being moved along the roads and relocated in more populous areas.

The majority of persons involved in this migration have settled in Toowoomba, as the regional centre for the Darling Downs and the Maranoa. This gave the city its third growth spurt, but it came rapidly at a time when finances and the building industry could not cope with the influx.

The four caravan parks in the city area are well patronised, and many people now have permanent accommodation there in caravans. Contractors, and even army officers, cannot find any other place to live. Accommodation of former Toowoomba residents and refugees from Darwin has been possible only because the generous people of Toowoomba have extended their charity to the needy, and I am indeed proud of each and every one of them who has extended that charity.

The population of the whole of Australia is becoming more and more mobile even when there is full employment, and the need for more rental accommodation has not yet been met. There is a need for many more units for single people, in particular, and the aged pensioners and young married couples, particularly those still in their teens, who are disadvantaged when seeking accommodation. The present set-up, under which the Queensland Housing Commission can cater only for couples or separated persons with five dependent children, will have to change, and perhaps the Commission will give a lead for private industry to follow.

By way of regional development, two frozen-food industries are located in Toowoomba, and they send their products far and wide. The first is a manufacturing industry that combines peaches, apricots, rockmelons, watermelons, oranges and other fruits with sugar, cream and milk to make a really delectable frozen confection—in fact, the very best that can be purchased. Mr. Weis employs up to 40 persons in the mango season, and this offers excellent vacation opportunities for students who process the Bowen mangoes. The frozen mango block offers perhaps the only opportunity southerners have of enjoying the taste of mango, and they really enjoy it once they experience it. This industry, though small, illustrates the spirit of our inland industry—determined to

succeed. As the product is small in size, freights and duties can be met and a profit can be made.

Pixie Ice Cream is an example of an excellent industry for Toowoomba. It is regretted that we have seen some industries postulated for Toowoomba, at the top of a mountain range where water is very short, which the city in its present state of development could not support. The ice-cream industry is very compact. It is very clean and does not pollute the environment by way of by-products or noise. It is fortunate in that it is situated very close to the milk producers on the Downs. It produces various ice-creams and ice confections. Edible wafer cones used by the factory are manufactured in Toowoomba by a Toowoomba flour miller. Containers from Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne are the only components of the industry that have to suffer the reversal of freights. All of the other parts of the products move from the factory to the whole of the inland of the State.

The factory services every centre in the State except Brisbane and Ipswich where, I am sorry to say, the "Queensland made" slogan has not had a very good impact. Brisbane is still dealing very largely with southern manufacturers of ice-cream and ice confections. From a modest, backyard industry producing 200 gallons of ice-cream a week, Pixie has now expanded to several thousands of gallons a week. The expansion was accelerated by help from the Department of Industrial Development, which made premises available on the Wilsonton Industrial Estate. Toowoomba looks forward to further expansion of these two industries deeper into the markets of the South.

The Toowoomba Development Board, an august body of gentlemen who meet without payment of salary, is right now studying ways and means of trapping more and more of the Downs production of grains and oilseeds for full local processing, so that only the final product has to be freighted to markets. We look forward to this creating whole new industries in Toowoomba by way of natural decentralisation. It suggests great economic unsoundness to rail grain through Toowoomba to Brisbane, mill it, bake bread and then truck bread back to Toowoomba. This has been demonstrated to be wasteful not only because of the double freight but also because of the excessive number of loaves baked. As housewives continue to point out, the price of bread is being kept high as a result of the great number of loaves that are daily put aside for the pig industry.

Bradmill Industries in Toowoomba was a small operation set up in that part of Queensland by its original owners in Britain so that it would be safe from war. It supplies labels used on a wide variety of clothing that is manufactured in Australia. That one industry is a very valuable barometer of the whole Australian textile industry

as it manufactures a great number of the labels that are applied to garments. It has seen, as we have seen, a fall to 60 per cent of production as a result of the importation of a flood of cheap, inferior Asian goods, which are often sold exclusively by chain stores.

The dairying industry on the Downs, with its Australian counterparts, has long been responsible for the development of this great country of ours. It was established long before refrigeration, and its products of salted butter and cheese were shipped vast distances to the European markets. These were great export-earners for Australia during its early development. This role of the dairyman should never be forgotten in these days when the dairy industry is undergoing rationalisation.

The Downs Co-Operative Dairy Association located in Toowoomba co-ordinates the operations of its branch factories at Chinchilla, Dalby and Pittsworth, and markets for domestic and export consumption. Its output is currently running at about 2,500 tons of butter, 2,000 tons of cheese and 6,000,000 gallons of milk a year.

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

**Dr. LOCKWOOD:** I turn now to meat production. The Darling Downs, and Toowoomba, are fortunate in that a private firm, K.R. Darling Downs, had the courage to develop the meat industry in Toowoomba to its present level. It has the facilities for slaughtering cattle, sheep and pigs, and is so very well sited as to constitute a nuisance to no-one. It is also situated very close to its employees. This is something that modern town planners will have to try very hard to match. Its products reach the local markets as smallgoods, tinned food and fresh meats.

Because of the drop in beef exports it is functioning at one-third of its peak or at half the normal production rate. It is coping with reduced exports to Japan by developing new markets for frozen and canned exports in the Philippines. This company had helped develop the Japanese market for chilled boned beef. From an exporter's point of view it was ideal in that it provided maximum labour for the workers in the electorate, and the Japanese were keen to take not just prime cuts but the whole boned carcass.

In the last year or two, since the recovery of wool products, sheep kills have decreased, and because of high feed costs for protein meal, fishmeal, meat and bone, pig production has fallen off markedly. The current prices obtained by pig producers are about 50 per cent above the levels where reasonable profit can be expected to be taken.

The staff at K.R. Darling Downs as well as at other meatworks has been allowed to run down over the past 2½ years. In that period the staff at K.R. Darling Downs has dropped from 675 to 560. The company has managed to do this without laying off

employees, but it has not been able to replace those workers who have left of their own free will.

Only today we learned that negotiations by our Premier on behalf of the whole beef industry may soon result in resumed and continued exports of beef.

Transport in the western world has become mechanised, and to a very large extent it is dependent on petrol or diesel-driven motors. In Queensland, transport systems now rely on oil products for all air, train and commercial shipping services, all road passenger services, all road freight and all forms of personal transport. Over the next 20 years this Parliament must plan to meet severe liquid fuel shortages, which must inevitably come. Underground oil will become extremely short and will have to be used selectively to ensure this country's continued greatness.

A country survives only when its priorities and energies are directed in the following order:—

(1) Defence against allcomers at any time.

(2) Food and water must always be available for the whole population, with storage of sufficient to overcome natural disaster.

(3) Transport must effectively move men and goods about the nation.

(4) Routine services to the people must be continued.

(5) Pleasure and pastime may take the balance of a nation's resources.

In this country defence is not the province of the State Parliaments. Nevertheless we must move to see that this State will be able to move defence forces through it if it is ever called upon to do so. We must also ensure that goods and people are able to move.

During World War II this country experienced stringent petrol rationing. Oil shortages did not affect our trains as they were then all coal fired and steam driven. The American allies at first ridiculed these steam engines, but came to respect them for their reliability particularly on long-distance haulage, when servicing was often postponed because of the imminent threat of invasion.

Despite oil shortages, trains moved our servicemen and war materials across the nation. Wars are being waged continually in this world of ours, whether we start them or not. Jealous oil-producing countries could well fire the spark that ignites yet another major war. If such a war were to break out, we could then see our supply cut to two-thirds of our present oil requirements.

But how will the fields be ploughed, seed planted and crops tilled unless this State finds some way of sparing oil from the general transport industry? The first people in the transport industries to suffer from any protracted shortage will, of course, be

private motorists. The suffering could be alleviated by having work and residence very closely integrated, with cultural and sporting complexes all within walking distance of a person's home.

We are indeed indebted to the fuel strikers of 1972 and 1974 because they so well illustrated the total dependence of our community, in transport, on oil. Those who previously were unaware of the effects of oil shortage—that is, all those people who were too young to remember World War II and its aftermath—should thank the strikers for bringing these facts forcefully to their notice.

It would seem, then, that we should be planning to achieve electrification of the whole of our State's railways in the next 15 to 20 years. Cities should also be planning now for perhaps a total absence of private passenger transport and diesel buses. The honourable member for Townsville West referred to the need in suburbia for two cars just so that the wage-earner and his school-children can be taken to and fro. All these matters are for the future but they must be thoroughly sorted out and planned now because it will take a great deal of time to implement the necessary change.

**Mr. ELLIOTT (Cunningham) (7.22 p.m.):** Firstly, I indicate to Opposition members that if they feel I am going a little bit beyond it, they may feel free to interject.

I take this opportunity to pledge my loyalty and that of the electors of Cunningham to Her Majesty the Queen. At the same time, I congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your election to office and assure you of our undivided support. I express my thanks to both members of the Government and the Opposition for the way they have treated me and the help I have received. At first, I believe, all new members like me felt like strangers in a strange and noisy land. I now feel more relaxed and realise the object of the exercise and hope to make my contribution.

I am acutely aware that I am here as the member for Cunningham, a seat which has been held by only eight people since 1888, the last of whom was Sir Alan Fletcher, a man whom I have come to know far better in latter years. It is with great personal pride that I stand here, given the opportunity to pay a tribute to Sir Alan on behalf of the electors of Cunningham and myself.

One of the characteristics of Sir Alan was his ability to sift the grain from the chaff and to express praise only where that praise was justified. Therefore, in this tribute to him, I shall pay him the complement of doing likewise. The two qualities I admired most about him, were his genuine interest in, and warmth towards, people, and his indestructible integrity. I have yet to meet the man, on either side of the political fence, supporter or opponent, who would deny that

fact, and I should like to think that someone could honestly say that about me in 20 years from now.

I thank all the electors of Cunningham for the confidence they have placed in me, and especially the members of the National Party, my campaign team and, in particular, Mr. Ken Gordon, my campaign director.

I also take this opportunity of thanking my family, who put up with the whole year's performance, starting with the Federal election, then the plebiscite for three months, after which came the State election, and as can be imagined many sacrifices were made during that time.

Cunningham is made up of six Darling Downs Shires—Jondaryan, Millmerran, Pittsworth, Cambooya, Clifton and Rosalie, except for No. 4 division, which is part of the electorate of Somerset, all of which totals in excess of 4,000 square miles.

Cunningham is a very diversified electorate, with intensive grain production, dairying, pigs, feed-lotting cattle and crop fattening in the more Central Downs area, with the cattle industry in the majority on the northern and south-western sides, then moving into cattle, sheep and mixed farming in the southern parts of the Millmerran Shire.

It is also an electorate of many key centres which produce a variety of products ranging from light engineering through to the major construction of farm machinery and road haulage equipment. There are also dairy factories and abattoirs, large intensified poultry farms and seed-handling firms, to mention but a few.

I believe I should take this opportunity to outline what motivates my political ambitions. Since I became old enough to have an awareness of the political scene, I have been very conscious of people saying, "When are they going to do something about this or that?" It didn't seem to matter what the problem was, it always came back to "that" group—the proverbial "they"! Consequently, when the opportunity arose, I decided to try to do something about it.

If we are prepared to criticise, then we should be prepared to become involved in whatever capacity is practical—both individually and collectively. We all have a responsibility and, if we are not prepared to take a stand against the "hand-out mentality" right here and now, we will go the way Britain is going. We should forget the idea that the world owes us a living and think for a change, "What can we do to create a better environment for all Australians?" The responsibility of the Government is not to provide a living, but to give us the opportunity to make that living.

It is my firm conviction that this is the No. 1 problem facing Australia today. No nation, regardless of its natural resources, can withstand this ever-increasing trend towards dependence on the State. To obtain all the things in life which are worth while,

we must be realistic enough to realise they will not be achieved without initiative, hard work and the provision of incentive.

This incentive has been destroyed by the Federal Government policies of higher interest rates, the transfer of funds from the private sector to the public sector, the loss of overseas capital owing to the changed statutory regulation affecting amounts held by the Federal Government and the proposed capital gains tax. All of this has resulted in record inflation and record unemployment. Even now, when we see the Federal Government reversing its decision on capital gains, the deposit held on overseas capital and the unearned income surcharge legislation, to name a few, there is still no confidence, as a lack of consistency always alarms the private sector whatever political party is in power.

This inconsistency is reflected also in our rural arterial roads, which are suffering disastrous consequences from the Federal Government's policy of channelling funds into national highways at the expense of other roads. The whole arterial road system of Cunningham is fast reverting to a shocking condition despite the concerted efforts of our six shire councils. These men in local office who give their services to the public are being rewarded with less and less money, and they can hardly be blamed for becoming disenchanted with the inequitable distribution.

I could only agree with the statement made by the Minister for Main Roads (Mr. Hinze) when he stated that our roads will be positively dangerous if something is not done to reverse this disastrous trend. In fact, I would go so far as to say some in my area are already dangerous, in particular, the Toowoomba-Cecil Plains road west of Biddeston.

It is interesting to note over the last few days the Federal Government's noises about beef exports to Japan. Until recently, all it was able to do was condemn the Premier for his part in endeavouring to obtain a reasonable return for beef producers by a resumption of exports to Japan. The Federal Government was negotiating uranium sales and seemed only partly interested in the beef exports. Of course, when one considers that increased beef prices would upset the cost-of-living figures, one can possibly understand the Prime Minister's lack of enthusiasm.

This is in marked contrast to the stand taken by the Premier on behalf of Queensland cattlemen not only on export sales but also through the temporary lifting of road transport permit fees for the cartage of cattle. It should be noted also that Queensland has provided \$10,000,000 at 2½ per cent for those producers refused funds by the normal channels.

**Mr. Jensen:** They can't get rid of it.

**Mr. ELLIOTT:** The honourable member stands condemned in my area. Perhaps I should say that his party stands condemned in my area for its approach to beef exports.

The Federal Government provided \$20,000,000 at 11½ per cent for Queensland producers! Big help!

Like many other rural electorates, Cunningham has health and education problems. In particular, Pittsworth hospital has serious problems with regard to both staff and finances, which have caused its temporary closure. It is my hope that this situation can be reversed. The Oakey hospital, on the other hand, is well staffed but it urgently requires new hospital facilities.

While many of the smaller schools have problems regarding library and other facilities, the major concern in the Cunningham electorate would be the lack of full secondary education in Millmerran—a problem that will be accentuated by the Millmerran Coal Company's proposed hydrogeneration scheme near the town—and regardless of opposition, I will continue to press for this facility.

With the advent of coal-mining in the Darling Downs area, there is obviously an opening for other decentralised industries, such as petro-chemicals and general engineering. It is in this area of decentralisation that I believe the State Government has achieved so much, but this is not a cue to rest on our laurels. Much more can be done and I take this opportunity to outline some suggestions, many of which have possibly been tried in part already.

They are as follows:—

The encouragement of further processing of primary products before export (both agricultural and mineral).

A capital subsidy scheme in which a proportion of all company tax is deposited, in the companies' names, in a development fund. The moneys may be reclaimed by companies for decentralisation purposes, but forfeited if not.

Housing assistance, both for key personnel and the general work-force.

Relocation and removal assistance.

Subsidising of transport costs.

Equalisation of telephone charges.

Encouragement of civic, sporting and voluntary organisations.

Refusal of unemployment benefits to young single people when jobs are available in new towns.

Direct financial assistance and grants to States for their respective decentralisation programmes.

Tariff concessions and import duty exemptions.

Zone allowances for income tax.

Introduction of payroll tax rebates.

Placement of Public Service facilities in decentralised areas.



Taxation exemption for specified times for new industries.

Investment allowances similar to the most successful scheme operated by the previous Federal Government.

Whether people like these suggestions or not, we must face the harsh reality that our major cities are fast becoming unworkable, and therefore we must accept the need for decentralisation on social, environmental and practical grounds. The pressures placed on family life by overcrowding, lack of personal communication and gross overcrowding of the road system with resultant chaos are causing immense social problems, which in turn lead to higher juvenile crime rates and general anti-social behaviour. This is not the case in sensibly sized centres.

Let us now turn our attention to a matter which is not only of grave importance to the Cunningham electorate but which also has dire and far-reaching implications nationally. Can you imagine, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the audacity of a political party, elected on a conservation platform, immediately contradicting itself in its first Budget by the removal of the financial incentives which, by their very nature, were designed to protect our most valuable resource, the soil? Whilst I accept the fact that the Federal Government has allocated \$160,000 for the 1974-75 financial year, and \$700,000 for the 1975-76 financial year, it must be realised that this amount of money will not scratch the surface of the problem and, by the elimination of tax deductibility of soil-erosion prevention works, the incentive to preserve the soil, this dwindling national resource, has been appreciably reduced. This, I believe, affects not only the livelihood of all primary producers but, what is even more important, that of future generations.

But the problem does not lie only with the Federal Government. The State Government must play its part, too, in this urgent programme. There is already a \$ for \$ assistance programme, with a maximum Government contribution of \$1,000 per farm enterprise. While this scheme for declared soil-erosion hazard areas will do much in some cases, unfortunately the areas of worst damage are on the steepest slopes, and those areas are in many instances owned by those who are least able to afford the cost of the mammoth task that confronts them. There will be a need to re-examine the assistance programme with a view to increasing the ceiling level of these payments.

While dealing with the subject of land, I should like to make a point about land tenure. It is my strongest conviction that freehold tenure is essential if people are to take care of their land for future generations. I should also like to voice my strongest feelings against the sale of large areas of prime agricultural land to corporations.

Another subject that must not go unmentioned is death duties. I wholeheartedly support the policy of accelerated abolition of this unjust tax, which is responsible for the robbing of widows and orphans.

In a grain-growing area such as the Cunningham electorate, it would be obvious that great interest would be taken in the Government's role in relation to the wheat industry. Although I support the concept of wheat stabilisation, I condemn the delay by the Federal Government in payments on past crops. Everyone who grows wheat or who lives in any of the rural towns in the wheat belt would know of the disastrous shortage of liquidity that has been brought about by the withholding of wheat payments.

To indicate the totally unreasonable approach of the present Federal Government, I wish to inform you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, of the relationship between the first advance and the final realisation expressed as a percentage. Firstly, let us look at the four-year average 1968-69 to 1971-72, when the Liberal-Country Party coalition was in power, and, secondly, at the year 1973-74, under the Labor Government, which, I remind you, said that the farmers have never had it so good. The four-year average percentage under the Liberal-Country Party coalition was 85.7; under Labor in 1973-74 it was 43.6. That, I believe, speaks for itself.

I believe that, while we are discussing returns to producers, warm milk quotas to the Brisbane market should be discussed. In Cunningham we have two of the three remaining dairy factories in Queensland without access to the Brisbane market. These are the Oakey co-operative and the Kraft factory at Quinalow. I have already made representations on their behalf to the Minister for Primary Industries, and I will continue to push their case until we get satisfaction.

In conclusion, I would like to assure the people of Cunningham that I will work for all my constituents, regardless of their political allegiance. I accept the significant responsibility that has become mine since the last State election, and it is my hope that I will be able to live up to their expectations.

**Mr. MOORE** (Windsor) (7.44 p.m.): I restate my loyalty to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and I thank the Governor, Sir Colin Hannah, for the part he played in delivering the Opening Speech to members on the first day of the session. I also thank him and his wife for the amount of work they have done personally for Queensland. Sir Colin and Lady Hannah have travelled extensively throughout the State. Although Sir Colin was not born in Queensland, it is his adopted State, and he has a real feeling for its people. He is a worthy representative of the monarch.

In this the formal section of my speech, I wish also to congratulate the mover of the motion for the adoption of the Address

in Reply, the honourable member for Mourilyan. She made an excellent, well-thought-out speech which contained plenty of solid substance. I am sure that during her time here she will make a great contribution to the proceedings in this Chamber.

The seconder of the motion, the honourable member for Salisbury, also made a very good contribution. It was very fitting that the two new female members should be the mover and seconder of the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply during International Women's Year.

**Mr. Wright:** What was that you said about the mouthful of peps?

**Mr. MOORE:** I said that the honourable member for Rockhampton ought to be out at the clothes-line with a mouthful of peps.

Both ladies are very worthy members. Strangely enough, prior to the election most sitting members felt that they would not win their seats. They were not opportunists. They did not seek a blue-ribbon seat but were prepared to enter the arena of politics the hard way. They were prepared to fight for their seat, not knowing whether or not they were going to win. Many candidates feel that they are going to make the grade because people treat them courteously during the election campaign. Many supposedly worth-while candidates would not throw their hat into the ring for a seat that they did not feel they could win with certainty; but the mover and the seconder did that, as did many other new members on this side.

I am more than pleased with the way the new members have conducted themselves. One has only to look around to realise their great potential. No doubt they will make very good members. Their contributions to the Address-in-Reply debate so far have been of a very high standard. What I like most about them is that they are not yes-men. They did not come in here merely to go along with the tide. However, I do not suggest that they will cross the floor of the Chamber at every opportunity—nothing is achieved by that—but in the joint party room and in their own sphere they are showing back-bone, drive and initiative. I feel proud to be in their company. They have many talents and come from a very broad spectrum in the community, both professional and lay. It is very good to see them here.

I could not speak in this debate without making some reference to members who were defeated at the last election. Few in this Chamber would derive a great amount of joy from seeing A.L.P. members defeated. Many of them were held in high personal regard. However, Parliament is a numbers game and all parties strive to win the maximum number of seats. I got no personal joy out of seeing various A.L.P. members defeated. True enough, wherever I had the opportunity I hopped into electorates and

did the very best I could for the Liberal candidate. I did not do very well, I must admit; but I made the effort.

**Mr. Frawley:** Surely you are not sorry that D'Arcy went!

**Mr. MOORE:** I will not get down to cases. As the honourable member for Landsborough reminds me, Fred Newton was a good fellow. He and other Labor members like him have gone, not because of the type of people they were but because of the socialist policy they represented. The Labor Party was going so socialistic that the people would not buy it. The former Labor members got caught up in the full tide of the Federal Government's policies, and if the present Opposition members continue to pursue the same policies they, too, will be caught by the tide. The present Opposition is only a cricket team, so to speak, and one without a twelfth man. I congratulate those members, including Opposition members, who were returned, and I warn the Labor members that if they do not mend their ways we will see their demise, too.

Mr. Speaker has been applauded by various members for the good job he has done in improving our conditions. I know that he will continue to do so. He has real feeling for the House, and later on in my speech I will elaborate on that.

**Mr. Wright:** Is it true that you are the real power behind the throne?

**Mr. MOORE:** The honourable member wouldn't think so in our kitchen!

Queensland is a grand old State. It is administered by a coalition Government, in which one partner, the Liberal Party, tends to have a Queen Street image. We have to overcome that in some way. The Liberal Party is by no means a Queen Street party, but when it does not oppose its National Party colleagues in election campaigns it cannot really provide representation in country areas. This gives people the impression that we are more Queen Street than ever.

Queensland is not made up only of the south-eastern corner; it is a huge State of open downlands, good grasslands, beautiful black-soil plains and so on. The people in the West and the North-west are of pioneer stock. Their forefathers used to drive bullock wagons and horse teams which hauled wool through the heavy black-soil country. Those men were accompanied by their wives and families and relied for their provisions on fowls carried in a crate strung beneath the wagon and on a goat tethered behind. I realise that those conditions do not obtain these days; nevertheless the people of our Outback have a great deal to contend with. They are not deserting the West because beef and wool prices are low, nor are they deserting it because they do not have the benefit of air-conditioning and the other amenities that are enjoyed by city-dwellers.

Queensland embraces the West, the North-west, the Far North and Central Queensland. All of those areas are important to the Liberal Party.

There is throughout the State an urgent need to construct all-weather roads, particularly in the open downs and the black-soil country in the inland areas where, with 10 mm of rain, motor vehicles cannot get through. Drivers traverse a length of bitumen and then come to a missing link, probably over black-soil country, that they just cannot get over after even a very light shower.

**Mr. Jensen:** The old people got through.

**Mr. MOORE:** They did, at six miles a day, which is a different story.

Mt. Isa people—I am not making a speech for the honourable member for Mt. Isa—who go on holiday at Christmas can become marooned on the return journey if they are caught by the rainy season. They can only hope for the rain to stop so that they can get through with their wives and children. They may be stranded under a gidyea or mulga tree and eventually have to abandon their cars and fly home. Like most people, probably they will have overspent on their holidays. When asked their feelings, they say, "It is little use our having our holidays at Christmas. We need school holidays at another time." If there is no change they will not be able to go on holidays because of the risk of not getting home. I appeal to the Government to at least complete the missing road links so that people of the Outback have all-weather roads.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper** interjected.

**Mr. Frawley:** He went to Longreach and won the seat for us. That happened in every seat he visited.

**Mr. MOORE:** The honourable member for Archerfield almost lost his own seat by trying, in the first instance, to defeat Wally Rae; he did not know that he was going to retire, but he found that he almost lost his own seat by not remaining in his own territory. However, he told me that he would not make the same mistake again.

The present prices for beef and wool are creating problems for our primary industries. The western country is not suitable for producing fat lambs. It is really wool or beef-producing country. It is to be hoped that, in a short time, the prospects for these industries will improve so that they may find markets not only in Japan but in the European Economic Community and other countries. Their markets must be diversified so that when one country has to reduce imports—perhaps because of a balance of payments problem—they will have eggs in another basket for insurance and not find themselves again in the present situation.

Queensland faces big problems. Just recently a textile mill in the Ipswich district was sold and broken up, putting 80

people on the labour market. Such industries are not easily re-established once they are lost. It should be remembered that when an industry goes to the wall, it is not making profits. It is from profits that we get taxes, not from losses. It is from profits that we pay for all the services that the community receives, not from losses. With the Federal A.L.P. stifling Queensland industry with its tariff policy, revaluation of currency and bank interest rates, it is little wonder that there is a great loss of confidence in the State. Why shouldn't there be? People do not know where they are going.

I hope the Senate has the backbone to withhold Supply and force the Whitlam Government to an early election so it can be turfed out. Its defeat will be as decisive as that of the A.L.P. in this State. We can then effect gradual improvement in this nation's economy and bring it to an even keel. It will not be done immediately, but confidence will grow. There will be more oil-drilling and more foreign investment of the right type, with as much Australian equity as possible. That is the sort of improvement that can and should occur, but it will not happen under the dead hand of Labor. It has been said of the Labor Party that it is like a very big oak tree—very stately in its prime, but allowing nothing to grow under it.

Another subject that I wish to touch on is the right to work. By that I mean the right of a person to work at any hour of the day he chooses. It should not be against the law for someone to open his business at any hour of the day. Honourable members who have visited overseas countries would be aware that it is possible to buy almost anything at any time of the day or night. There are no laws restricting the times during which persons may work. However, in this State if the barber or the baker or the person in the corner shop opens a little ahead of time, he is in trouble. It should be an Australian's inalienable right to work as long and as often as he wants to, provided he does not affect others because of the noise he makes or in some other way.

But what do we find at the present time? A report is made that an honest shopkeeper or businessman, attempting to make a living, is trading during hours that are prohibited under our laws. Upon receipt of that report, an industrial inspector is sent out to investigate the matter. As a result, the shopkeeper is fined. Industrial inspectors would be far better employed on matters of safety, giving advice and being helpful; they should not be acting in a policeman's role.

**Mr. Ahern** interjected.

**Mr. MOORE:** They can do anything. I don't know why we as a Government do not have the backbone to change that position. Is it thought that if we allowed business people to open 24 hours a day the public

at large would be opposed to it? I have never seen evidence of that. I can see nothing wrong with that as long as the employer pays the prescribed penalty rates. If employees do not want to work for that employer, they do not have to, but he should have the right to run his business the way he wants to.

I proposed this once before and was sent an abusive letter from one of the unions, telling me what type of cur I was. However, I am making the remarks again, so perhaps I will see what response is forthcoming this time.

**Mr. Jensen:** Say that in the caucus room and see how you go.

**Mr. Chinchen:** I will back him and everybody else will, too.

**Mr. MOORE:** They should, but I'm afraid they won't.

**Mr. Jensen:** They won't back him.

**A Government Member:** We don't run our caucus like you run yours.

**Mr. MOORE:** That is right. They are stood over. They challenged some members on our side to cross the floor; but, if one of those from the A.L.P. did that, he would be expelled immediately and have his head lopped off.

Another matter I raise is something that is near and dear to me, that is, Parliament House itself and its surroundings. There is a need in this Parliament for some sense of history. Parliament House is absolutely devoid of any work of art. It is absolutely devoid of paintings of past Speakers, with the exception of one. We have no paintings of former Premiers or Chairmen of Committees. There are no paintings in the lobby or the dining room. I was told by one lady, a relative of a former Speaker, that in 1926 the walls of the dining-room were lined with oil paintings of various members and dignitaries. She said, "I don't know what's happened to them." I said, "I didn't know they were there."

**Mr. Frawley:** Johnno Mann sold them when he was Speaker.

**Mr. MOORE:** I do not know whether Johnno Mann sold them or not. I would not be surprised if they disappeared before his time.

**Mr. Casey:** Do you think we should have "La Belle Hollandaise" down here instead of in the Art Gallery?

**Mr. MOORE:** "La Belle Hollandaise!"

**Mr. Ahern:** "Blue Poles" might be going cheaply.

**Mr. MOORE:** I'm not speaking about "Blue Poles". I am speaking of works of art that relate to Parliament itself. If paintings of the various Speakers were commissioned at the time they occupied the

chair, we would have not only a record of the likeness of those Speakers but also some of the art of that period. Progressively, as the years go by, Parliament would have some semblance of history. At present we have only photographs of former Speakers and Chairmen of Committees and some of them have been bleached by daylight. An artist should be commissioned to paint in oils from those photographs. I do not see why an artist could not be commissioned to paint Sir David Nicholson, Sir Alan Fletcher, Bill Lonergan and the present Speaker while they are alive.

There is talk of restoring this building. I do not know whether honourable members realise it or not, but there is a suggestion of air-conditioning the building from one end to the other. This would require air-conditioning ducting. So that it will not be visible, the intention is to put in false ceilings. The building will not retain its glory if false ceilings are installed. I have every intention of fighting tooth and nail against the building of false ceilings. But I will be here for only a short time and future members of Parliament will be worried about their comfort. The ceilings are so high that we might not notice their being lowered by 18 inches, but I hope that plaster casts are taken of the present ceilings instead of installing false ceilings or acoustic ceilings. It is no good using somebody else's design or the building will lose some of its present glory.

**An Honourable Member** interjected.

**Mr. MOORE:** That is a dreadful statement. I was happy air-conditioning was put into this building, but it is shocking to see the inlets coming in through the windows. This cost about \$27,000 whereas if twice as much had been spent, the air-conditioning plant could have been installed in the tower block, on solid concrete, with the cool air coming in through the latticework in the ceiling. The work that was done is a disgrace. It is vandalism. I do not care whether the building is air-conditioned or not, but there is something wrong when a job like this one is done, using old galvanised iron and a bit of green paint. Too many decisions on the work done in this House have been left to the Works Department. When that department decides to do something, it is done unbeknown to the Parliamentary Buildings Committee. I have been a member of that committee for some time, and all these things have been done without my knowledge. They become a fait accompli, and nothing can be done about them.

**An Honourable Member:** Have you seen the doors they are putting in around the place?

**Mr. MOORE:** They are not even cedar doors. However, I understand that they are only temporary structures for use as sound-deadening devices whilst the new building is being erected. They are an absolute

waste of money. But that is what is being done, and there is nothing that I can do about it.

**Mr. Jensen:** Members went for about 100 years without air-conditioning.

**Mr. MOORE:** What the honourable member says is correct, and we do not have enough hot days to make it a necessity. This House was designed for gas lighting; it was not designed for modern electric lighting. Service wires have been run around architraves, with tacks nailed in here and there. It is an absolute disgrace. Even though the building was not designed for electric wiring, there is no reason why false architraves and false skirting boards could not be used to cover the electric wiring. It is all very well to say that the skirting boards could be pulled off and the wires placed behind them. If that were done, the next time electrical work was required they would simply be pulled off very roughly. Electricians are notorious butchers with woodwork.

**Opposition Members** interjected.

**Mr. MOORE:** I was one of them, and I know how they work. They do not know what a chisel is. All they know is that screwdrivers have handles that will stand a certain amount of punishment, so they use them to belt the wood off. If it is left to electricians to remove woodwork every time electrical work has to be done, they are not carpenters so it will not be a good job. But they will do a neat job where there is a false skirting board which to all intents and purposes is, and looks like, an ordinary skirting board but is in effect a duct.

Electricians also have no qualms about lifting floorboards and cutting into joists to a depth of a couple of inches, thus weakening the whole structure, in order to accommodate wires. If no provision for wires has been made in the first place, that is what they will do to get the job done. The wires have to go somewhere.

**Mr. Wright:** Are you accusing them of vandalism?

**Mr. MOORE:** No. They are given a job to do, and, unless provision has been made for wiring, they will say, "There is only a certain amount of money to be spent on the job, so we will do it this way. It would be far too expensive to do it in a way that would really preserve the building."

**Mr. Wright:** Are you rubbishing the trade generally, or are you going to be specific?

**Mr. Chinchen:** What happened to the beautiful furniture from the library?

**Mr. MOORE:** I am coming to that. I have a heading in my notes, "Custodian of the furniture of the House." I intend to visit the place where the furniture that has been taken from the House has been stored—or where it is alleged to be stored. It

is said that some of the furniture is in pretty bad condition. I do not know why it is not being progressively restored and put away for the day when the House itself is restored.

**Mr. Hodges:** For your information, that is what we are doing.

**Mr. MOORE:** I am not so certain about that, but I am going to find out about it. An inventory should be taken of everything in the House at present. The pieces should be numbered, and we want to be sure that what is here will be retained, and that what has been taken away will be returned. The Whip's room had a beautiful four-position table. The Whip, having long legs, found it a little uncomfortable and decided that he needed a desk of another type. Where has that old table gone? I want to know whether it will be restored and returned to its rightful place.

Parliament House has grounds with a fence round them. Next door are the Botanic Gardens, which are under the control of the Brisbane City Council. I propose that the Botanic Gardens should become part of the grounds of Parliament House, so that they will be preserved and not have further inroads made into them as a result of the action of some uncaring Minister or Government allowing the Q.I.T. to expand. Perhaps another road will be needed and someone will say, "Such-and-such a pine tree is at an angle of 75°. It is unsafe, so we might as well chop it down." In that way, further inroads will be made into the gardens.

At one time, of course, the people of Brisbane had the Botanic Gardens and the Domain. The Domain has gone, and the remainder of the Botanic Gardens will go unless members of this Assembly are prepared to stand up and ensure that they are preserved. When the 1974 flood inundated part of the Botanic Gardens, the Brisbane City Council looked at the devastation a few days after the water subsided and said, "The gardens are finished. They will go. We are building new gardens up at Mt. Coot-tha." One will have to be a mountain goat to walk around those gardens. Then the grass came through and was cut, and the gardens are now back to their original state. They should be preserved and become part of the Parliament House garden.

**Mr. Casey:** It is your Government that has erected all the buildings at the Q.I.T.

**Mr. MOORE:** The honourable member's statement is correct. The Government kicked out the poor old trade students at the technical college. It said, "The area is not suitable to accommodate so many students." It built technical colleges in the suburbs, and fellows who did not have a motor vehicle just could not get to those colleges. After taking the technical college from a central position, it then allowed the Q.I.T. to erect building after building,

and there is now no recreational area. It did not show any foresight. If it intended moving the technical college, it should have knocked the buildings down, restored the old Government House and included it in the grounds of Parliament House as part of a cohesive beautification scheme.

**Mr. Casey:** They have built out the old Government House, which is a beautiful building.

**Mr. MOORE:** I am not guiltless, and it needs to be said that the Government is not doing all it might in this respect.

**Mr. Wright:** Who would you blame?

**Mr. MOORE:** I am not putting the blame on any one person. I am equally to blame for the things that have happened during the time I have been here. When I first became a member of this Assembly I was an idealist, as some new members now are. I said to myself, "There is one thing I will do when I come to this place. I will put a few freedoms back into the country. There are 78 members whittling away freedom—every day another law passed, another freedom gone, another restriction imposed. I will try to put a few freedoms back." I am as bad as all the rest. I am now putting my hand up with the rest. Sometimes I am ashamed of the things that happen.

It is said that in a democracy one gets majority rule. One gets majority rule in one's own party room. There are now 30 members of the Parliamentary Liberal Party. As soon as there are 16 on one side, the rest have had it. When one goes into the joint party room, 50 per cent plus 1 is a majority, and one has had it again because one is supposed to abide by the rules of a democracy. Again, in this House 50 per cent plus 1 is a majority. That is what bogs members of Parliament down. As individuals, we do not have a dictatorial right to get anything done. It is not a matter of talk or persuasive powers. Talk is little use in achieving anything.

**Mr. Casey:** You must have the numbers, though. They elected you Whip.

**Mr. MOORE:** Whip all right! I will not elaborate on that, in the short time I have left.

**Mr. Wright:** What is the real story behind it?

**Mr. MOORE:** Why I was Whip? Because I was the most able man in the House.

**Mr. Wright:** Are they allowing you to function?

**Mr. MOORE:** This is going to take up my time. Although there are 11 members in the Opposition, the Opposition is entitled to

have a Whip because it is a recognised position. Being in coalition, the Liberal Party is not entitled to a Whip under the present set-up. Therefore my duties are—

**Mr. Wright:** Honorary.

**Mr. MOORE:** They are even worse than that. They are charitable. It is an office without authority. I could not really put words to it without giving it more thought. In the Parliament of Great Britain there are 10 or a dozen Whips. In this House with the number of Government members we could well have a Deputy Whip. Of course, that would require legislation. That may happen. It would give me some authority to assist members on this side.

I wanted to speak about my attitude towards compulsory trade unionism, compulsory voting and things of that nature, but I am afraid I will just have to let them go because of shortage of time.

(Time expired.)

**Mr. GUNN** (Somerset) (8.23 p.m.): I express my allegiance and that of my constituents in the electorate of Somerset to Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. It is pleasing to see that the monarchy is still playing its part in our community. Although efforts have been made to denigrate the monarchy, those efforts have failed. I believe that it is the desire of the people throughout Queensland to continue allegiance to the monarchy for many years to come.

The free-enterprise system has built this country and made it great. It is the only system that will keep Australia in the forefront of the nation. The present Government in Canberra has realised this after an abortive attempt to socialise this country. This has been an utter failure because socialism is not acceptable to the people. Now that it has realised that socialism is unacceptable, it is trying to encourage free enterprise. However, that system has not responded because there is an element of mistrust in the A.L.P. Government in Canberra. It will be hard to get the free-enterprise system working as it did prior to the A.L.P.'s coming into office.

**An Opposition Member** interjected.

**Mr. GUNN:** The honourable member can call it what he likes. His counterparts in Canberra have realised the benefits of the free-enterprise system.

**Mr. Wright:** You believe in Government subsidies to industry?

**Mr. GUNN:** I accept the fact that we have a mixed economy.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** It is the best of both worlds.

**Mr. GUNN:** It is not the best of both worlds. I realise we have a mixed economy.

**Mr. Wright:** What about the S.G.I.O.?

**Mr. GUNN:** That is utterly silly. We have a mixed economy and I accept that fact.

The area I represent has been badly affected by A.L.P. socialistic policy. This is in common with all other electorates in the State.

My area is one of high productivity and, as it is situated close to the metropolitan area, it produces much of the food and all of the water used in this city. The Lockyer and Brisbane Valleys supply most of the vegetables, meat and milk consumed in Brisbane.

Every time someone in Brisbane turns on his tap, he is taking water from our area. We accept this, of course, just as we accept the fact that the Somerset Dam is necessary to help in the mitigation of flooding in the metropolitan area. Furthermore, a new dam is under construction at Wivenhoe.

**Mr. Chinchen:** Are you going to give that to Jones, too?

**Mr. GUNN:** I hope not. We have learned a lesson from handing over our water supplies to the Lord Mayor of Brisbane. Believe me, I could talk on this all night.

**Mr. Wright:** Please don't.

**Mr. GUNN:** I know Opposition members would not want to hear it. The Lord Mayor has done a great deal of damage.

**Mr. Frawley:** What about the North Pine Dam?

**Mr. GUNN:** Yes, he has done the same thing there. Compared with the Lord Mayor, Ned Kelly was a gentleman.

There is no need for me to remind the House that, during the passage of the Somerset Dam Catchment Area Declaratory Bill, the Opposition called 12 divisions. That Bill was designed to protect people who lived in the Somerset Dam catchment area and who were to be charged rates by the Lord Mayor for land that was under the water. They could not even see it, let alone use it. The Labor Party supported the Lord Mayor.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper** interjected.

**Mr. GUNN:** I do not know whether the honourable member for Archerfield spoke to that Bill. I can clearly recall, however, that the previous member for Redlands did. He must have spoken with tongue in cheek on that occasion.

**Mr. Casey:** You must accept that the right to do that was given to the Lord Mayor by other Acts of this Parliament.

**Mr. GUNN:** That is not quite correct. He was vested with certain powers; I will admit that. A Labor Government built the Somerset Dam and formed what came to be known as the Stanley River Water Trust. That was done many years ago, at a time when the Labor Government was so fair

that it set aside a fringe area, which, if inundated by the water level in the dam, was not subject to the full rental that applied for the particular year. What a difference between the Labor Government of the day, under the leadership of Mr. Hanlon, and the Brisbane City Council under the leadership of Clem Jones! By sheer trickery the ground was leased back to those people. This is the way the Lord Mayor happened to beat those people.

**Mr. Wright:** Did they have to accept their leases?

**Mr. GUNN:** They accepted the leases, but they were not versed in the law so they did not think of having the leases altered. They should have challenged the leases at that time.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** Didn't you advise them to do that?

**Mr. GUNN:** I would have been about three feet high at that time; I was only a boy. I presume that their parliamentary representative at that time gave them advice and I should think that the matter would have been aired in Parliament. However the anomaly has been rectified by this Government, which is deeply conscious of the needs of the people. As I have said before, the Labor Party voted against the Bill and called 12 divisions during the debate. That is not to the credit of Opposition members.

Besides providing water to the metropolitan area, we must also help in the mitigation of flood waters in Brisbane. We accept that fact; nevertheless, my area has lost some of the best agricultural land in the State to the rising water levels in dams in my electorate. On a short-term basis, the food that would otherwise be produced on that land would not be urgently needed. On a long-term basis that land is lost for all time.

**Mr. Jensen:** But more land gets water, and with water you can increase production.

**Mr. GUNN:** Yes, but we are losing good land. We are different from Sydney. Outside the Sydney area there is poor-quality land, whereas we have excellent land outside Brisbane.

**Mr. Wright:** What was the alternative?

**Mr. GUNN:** There was no alternative. I accept that. I am not trying to stop it. But it is tragic to see land like this going under water.

**Opposition Members** interjected.

**Mr. GUNN:** I am not saying that there is an alternative. I accept it and say that it must be. I am drawing the attention of the House to the fact that the time could come—Queensland has not a big population at the moment, but the Government should be looking ahead—when we could repent the loss of so much excellent land.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** I share your concern in this, but aren't you also concerned about all this good arable land being bought by the developers?

**Mr. GUNN:** I do not think the honourable member shares my concern about this. I do not think he is fair dinkum.

**Mr. Casey:** With better technology we can increase the food output from certain land, but we cannot improve the water output. We must have a certain amount of water.

**Mr. GUNN:** I think we may question the need for all this water, but I look at it from a different angle. I look at the dams, particularly the new Wivenhoe Dam, and I do think we will be short of water in 100 years, with only the Somerset Dam. I applaud the honourable member's interest in this. Before I heard him tonight, I did not think he had any interest in this.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** We are interested.

**Mr. GUNN:** The A.L.P.'s lack of interest in country areas has been its downfall. That was proved by the vote the A.L.P. received. A.L.P. members may appear to be taking an interest now, but in the past they were interested in country people only at election time. I believe that the honourable member for Archerfield wore a big hat in Longreach, but he could not fool the people.

I thank the electors of Somerset for electing me once again, with the highest majority ever recorded in the electorate. The A.L.P. vote fell to a mere pittance. Labor's trouble was self-inflicted. Any party that shows interest only in city areas deserves the vote that Labor got in my electorate. Even the local A.L.P. branches refused to man booths against me in the Somerset electorate.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper** interjected.

**Mr. GUNN:** I have always tried to do my work well. I am not interested in whether people are A.L.P. supporters, Communists or anything else.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** What are your chances in Cabinet?

**Mr. GUNN:** I do not know what my chances are. I am here to look after my people.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** You have ambition.

**Mr. GUNN:** I am very ambitious about looking after my people. The fact that I got 75 per cent of the votes proves that I must have looked after my people. It is my ambition, as long as I am here, to look after them.

**Mr. Wright** interjected.

**Mr. GUNN:** I get quite a lot of mail from my electorate, to which I reply immediately. If, as the honourable member for Rockhampton suggested, I get only a few letters, that speaks very well for the

service the people are getting; they do not have to write to me complaining. I do not want to give Opposition members the secret of success, but they have invited me to praise myself tonight. Usually I do not like doing so. I believe in personal representation. I go out among the people in my electorate, which contains 4,000 square miles. Sometimes I drive 200 miles a night to attend a meeting. A.L.P. supporters and all others are invited to my political meetings.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** You give them special consideration?

**Mr. GUNN:** Like anybody else, they get a cup of tea. In any case, I am a member who polled very well. I have achieved quite a lot since coming to office, but I feel there is still much to be done in many areas. My area has 14,000 voters but only one high school. As a result, many of the young people are deprived of higher education. That, I think, is a great tragedy. I have managed to educate my own family—

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** You are a wealthy man. Why wouldn't you?

**Mr. GUNN:** It is not a matter of being a wealthy man. If the schools are not there, it does not make any difference. The honourable member for Archerfield is wrong on both points. I am not a wealthy man. I do believe in education and I have done my best to send my children to university and do what I can to assist them.

I would like to see high schools established in such areas as Laidley, Crows Nest and Nanango. We have high tops, but I think the time is fast approaching when we must consider the establishment of new high schools in my area. Although millions and millions of dollars have been spent on tertiary and pre-school education—I am not against that; in fact, I applaud it—many children are still deprived of a secondary education so necessary to fit them for their station in life.

**Mr. Frawley:** What about Kilcoy High School? That's not too bad.

**Mr. GUNN:** But that is the only one in my electorate.

**Mr. Casey:** Don't you think the spending on pre-schools has been detrimental to the high-school building programme?

**Mr. GUNN:** I would hope not. That may be the view of the honourable member for Mackay. I was not aware that that was so, and I hope it is not so. I believe that the main problem lies in the staffing of our high schools.

The Lockyer High School is excellent. About 700 children attend it. Another point I make in this context is that high schools can become too big and too impersonal. I went to the high school at Lockyer, as did all my family. I do not think it is too big yet, but in the Ipswich area—and doubtless



in the Brisbane area, too—some high schools have 1,400 and 1,500 pupils. That is too big. The schools are too impersonal.

**Mr. Wright** interjected.

**Mr. GUNN:** I think they are too large.

**Mr. Wright:** Where would you suggest that a new one be built?

**Mr. GUNN:** I would want more than one.

**Mr. Wright:** You can only get one for a start.

**Mr. GUNN:** That is very kind of the honourable member for Rockhampton, but I do not think he will have much say in it.

If we are genuine in our claims about decentralisation, we should ensure that the same facilities are available for children in the country as in the city. I believe that is a reasonable proposition.

I extend my congratulations to the new members of Parliament. It would have been a long time in the history of this Parliament since so many new members entered together. They are a good class of member, too. No doubt, when they came into Parliament they found the environment quite strange. If we cast our minds back—this is only my second term—we can remember how strange it was for us for a while. I fully appreciate what their thoughts were, coming from another environment. I came here from the position of shire chairman. I had a car with a driver, as well as a beautiful office, and I was put into a room down here with six or seven other members.

**Mr. Casey:** You reckoned local authorities were broke.

**Mr. GUNN:** I have never said that. However, there is a great deal of difference. Something should be done in the near future about office accommodation here. It is most unfortunate that there is nowhere that members can conduct personal interviews. Of course, when Parliament House was built, there were only 40 or 50 members. There are now 82. Although I am not complaining—I took over an A.L.P. room, which is a very good one—

**Mr. Wright:** You have air-conditioning.

**Mr. GUNN:** It was in before. I believe that the Labor Whip formerly occupied the room.

I can fully appreciate the way new members feel and I enjoin them to keep going and paying attention to their electorates. It will not be long before they become used to Parliament. I came here with no chip on my shoulder. I am not against any Opposition member, but I think Labor's policies are lousy.

I congratulate the two lady members, who moved and seconded the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. Previously

we had one lady in Parliament. I think they add a little colour and dignity to the Parliament.

**Mr. Wright:** Are you saying that men are undignified?

**Mr. GUNN:** They can be. A group of men can be most undignified, but the two present lady members and the previous one—

**An Opposition Member** interjected.

**Mr. GUNN:** I think that the Minister for Local Government has become a damned good Minister. He has been very courteous and I have been on deputations with him.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** He is very earthy at times.

**Mr. GUNN:** Now look who is talking. That would be a case of the pot calling the kettle black. I do not think that the honourable member for Archerfield should be judging anyone in this area.

I congratulate the Aboriginal member for Cook on his Address-in-Reply speech. No doubt he has a full grip of Aboriginal problems, which are well known to all of us. I have always contended that there should be no segregation of these people. I have known them, worked alongside them and camped with them for years, and there is no doubt that they are fit and able to take their place in our community. If they get into an area such as this, they are sometimes badly led by misguided people. This honourable gentleman has come into this House and there is no doubt in my mind he will make a mark for himself. He is a splendid member and will represent Cook for a long time.

An area of concern is our beef industry. The Brisbane Valley, which is in my electorate, is a great cattle-fattening area and I am concerned about the future of the beef industry there. My area supplies quite a lot of high-quality beef to the north coast and metropolitan areas. The abattoir in Kilcoy employs 150 men. At present the producers are getting about 12c a lb. for beef.

**Mr. Wright:** 14c.

**Mr. GUNN:** Well, the honourable member says 14c.

**Mr. Jensen:** They are going broke?

**Mr. GUNN:** I am not suggesting they are going broke, but they will not be able to keep on selling at 12c a lb.

**Mr. Jensen:** They will hold for a while. Graziers tell me they are doing all right.

**Mr. GUNN:** What rubbish!

**Mr. Jensen:** It is like when sugar got down to £13 a ton and the sugar industry carried on.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr. Miller): Order!

**Mr. GUNN:** If the honourable member knows as little about sugar as he does about beef, I feel very sorry for him.

**Mr. Jensen** interjected.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I ask the honourable member for Bundaberg to occupy his usual place in the Chamber if he wishes to interject.

**Mr. Hanson:** You have a very serious tick problem.

**Mr. GUNN:** At one time we had a Biarra strain of tick that caused a great deal of concern, but this has been rectified. Ticky cattle are always a problem. The honourable member for Port Curtis knows quite well that our problem concerns our export market in America.

Most of the sprays used for ticks were preparations of DDT. This accumulated in the fat of the animals, and the American market closed on us for this reason. We then used an organo-phosphate type of spray. I am very concerned about this, and I think that all others involved in the cattle industry must be similarly concerned. The fact is that it can be proved that this chemical is also contained in animal fats. So where do we go from there? It is a major problem in the cattle industry, and one cannot help thinking about it. It has been proved beyond doubt that the cattle tick cannot be wiped out. Millions of dollars have been spent on attempts to eradicate it.

**Mr. Wright:** Some people have a vested interest in seeing that it is not wiped out.

**Mr. GUNN:** That is not correct. It is a matter of genetics.

**Mr. Wright:** Tick control is a \$10,000,000 industry.

**Mr. GUNN:** The cattle tick, like other lower forms of life, has an inbuilt resistance, gained over a period, to certain chemicals. I have seen the hair burnt off the backs of cattle with the arsenite type of dip, and the ticks on the cattle have been still alive. One of the problems is that ticks do build up such a resistance.

But we have managed to stay a little ahead. To give an indication of what I am saying—dursban was one of the insecticides introduced at that time and we were using it at triple strength, and every three weeks, in an attempt to kill ticks. That will give some idea of the amount of absorption of the dip in the hides of the cattle. I have seen a newborn calf fall into a dip and die within two minutes. That indicates the potency of the organo-phosphates.

**An Opposition Member** interjected.

**Mr. GUNN:** That is a type of pesticide that is used in the cattle industry. It is very expensive; I believe it costs up to \$35 or \$36 a gallon, and that is an enormous price to pay. These are some of the problems of the beef industry, which is so important to Queensland and to Australia.

**Mr. Casey:** The development of some of the tick-resistant breeds will help.

**Mr. GUNN:** The honourable member is so right. Some exotic breeds, such as the bos indicus, have been brought to this country, and they have played their part in the industry. As a matter of fact, some of the British breeds have been improved by cross-breeding with the exotic breeds. We now have an excellent breed named Braford.

**Opposition Members** interjected.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr. Miller): Order! I remind the honourable member that he does not have to acknowledge the persistent interjections that are being made at the present time.

**Mr. GUNN:** I was encouraging them, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because in the past A.L.P. members have never taken any interest in the cattle industry, or in primary producers. I am pleased to see that they are starting to take an interest in the subject; but they should get onto their counterparts in Canberra, because they have never helped the cattle industry. The offer to lend the cattle industry \$20,000,000 at 11½ per cent interest will not help in the least.

**Opposition Members** interjected.

**Mr. GUNN:** Opposition members are like a flock of magpies; they are simply repeating what Dr. Patterson has said. They should have minds of their own. The point is that we have now shown the way by offering money at 2½ per cent. I understand that the Leader of the Opposition is now making a call to halve the rates. The Opposition are certainly a depleted lot, and they have lost contact with their colleagues in Canberra.

**An Opposition Member** interjected.

**Mr. GUNN:** I know that people are applying for it; I know they are filling out forms. The money is available, and they can get it. It is money we had for rural reconstruction.

**Mr. Hanson** interjected.

**Mr. GUNN:** The metropolitan Liberal members of Parliament believe in the free-enterprise system. There is no better form of free enterprise than the one seen in country areas. Every farmer is part of the free-enterprise system.

**Mr. Casey:** Why, then, did they not back the farmers to buy the three sugar mills in the Mackay area?

**Mr. GUNN:** I do not know anything about sugar mills, but I am learning fast. I saw the manager of C.S.R. on the television programme "This Day Tonight", and I could not see anything wrong with C.S.R.'s buying the interest of the Australian Estates Co. Ltd. in the sugar mills. As he said, the company would have to buy all of them, and that is what it has done.

I should like to turn the attention of honourable members to the state of the economy not only in Queensland but also throughout Australia. About 300,000 people are unemployed.

**Mr. Wright:** It has dropped slightly.

**Mr. GUNN:** One would hope so, because a tremendous amount of money is being poured into the R.E.D. scheme and other schemes.

Many major problems occur with young people, and there should be a tightening up in the payment of unemployment benefits. I think there is a realisation among Opposition members in this Chamber, and certainly in the Government in Canberra, that many young people who could get work are just bludging. For example, two girls in my home town were offered jobs at award wages. They said, "We would start at \$60 a week as waitresses. We are getting \$31 or \$32 now." They did not take the jobs. Things such as that should be stopped.

**Mr. Wright:** What do you suggest?

**Mr. GUNN:** I suggest that they should be allowed a certain amount for a limited period and then have a job found for them. Under the old system, the C.P.S. would offer them a job. I think agencies have been established now. There is no doubt that people should be found work for their own good.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** The devil finds work for idle hands.

**Mr. GUNN:** It is a tragedy that young people have to grow up in this fashion. In one's career, one has a bad time for a while and feels badly done by. I think you will agree with me, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that it does a person the world of good to have his feet firmly on the ground. It is a good feeling to move up to something worth while when you have done something by yourself. You have known the bottom of the ladder, a position half way up, or perhaps even the top. That is a marvellous feeling.

Another matter about which I am very disturbed is Cabinet's lack of decision on the new powerhouse. I think it is a shocking state of affairs. Of course, I think the powerhouse should be built at Tarong, which has been recommended by the State Electricity Commission.

**Mr. Wright:** Do you say that for personal reasons?

**Mr. GUNN:** Not for personal reasons. It would mean that electricity could be provided more cheaply.

**Mr. Casey:** It is Cabinet indecision.

**Mr. GUNN:** I am not frightened of these subjects. I have said in "The Courier-Mail" that the Government should make a decision and that it should be guided by the experts. Experts have said that the powerhouse should be built by 1980 or 1981 and that electricity may be rationed in one area if it is not built. I have nothing against the Ipswich field; I have nothing against deep mining. The fact of the matter is that the Ipswich coal-field has failed to provide coal for the Swanbank Power House and coal has had to go to Swanbank from Central Queensland. I know the reasons for that, and I believe that even tonight Swanbank has not received its quota of coal from the Ipswich field.

There is quite a difference between the two fields. I understand that in respect of the Tarong area C.R.A.'s tender was for about \$3 a ton. At the present time it is costing us well over \$12 a ton to buy coal from the Ipswich field. Let me give some indication of the field in Tarong. At the time of the tendering, four particular areas were mentioned—A, B, C and D. In area A the seam contained 6,000,000 tons and was estimated to be 61 ft. deep. Area B contained 14,500,000 tons and was 44 ft. deep. That area was all pure coal that did not need washing. The overburden would not be more than 70 ft. thick. That gives some idea of the quantity of pure coal there.

**Mr. Wright:** Does the Premier still own the sawmill there?

**Mr. GUNN:** I am pleased the honourable member brought that up. That is the greatest fallacy of all time. The Premier has never owned any sawmills in that area. He has no interests in that area. It is well out of his electorate and well into mine. It is a fair way from him. It is between Yarraman and Nanango. One mill that belonged to Wilkinsons in Brisbane closed down.

**Mr. Wright** interjected.

**Mr. GUNN:** They have no interests whatever. I challenge any honourable member to produce the rate book of the Nanango Shire Council and prove to me that they have one acre of land. They have nothing in Nanango whatsoever.

I have never approached the Premier on this. I have left it to the good sense of Cabinet; that is where I have left the decision. Cabinet has not made a decision because it had been waiting on the decision of Comalco. The decision should be made now. I accept the fact that Cabinet was waiting for Comalco.

I am concerned that there could be a time when we might be paying more for electricity than we should. The price of electricity concerns everybody, whether he is a pensioner or a big industrialist. We all use electricity. The price of electricity is getting beyond a joke. Irrigators in the Lockyer Valley are paying enormous sums for it. They are trying to avoid the high costs by putting in diesel motors instead of electric motors. That is why there is a need to build a powerhouse in the next five years.

**An Opposition Member:** Isn't the solution to this problem in the hands of your own Government?

**Mr. GUNN:** I am not just addressing the Opposition; I am pointing this out to everybody. There could be a time when we will be producing very expensive electricity with obsolete equipment. I hope that in the near future we will do something about it in that area.

I should like to see expansion in the timber industry through the Forestry Department. We are still importing \$250,000,000 worth of timber a year into Australia.

**Mr. Hanson:** Softwoods.

**Mr. GUNN:** Mainly softwoods. We have areas where we could produce softwoods. The Federal Government could play its part in this, whether it is a Labor Government, a National Government, a Liberal Government or any other. It has not provided enough money for replanting. Many areas could produce more timber. We are inclined to destroy a lot of the good timber we have.

**Mr. Jensen** interjected.

**Mr. GUNN:** It should have been done 20 years ago. The Federal Government has always supplied a certain amount for plantings. It has supplied \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000 a year to increase plantings. What I am suggesting is that that amount has not been enough. We have had to import from New Zealand, New Guinea and other countries about \$250,000,000 worth of timber a year. Queensland could produce a lot of that timber. Whilst it may be suggested that it would take 20 years, the longest journey begins with the first step, so let us start now. There are about 250 forestry workers in my electorate, and this creates a lot of employment.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** You employ about 250 workers?

**Mr. GUNN:** No; the Lands Department or the Forestry Department employs them. I should not need to explain this to the honourable member. Forestry areas extend as far inland as the Darling Downs, and besides producing a wanted article they provide employment for a large number of

workers. What is more, it is gainful employment—employment that will produce something for this nation.

I would like to talk briefly about hospital facilities in my electorate. They are excellent. Nevertheless in the township of Laidley, for example, the hospital is 60 years old and the time has come when it should be replaced. The same can be said of many other old wooden structures that are used as hospitals. Although they are very clean, they have served their purpose.

**Mr. Melloy:** Your Government has the solution in its hands.

**Mr. GUNN:** I do not think Medibank would rectify the position.

**Mr. Melloy:** It would, so don't complain about it.

**Mr. GUNN:** Medibank would not improve our hospital system. Queensland's hospital system is an excellent one.

**Mr. Melloy:** It's run down.

**Mr. GUNN:** What a load of baloney! Our hospital system is admired by the other States. If they used our system as an example, they would have nothing to complain about. In New South Wales it costs as much as \$150 a week to enter a public hospital. By comparison a patient can receive excellent treatment in a Queensland public hospital free of charge.

**Mr. Melloy:** Dr. Crawford has repeatedly condemned our free hospital system.

**Mr. GUNN:** I am sure that if any Opposition member became ill tonight he would be given a bed in a public hospital—and he would receive excellent treatment. Medibank is the thin end of the wedge—our initiation to socialised medicine. It would be the silliest thing if we accepted anything like Medibank. In fact I believe its name has been altered for the purpose of deceiving the people of this State and nation. A few people might fall for it, but not many.

(Time expired.)

**Dr. CRAWFORD (Wavell)** (9.4 p.m.): One of the major issues that concern world medicine at this time is the escalating drug problem. I propose to take a few minutes tonight to acquaint the House with some of the more recent publications that have come to hand from various world authorities who have expressed grave concern at the use and abuse of drugs.

I think it is indicative of the declining standards of our so-called civilised nations that we need to face this problem squarely. These publications deal with many aspects of the use and abuse of drugs. An interesting one that I found recently in a technical information bulletin compared the attitude of Asian students with those of students from New Zealand to the use of tobacco, alcohol

and marijuana. The attitudes concerning the relative hazards of those three drugs were examined. Tobacco was considered to be the most injurious by 42.4 per cent of New Zealand students. Of the Asian students examined, 59.1 per cent felt that marijuana constituted the greatest health hazard. The high percentage of Asian students who expressed that view is supported by their very low rate of regular use of that drug. As to the drug least injurious to health, it was most often considered to be alcohol by New Zealanders and tobacco by Asian students. And the New Zealanders' attitude to alcohol is consistent with their reported drinking behaviour.

In defining their attitude towards cigarette-smoking, the students were asked to express agreement or disagreement with statements related to various attitudes around the world. Over two-thirds of both student groups agreed that "cigarette-smoking was enough of a health hazard for something to be done about it", that "quitting smoking helps a person to live longer" and that "most people could quit smoking if they had the will-power to do so". In this context, it is worth noting that this Assembly has adopted a very parsimonious attitude to cigarette advertising, and that the stupid, small statement that appears after cigarette advertising on the TV screen is an indictment of our mental age in Australia. It is useless and in no way helps the campaign to abolish cigarette-smoking.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** Are you of the opinion that cigarette-smoking should be banned?

**Dr. CRAWFORD:** I would ban cigarette advertising completely.

In the comparison between the New Zealand and Asian students, on the regular marijuana user, the two groups' average ratings indicate some of the most extreme perceptions of the three types of users. The regular user of marijuana was characterised by both groups, namely, the New Zealand and Asian students, as generally passive, lazy, serious and weak. The New Zealanders' perception of the regular marijuana user as also a poor student, and unsuccessful, was in contrast to the Asians' neutral ratings on these characteristics, and may be based on a spectrum of personal experience. The characteristic of happy-unhappy was, however, rated neutrally by both groups.

In recent years there has been a change in the pattern of drug use around the world. Mr. Charles Reeves, of the Department of Sociology at the University of Southampton, spoke in a recent paper about a study undertaken to test the hypothesis that escalation from one drug to others was inevitable and to ascertain what factors promote changes in the pattern of drug use. The special features revealed by this study were that it is rare for a drug user to limit use to a single drug or a single method of taking

drugs. Users who inject drugs tend to discard this method of use. Between the two interviews that were conducted by Mr. Reeves over a matter of some 18 months, the tendency to polydrug use was for the range of drugs taken to be narrowed rather than widened. In other words, the user evidently decided that he preferred one particular drug and tended to narrow his attention to that particular drug.

A novel finding was that females—this study was undertaken at Southampton in the United Kingdom—were almost as heavily involved in drug use as males, and the usually accepted picture of males predominating was refuted. The researchers concluded that the usually accepted situation was that those people who are apprehended by the police tended more frequently to be males than females, and that the tendency is for the police to stop and search males and to give females the benefit of the doubt.

Further studies have been undertaken at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital Treatment Centre in recent years. In that area, a senior psychiatric social worker analysed 100 referrals to the treatment centre at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital since 1968. The staff of this hospital had agreed that there were certain criteria of treatment which would be adopted. The first of these was that no heroin should be provided for outpatients. The second was that no addict should be admitted compulsorily because of addiction. In other words, he should not be bundled into the hospital if he did not wish to be admitted. The third one was that addicts would be admitted for withdrawal of narcotics under methadone cover. Methadone is a modern drug used as a substitute for heroin. The substitute involves the patient becoming addicted to it even though he has withdrawn from heroin. The fourth criterion was that addicts who refused admission would be treated as outpatients with methadone in a liquid form.

During the three years of this survey it was discovered that the whole treatment programme was a dismal failure. The social worker concluded by asking whether any treatment programme could ever be successful and questioned, in effect, whether psychiatry was the correct service to provide treatment for drug addicts.

This is a very grave indictment not only of the social scene in our society but also of the type of society into which we are now evolving, because it is one of the central themes of these reports from all round the world that treatment of drug addiction is less and less efficient and that very few youngsters or older people who are actually addicted to hard drugs ever really make a satisfactory recovery.

A further recent survey has questioned whether drug education does more harm than good. Another British educationist, Mr. David Lane, writing in the journal of the

National Foundation for Educational Research, has examined the rather conflicting research evidence on the usefulness or otherwise of drug education. His conclusion is that present research does not show that drug education is or is not harmful, but that it is likely to be used selectively by individuals. Thus the drug user may accept pro-drug education while the non-user may accept anti-drug messages. The person who does not care—and this is the large majority of drug users—may ignore the message altogether (as people ignore the stupid smoking message) and regard it as something not addressed to them in spite of its preventative or informative aspects.

A drug addict, in effect, is a person who is psychologically disturbed. Modern research indicates that it seems to matter little whether that person is addicted to a so-called soft drug or a so-called hard drug. It would appear to be progressively recognised round the world that the problem rests in the person: it is a psychological disturbance in the person whose own personality is inadequate, and the drug addiction is a secondary affair to that psychological disturbance or inadequacy and not a prime cause or prime process in itself.

In recent years we have had in our society also as part of the over-all drug scene quite vociferous demands for legislation to allow the use of marijuana as a drug of no great importance. These rather vocal outcries, which emanate from various groups including young people's groups and members of university organisations, should be refuted with the available information. I have said before in this House that surveys in this field have indicated quite clearly that in recent years irreparable brain damage can occur and a person who smokes marijuana over a protracted period of from three to seven or ten years is quite likely to suffer shrinkage of his brain cells.

I would like to reinforce that opinion with more recent research that has been documented. It is a fact that the advocates of legislation to legalise marijuana constantly assert that there is no physical addiction to the drug, and they claim also that there is no tendency for users of this drug to progress to other, more dangerous types. I have briefly mentioned already the surveys conducted round the world. On the basis of those, that point can be refuted very simply.

University professors, the Young Labor movement in this country, business directors, doctors, students, hippies, radio announcers and clerks have all been amongst those who loudly and clearly advocate the legislation of marijuana.

Psychological function also has a physiological and biochemical base. Physical addiction is not created by central nervous system stimulants such as cocaine, which is known to produce one of the most enslaving types

of drug dependence. Addiction to a drug must not be defined as the ability of the drug to produce withdrawal symptoms.

M. H. Seevers says—

“Drug dependence results basically from the reproducible interaction between an individual and a pleasure-inducing biologically active molecule. The common denominator of all drug dependence is the psychological reinforcement resulting from reward associated with past individual drug interaction and the subsequent increasing desire for repeated reinforcement.”

On this basis it is quite incorrect to categorise marijuana as a soft and therefore acceptable drug.

Recent research has been carried out in various parts of the world. Dr. L. Souza from the New Jersey medical staff has stated that 18 of his 33 years' experience have been in genetic research, and to quote him—

“I have observed beyond question of scientific doubt that marijuana alters and deforms human chromosomes irreversibly and permanently. The effects are transmitted through the recessive genes.”

Dr. C. Miras of the University of Athens concludes from an experience of 20 years' observation of chronic marijuana smokers in Greece—

“There is evidence that marijuana adversely changes the personality of chronic users and has other potentially harmful effects on the brain and other organs.”

Dr. J. Mastermann, head of the Neuro-psychiatric Department at the North-West University in the U.S.A. says—

“Marijuana in large doses can cause permanent brain damage.”

A team of English physicians in Bristol say—

“Evidence of cerebral atrophy (spinal degeneration) was demonstrated by air-encephalography in ten patients with histories of consistent cannabis smoking over a period of 3-11 years.”

That was published in “The Lancet” on 4 December 1971.

Dr. M. H. Keiler, Professor of Psychiatry at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine said—

“A report published in the American Journal of Psychiatry in November 1967 showed that of 11 university students, middle class and of acknowledged superior intelligence that used marijuana, one reported panic and fear, one reported depersonalisation, one reported gross confusion and disorientation, two reported depression and four paranoid phenomena during the drug's reaction.”

Dr. H. Pouvelson, chief of the Department of Psychiatry, University of California, which is Berkley University, revising a previously held opinion, said—

“I testified to the committee to the effect that marijuana was harmless, or at least relatively so. I have changed my mind. After five years of extensive clinical experience, I have concluded that the continued use of marijuana leads to muddled thinking and a loss of memory. I now also believe that the effects of marijuana are cumulative, and that after prolonged use, chronic changes occur which are similar to those seen in organic brain disease: islands of lucidity intermixed with areas of loss of function.”

**Mr. Miller:** That same doctor called in 1967 for legalisation of marijuana in America.

**Dr. CRAWFORD:** That is true. I knew it but neglected to quote it. I thank the honourable member for the interjection.

The Professor of Pharmacology at Oxford University summed up his situation by saying—

“How cannabis works is not understood, and we want to throw light on this. If one were to use cannabis as simply a new drug, which might be introduced to medicine, the evidence we already have of health hazards would rule it out.”

Chapple noted in 1966 that 88 per cent of 80 heroin or cocaine users had previously taken cannabis. This is also the experience in general work amongst Australian addicts. Much available evidence indicates that regular cannabis consumption conditions the user psychologically and pharmacologically to the use of stronger drugs. The claim so often repeated that marijuana is not addictive and that its use may be discontinued without any accompanying physical distress seems to be one more argument for users to pursue their habits. They act as if they will be able to stop when the time comes, without any difficulty, but they tend to postpone the time of decision into the indefinite future.

In addition, habitual use of cannabis creates in the user a pattern of behaviour which is biologically determined, and therefore the addict finds it is more difficult to discontinue in the absence of very strong motivation or of a substitute. I quote again the belief of drug experts around the world that all drugs are used by those who have psychological problems, and therefore it is not the drug that is responsible but the person's innate personal mechanism.

Another practical issue is that of safety. One of the most consistently recorded effects of marijuana usage is distortion of time and space. Of course, distortion in this context is most often seen in the use of LSD, but in marijuana use time may pass in a wave-like way, first slowly then quickly; space may be distorted so that lengths,

heights and distances may appear to be reduced or exaggerated. These distortions, along with the effect caused by marijuana usage, on the short-term memory could severely impair an individual's performance in such actions as driving or operating a piece of complicated machinery. It would also appreciably impair his competence in areas in which safety hazards exist.

Employers may have to face the question, “Who says I can't smoke on the job?”, with subsequent loss of initiative and safety measures in work situations. Studies of people who regularly use cannabis derivatives have shown development over a period of time of changes of attitude to such things as one's own personal appearance and health, work situations, and personal responsibilities.

These factors have been noted in young people still at school, with resultant deterioration of their studies. Cannabis intoxication will have the most serious adverse effects in adolescence, particularly between 13 and 18 years of age when young people are developing physically, because those who use it at that time are attempting to structure their personalities to the world around them when their brains are most vulnerable in this process of integration.

The legalisation of marijuana would be a ghastly mistake. One may wonder how long our society would exist if drug-taking became one of the prerequisites of happiness. Drug-taking is symptomatic of the dissatisfaction, and craving for fulfilment, of disillusioned youth who are seeking new values. Such fulfilment cannot be found in any lasting way through any type of intoxicant.

One must emphasise that with this type of environment in our society, every effort must be made to ascertain the complete facts on this drug, and to educate the public in the possible side-effects of its short and long-term use. As well as this, we must establish in our community real centres where youngsters and others can discuss their problems, and also where treatment, if necessary, can be initiated and carried through to completion.

It is not sufficient for Governments to pass legislation and then, simply because this legislation has been passed, say that there is no problem, and that the drug situation is under control. This is a tendency found in Governments throughout the world. The Americans have spent billions of dollars in attempts to control drug usage, and the end result of all this expenditure, so far as the hard drugs are concerned, is a less than 1 per cent cure of addicts.

I brought this subject up this morning in the form of a question to the Treasurer, because in this city, as in other parts of the world, there is an organisation known as Teen Challenge, the management of which is making serious attempts to control drug usage by treating those who have an association with such usage. Youngsters are treated by this organisation with such a degree of

efficiency that the results obtained are superior to those obtained by other methods in this country or elsewhere.

**Mr. Miller:** Teen Challenge has the confidence of the young people.

**Dr. CRAWFORD:** It has indeed. I believe that Teen Challenge is facing a crisis in its future management and survival. I therefore appeal to the Treasurer, as I did by means of my question this morning, to give very serious consideration to providing the funding necessary to allow this work to continue. I believe that it is one of the responsibilities of Government to provide the necessary financial assistance to organisations carrying out work of this type. If we do not support charitable organisations run by people who have no personal reward in sight and who are giving their time, effort and expertise purely to help others, we are a very poor community, and I trust that the Treasurer will answer my question tomorrow in a way that will give Teen Challenge really practical assistance.

**Mr. Miller:** The New South Wales Government assisted. It gave \$10,000 plus a building.

**Dr. CRAWFORD:** That was indeed a worth-while contribution. I believe that we should probably proceed to an even greater financial involvement than that.

Having dealt with the drug problem that I wished to place on record in the House, I think that I could well devote the few minutes remaining to me to dealing with some further aspects of the continuing fiasco and controversy in regard to the Medibank scheme. In a recent publication someone inquired whether it was Medibank or "Piggy bank". One could even ask whether it is Medibank or mountebank, and perhaps the latter word would be a good description.

**Mr. Burns:** Did you see what Mr. Hayden said?

**Dr. CRAWFORD:** Yes, I did, and I do not agree with him. It is a question that I think we must consider very seriously because of its implications for the welfare of Australians and their health services in general.

Unfortunately, Mr. Hayden is busy spending the taxpayers' money on advertising to such a degree that the situation, in the minds of the individual taxpayers of this country, is becoming progressively more confused. The community is inundated by a use of the word "free", and probably no word that has been used in a similar context has been a greater misnomer.

**Mr. Burns:** What about free public beds?

**Dr. CRAWFORD:** Someone has to pay for them, too.

**Mr. Burns:** Don't you believe in free hospitals?

**Dr. CRAWFORD:** I believe in free public beds; the honourable member knows that.

On the subject of providing improved medical services in this country, Mr. Hayden has at long last produced a figure that he considers is a satisfactory estimate of the cost of the universal health scheme. In my opinion, \$1,400 million is an underestimate. I recently quoted in the House the actuarial assessment of \$1,680 million. Whether it is \$1,400 million or \$1,600 million, it will mean an increase in taxation across the board, in spite of Mr. Hayden's denials, of at least 7 or 8 per cent, perhaps even 10 per cent. If the British experience in this context is repeated—and there is no reason to assume that bureaucratic management in Australia is any different from bureaucratic management in Britain—it could well be doubled in the first year, as it was in the United Kingdom in 1948 when costs were much lower, and be about \$3,000 million. That would mean a very large increase indeed in taxation.

**Mr. Porter:** Twice as much as we are spending on defence.

**Dr. CRAWFORD:** That is right. And we have not an Army, Navy or Air Force worth talking about.

**Mr. Burns** interjected.

**Dr. CRAWFORD:** We have no Army to put them into, so it makes little difference.

As far as the over-all cost of the scheme is concerned, I believe very strongly that if Mr. Hayden is going to advertise the so-called advantages of the scheme, he should also point out some of its deficiencies, and his costing is just so wrong that it would be almost laughable if the matter were not so serious. I was at a recent meeting at which Mr. Hayden spoke, and he said that, as wages were escalating in this country, there would not be any need for additional taxation to bring about consolidated revenue increases to meet Medibank expenses. That is a complete indictment of Federal Labor Party policy, because Mr. Hayden obviously meant that inflation is going to be at such a rate that it will provide the additional \$1,000 million, \$2,000 million or \$3,000 million that will be needed. I cannot imagine a situation in which a so-called responsible person could state in a public forum that no taxation increase will be necessary because wage increases will provide the finance needed for the scheme.

I do not believe that it is possible for us to negotiate—I use that word electively—with either Mahomet or the mountain. We remember the old story about Mahomet and the mountain. Mr. Hayden is both Mahomet and the mountain—a double rock on which we will founder and flounder if we try to negotiate with him.

In recent days the New South Wales Government has issued quite a straightforward assessment of the situation as it sees it. It has been published in the Press for all to read. That Government basically envisages



the continuing of the existing system of health insurance, combined with a substantial increase in Federal taxpayers' contributions to State hospital systems. On its part the Federal Government is not prepared to accept the philosophy of the New South Wales proposals. It does not appear—no doubt through Mr. Hayden's Social Security Department—to even be prepared to discuss them.

New South Wales proposes that Federal and State Governments should agree to fund in equal proportions the net cash needs of public hospitals, after a separate payment by the patients' fees had been met.

The New South Wales proposals serve up other considerable demands on the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth, New South Wales believes, should provide assistance to insured patients equivalent to 25 per cent of the average daily occupied bed cost for the current year. It should include outpatient services in a health insurance scheme, which would include patient contributions through hospital insurance funds; but the Federal Government wants casualty and other out-patients services to be provided free through Medibank.

New South Wales believes that the Federal Government should provide contracts of service for doctors who treat patients in public hospitals. This is something to which the Federal Government at the moment has no objection. It also should provide for cost recovery from insurance companies for insurance cases. New South Wales believes that that should occur.

According to Mr. Lewis in New South Wales, Canberra should clearly define "operating expenses" in any Federal scheme for cost sharing, and give definite undertakings that the funds required to meet the net cash needs of hospitals will be made available. New South Wales is also concerned at the lack of cover through Mr. Hayden's scheme for psychiatric care. This is a matter which needs attention throughout the Commonwealth.

It is important, I believe, to realise that Mr. Hayden's points about so-called negotiation are the exact antithesis of the points made by Premier Lewis in New South Wales. If we are going to negotiate in this State between the State Government and the present or any other Federal Government, to protect our own interests and to act in the best interests of patients in this State we must have several points in mind when we are negotiating. We should negotiate from our own strong point of being an autonomous State that runs and controls its own hospital affairs.

We should negotiate with several points in mind. First, we should protect the medical benefits funds because we will need to have those funds provide the vast increases in costs over and above the set amounts which Medibank is said to provide. There is no way in the world that the figure of \$16 or

\$18 a bed a day will cover hospital costs—whether public, intermediate or private costs. As long as Mr. Hayden continues to denigrate the medical benefits funds, and state that he is not prepared to talk to them because they have made elective efforts to oppose his scheme, both through the media and by High Court action, he will continue to do every patient in this country a disservice, as he will not enable the funds to continue in a position of financial strength. We will never be able to operate a successful scheme without extra funds, beyond those which will come from this compulsory scheme. Therefore we must protect the medical and hospital funds, and we must negotiate from the strength in this State by insisting that the Commonwealth protect them also. That is where the authority lies. The Minister for Social Security assumes the power to tell the funds what they will refund for every bed used each day. Currently a private bed is refunded on the basis of \$51 a day, and Mr. Hayden in his great generosity provides \$2. He tells the funds what the level of their refunds will be.

Secondly, we must refuse to accept any set amount. Mr. Hayden has stated quite emphatically in my hearing that the \$16 or \$18, whichever it may be—I think it will be \$16 plus the \$2 presently spent by the Commonwealth—will be a set amount on hospital bed funding and not negotiable. This is utter nonsense at a time of galloping inflation in our country. If this or any other State accepts a set amount at that level it is foolish, because in six or 12 months' time, at an inflation rate of 20 per cent or more, it will mean very little indeed.

Any subsidy that is given to any hospital bed throughout the Commonwealth has to be varied by cost-of-living adjustments at least every three months. I will admit that it may be difficult administratively to do that.

Thirdly, we must refuse to accept any form of control from Canberra. There is no way in the world our hospital system can be bettered by people outside the State telling us how to run it. We must be very firm about that. We will accept any moneys that any Government outside this State offers us for our hospitals and other services, but we will not accept any control, any directions, any administrative angles, or any trick under which we are told what to do with those funds.

Fourthly, we must arrange a formula under which Commonwealth moneys will be specifically allocated each six or 12 months for capital works in each State. We have been the Cinderella State for far too long, and as a sovereign State we must have this right to negotiate with any Federal Government. If we had a set formula that was negotiated, and if we knew that one year, two years or five years ahead we would receive specific amounts for capital works in hospital building, we would be making great progress indeed.

Furthermore, we must co-ordinate with the other non-Labor States in the present political climate so that there is not a specific negotiation between this State and the Federal Government or between any other State and the Federal Government. It is probably not realised by many honourable members that one of the points of negotiation between the Federal Government and the South Australian Government is the allocation of private and public beds. If Don Dunstan signs the agreement, 70 per cent of private beds in South Australia will be labelled public or standard beds. To my mind that gives the public in South Australia virtually no choice whatever, because when the beds are wanted for intermediate use they will just not be available. That is no negotiation at all; rather it is pure political blackmail. I will be very surprised if Premier Dunstan accepts that for his State.

If we negotiate as a series of States individually we will find ourselves in the divide-and-conquer category—and we will be the conquered. If we negotiate from strength as individual States banded together, so that Mr. Hayden knows he has to face a unified four or more States, all with the same desire to better their hospital systems and none prepared to accept dictation from outside, we will accomplish two things. First, we will ensure that our hospital services continue to be run as efficiently as possible by those in local areas with the know-how; secondly, in the event of a Federal election, which is inevitable later this year and which will be fought on the real issues of the day, namely inflation and unemployment, we will be able to deal with the Medibank issue in its proper perspective.

It is not an election issue and I do not believe that either my side of politics or the Opposition side in this House could win an election on that issue alone. But I do believe that all Queenslanders should stand up and be counted on this. It is of the greatest possible importance that we should accept no conditions, that we should negotiate only from strength as a sovereign State, that we should learn the lessons that have come to us from overseas, that we should see the situation as it applies in Canada and in Britain (where there is a major confrontation in which the patient is going to be grossly disadvantaged because of the confrontation between hospital authorities and the Labor Government in the United Kingdom).

If we do not learn the lessons from overseas and prevent these problems occurring in our own area, where we have a choice, we will eventually have no choice whatsoever and will deserve the mediocre system that will eventuate and we will deserve to be cast into political oblivion, where I believe intelligent electors will then cast us.

The House adjourned at 9.41 p.m.