

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

THURSDAY, 1 SEPTEMBER 1977

Electronic reproduction of original hardcopy

personal allegations about my motives in drawing responsible attention to serious criminal activities associated with massage parlours in Brisbane. He used the Government's tested tactic of drawing attention from the real issue by making a personal attack and by distorting the facts that I made public in this House.

Government Members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order and honourable members will refrain from persistent interjections.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: I appreciate your protection, Mr. Speaker.

I state categorically that, contrary to the insinuations of the Minister's carefully worded statement, I believe the overwhelming majority of policemen, including the Deputy Police Commissioner, who led raids on the Matador Club at South Brisbane, are honest officers who are dedicated to carrying out properly their police duties. However, I repeat that Roland John Short and a senior commissioned police officer met after the "Sunday Sun" published details of the operation of Short's South Brisbane club. I point out that the Minister for Police, in his carefully worded attack on me, has not denied that such a meeting took place.

THURSDAY, 1 SEPTEMBER 1977

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

PAPER

The following paper was laid on the table:—

Order in Council under the State and Regional Planning and Development, Public Works Organization and Environmental Control Act 1971–1974 and the Local Bodies' Loans Guarantee Act 1923–1975.

PETITION

AMENDMENT OF RAPE LAWS

Mr. BURNS (Lytton—Leader of the Opposition) presented a petition from 1,074 citizens of Queensland praying that the Parliament of Queensland will alter the present practice of law regarding rape, which grossly discriminates against women and effectively denies them equality before the courts.

Petition read and received.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Mr. K. J. HOOPER (Archerfield) (11.4 a.m.), by leave: Yesterday in a carefully worded statement in this House the Minister for Police made serious and damaging

SUCCESSION AND GIFT DUTIES ABOLITION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

INITIATION

Hon. W. E. KNOX (Nundah—Deputy Premier and Treasurer): I move—

"That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill to amend the Succession and Gift Duties Abolition Act 1976 in certain particulars."

Motion agreed to.

DEATH OF DR. F. C. S. DITTMER

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier) (11.8 a.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

"1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this State by the late Dr. Felix Cyril Sigismund Dittmer, a former member of the Parliament of Queensland.

"2. That Mr. Speaker be requested to convey to the family of the deceased gentleman the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the members of the Parliament of Queensland in the loss they have sustained."

Dr. Dittmer had been ill for some time and died from a heart attack at Canossa Hospital in Brisbane at the age of 72 years.

There are not many present members in this House who were contemporaries of Dr. Dittmer, but those of us who were remember him as a man of sincerity, a sound thinker and powerful debater, an approachable man and one who was often controversial in some of his statements and outlook. He will be long regarded as one who endeavoured to serve Queensland and its people and who did so at both State and Federal political levels with distinction and dedication.

Dr. Dittmer was active for over 20 years in the political life of Queensland and Australia and played a prominent part in the internal troubles of the Australian Labor Party in 1956 and in its fateful year of 1957. Doubtless, like many others at the same time of similar or opposite convictions, he adopted the stance he did because of his personal principles and beliefs.

Born at Boonah, he won a scholarship to the University of Queensland at a youthful age, subsequently graduating with degrees in Arts and Science. He continued his tertiary studies at the University of Sydney and obtained his medical degrees there, with honours. In fact, with four degrees, he was once subsequently described in the Senate as the most highly qualified member of the Federal Parliament. Dr. Dittmer taught for a period at the University of Sydney prior to taking up private practice in North Queensland, following which he became a specialist of note in ear, nose and throat ailments.

Following war service as a medical officer, he entered the Queensland Legislative Assembly at the general election of 1950 as member for Mt. Gravatt and held his seat until defeated at the general election of 1957. However, his ability and energy were widely recognised and he re-entered political life two years later by winning endorsement on the A.L.P. Senate ticket. Felix Dittmer entered the Senate in 1959 and served creditably until June 1971, when he lost his place in the A.L.P. Senate team.

Following his retirement from politics, he continued his specialist practice on Wickham Terrace, being also an honorary specialist at the Mater Public and Mater Children's Hospitals.

A very versatile man, Dr. Dittmer had also been a member of the Senate of the University of Queensland, held gold-mining interests, and during his university days played first-grade football and represented his university colleges at cricket, rowing, tennis and athletics.

His wife predeceased him in 1975 and they are survived by two sons and four daughters.

The late Dr. Dittmer was a highly intelligent, dedicated and well-respected man and parliamentarian, and on behalf of the Government, and indeed all members, I extend our sincere sympathy to his family.

Hon. W. E. KNOX (Nundah—Deputy Premier and Treasurer) (11.10 a.m.): In seconding the motion proposed by the Premier, I join in the tributes to the work of the late Dr. Felix Dittmer over a very long period. He left this House in 1957, just 20 years ago. Although he served here for only seven years, he distinguished himself and became in those days one of the better-known parliamentarians in the State. At the time of leaving this House he was serving as deputy leader of the Labor Party under Mr. Duggan.

As mentioned by the Premier, however, Dr. Dittmer's parliamentary service was soon to resume in the Senate, where he served from 1959 to 1971. During his two Senate terms Dr. Dittmer established himself as a forceful speaker. Quite often he was controversial, but he always pursued the various causes with which he was associated with a great deal of determination. He was genuinely interested in the welfare of this State and the many people with whom he came in contact.

Apart from his political service, Dr. Dittmer also rendered great service to the community as a surgeon. He had a substantial practice and was well regarded in the medical profession.

I think it was Mr. Gair who made mention of Dr. Dittmer's academic achievements and his great intellect. He held degrees in many disciplines from both the Queensland and Sydney universities.

The parliamentary Liberal Party supports the motion proposed by the Premier and adds its tribute to the late Dr. Felix Dittmer for his services to this Parliament, the Senate and the Queensland community.

Mr. BURNS (Lytton—Leader of the Opposition) (11.13 a.m.): On behalf of the Australian Labor Party and the State parliamentary Labor party, I join with the Premier and the Deputy Premier in supporting the motion. Felix Dittmer was a man of the Labor Party who will be remembered in the history of the movement because of the way he participated in the movement itself, teaching young men and women to become involved in politics and to stand up for the things in which they believed. Felix and I fought on a number of occasions in the party on various issues; but I always knew that when I had finished fighting with him I could later go into a bar with him and discuss the matter without bitterness or hatred.

When Felix saw young men or women in the party making mistakes, or when he thought they were going off on the wrong tangent, he was prepared to give them a ring and some good advice. When he met me in the country while I was working as an organiser, I remember his saying, "You had better come and have a yarn with me young fellow; I think you have your wires crossed." I appreciated that trait in Felix more than any other. He was a man who had a brilliant academic record but he also mixed very well

with the ordinary bloke in the community. In his Senate days, when I saw him in a pub in western Queensland or in a shearing shed with an A.W.U. organiser, I found that he could mix as well in the shearing shed as in the University Senate.

Felix will be remembered in the party because of his stand in the 1957 split. In this Parliament the Labor Party elected him deputy leader. As will be recalled, both Felix and Mr. Duggan were defeated in the 1957 election; but Felix never gave in. He was always prepared to stand and fight for the things he wanted. He was able to win successive Senate plebiscites in country areas. His son Barry was a candidate for the Labor Party in the Kennedy seat after Bill Riordan retired.

On behalf of the Party, I offer condolences to his sons and daughters, as Harry Dean and I did yesterday when we represented the parliamentary party at Felix's funeral. We will remember him with pride as a man who stood up and fought for what he believed in, never counting the cost.

Mr. MELLOY (Nudgee) (11.15 a.m.): My association with Felix Dittmer goes back to the early 1940s, when we were both in the Army. I was associated with him at several military hospitals during that period. I was also associated with him in the municipal election in 1949, when he was the mayoral candidate and I was an aldermanic candidate. I knew him very well over that time. Felix was always a worker. He was never still; he was always on the move. The work he did for the Labor Party was not always recognised, but he was a very solid Labor supporter and a very solid Labor man. Although we have not had the benefit of his services over the last few years, I do not think anybody in the Labor Party would have a harsh word to say about Felix Dittmer.

I support the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition and I join with the Premier and the Deputy Premier in the message of condolence being forwarded to his relatives. In the death of Felix Dittmer we have lost somebody of importance in the community.

Mr. JENSEN (Bundaberg) (11.17 a.m.): I, too, wish to associate myself with the motion of condolence moved by the Premier, seconded by the Deputy Premier and supported by the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Nudgee. I knew Dr. Felix Dittmer well. He gave me invaluable support during the 1969 and 1972 elections. Dr. Dittmer had interests and many friends in Bundaberg. He had relatives in the Childers area. His son is the industrial officer in Bundaberg. It is because of my regard for him and his association with the Bundaberg area that I am on my feet supporting this motion.

Dr. Dittmer visited Bundaberg on many occasions. He was our Senate representative. I believe that if there had been a plebiscite

for the Senate team he would have topped the poll in Queensland. He was disappointed and disheartened at being thrown out of the Labor Party Senate team. Dr. Dittmer had many friends in Bundaberg and I offer my sympathy, along with theirs, to his relatives.

Motion (Mr. Bjelke-Petersen) agreed to, honourable members standing in silence.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

1. BOAT RAMP AT TOONDAH HARBOUR, CLEVELAND

Mr. Goleby, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Tourism and Marine Services—

(1) Is he aware of the dangerous condition, due to siltation, at the approach to the boat ramp at Toondah Harbour, Cleveland?

(2) Has he been informed that, owing to this siltation, the Cleveland police boat was stuck in the mud at 3 a.m. on 28 August and the police officers stranded when required urgently on the bay?

(3) In view of these circumstances and my repeated requests to have the approach to the ramp dredged, will he take the necessary action to have this serious problem rectified immediately?

Answers:—

(1) I refer the honourable member to my answer to his question of 9 March 1977.

(2) No.

(3) See answer to (1).

2. NOISE NUISANCE FROM BICYCLE ACCESSORY

Mr. Goleby, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Health—

(1) Has his attention been drawn to an advertisement in "The Sunday Mail" of 14 August by a large retail store advertising a device which, when affixed to an ordinary bicycle, makes the noise of a roaring motor cycle when the cycle is in motion?

(2) In view of the noise problem this would cause in built-up areas, will he have this matter investigated and, if necessary, have the gadget withdrawn from sale?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) I suggest that the honourable member address his question to the Honourable the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads

3. WORKS DEPARTMENT APPRENTICES
DISMISSED

Mr. Houston, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

(1) How many apprentices have been dismissed from the Works Department since 1 January?

(2) What were their trades and in what year of apprenticeship were they?

(3) On what date was each of the apprentices dismissed?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) None. However, 15 apprentices terminated their services with the Department of Works either by mutual consent or through failure to meet technical college training requirements.

4. MORNINGSIDE STATE SCHOOL

Mr. Houston, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

As it is now some considerable time since the principal of the Morningside State School applied for furniture for the main office, the lighting of the administration block and the provision of a new library or at least an extension of the existing library at the school, what is the present position concerning these matters, which have my full support?

Answer:—

The supply of a new table and chair for the principal has been approved and it is expected that this furniture will be delivered at an early date. Improved lighting to the administration block is included in remodelling work currently being carried out. The provision of a new library or extension of the present library accommodation is under consideration, having regard to the needs of other schools.

5. COURSING DATES FOR BEENLEIGH AND
CAPALABA

Mr. Houston, pursuant to notice, asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

(1) What is the situation in regard to the allocation of greyhound-racing dates for the Beenleigh and Capalaba racing clubs?

(2) As a large number of capable dogs cannot get a start owing to the lack of meetings, why cannot the Beenleigh and Capalaba clubs be granted more meeting dates?

(3) Are there any regulations or any other reasons which restrict the numbers of dates granted to each?

Answers:—

(1) The Greyhound Racing Control Board submits for the approval of the Minister in charge of racing, usually in November of each year, a list of proposed racing dates for the following year, which covers all greyhound-racing clubs in the State. The board makes its recommendations on the basis of what is best for the sport as a whole.

(2) Any approach to the board for an increase in the allocation of dates to the Beenleigh and Capalaba clubs would be fully considered, I am sure, on the merits of the arguments put forward. I would point out to the honourable member, however, that the number of racing dates now made available to greyhound-racing clubs in Queensland is already at a very high level.

(3) There is an obvious need to properly regulate and control the allocation of racing dates to ensure that the racing calendar is not too congested. Sections 36 (2), 50 and 51 of the Racing and Betting Act relate to the allotment of dates for the day greyhound-racing clubs such as Beenleigh and Capalaba.

6. KATHLEEN MARY HOOPER

Mr. Aikens, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Police—

(1) Is he aware of a woman named Kathleen Mary Hooper, aged 20, of Brisbane?

(2) Does he know if this woman is a relation of the A.L.P. member for Archerfield?

(3) Has this woman three convictions for prostitution?

(4) If so, did these convictions result in fines ranging from \$150 to \$400?

(5) Is this woman the source of the honourable member for Archerfield's intimate and detailed knowledge of prostitution, massage parlours and standover criminals in Brisbane which he used yesterday in this House to smear unnamed senior police officers and members of this Parliament?

Answer:—

I have encountered personal difficulties in considering my answer to this question. In deciding the answer I would give, I have been influenced by some words of wisdom of the ancient Chinese philosopher Confucius, who said, "Do to every man as thou would'st have him do to thee, and do not do unto another what thou would'st not have him do to thee".

I have no desire to score points off any family problems the honourable member for Archerfield may have. It is unfortunate that his recent irresponsible and provocative actions have precipitated this question, but he can only blame himself for it.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: I rise to a point of order. I want to make this explanation. I have no family problems at all, as the Minister alleges.

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

Answer (contd.):—

I feel sure that the honourable member for Townsville South shares my feelings in this regard and that his question is based simply on another proverb, "People who live in glass houses should not throw stones".

I hope the honourable member for Archerfield will heed the sentiments contained in these proverbs in the way he conducts himself in this House in the future. There is an important message in them.

The answer to the specific questions is—

(1 to 5) Records indicate that a female named Kathleen Mary Hooper, aged 20, of Brisbane has three convictions for prostitution and that these convictions have resulted in fines ranging from \$150 to \$400.

From recent utterances in this House by the honourable member for Archerfield, it seems evident that he has a close contact in the massage parlour business.

I have already informed this House of significant police activity in attacking the problems of prostitution and illegal gaming activities in this State. If the honourable member for Archerfield is in fact in possession of information which could assist the Police Department, he should make it available immediately to the department instead of trying to make political capital out of it.

7. RAILWAY DISMISSALS, TOWNSVILLE

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

Is he aware that considerable public disquiet has been caused in the North by the peremptory dismissal of two railwaymen at Townsville under the provisions of a Cabinet Minute impinging on section 17 of the Railways Act and, if so, will consideration be given to the re-employment of these two men and the excision or alteration of this obnoxious section to ensure that in future no railwayman can be dismissed without prior charge and an opportunity for him to answer such charge?

Answer:—

The honourable member for Townsville South is to be commended for bringing this matter forward.

I have made inquiries and ascertained that the member for Townsville South wrote to the Minister for Transport, the Honourable F. A. Campbell, M.L.A., asking that the matter be determined on appeal before the Governor in Council.

I can assure the member for Townsville South that I will keep this matter under close personal review and advise him as to developments as they occur.

8. HOUSING COMMISSION ACTIVITIES, MACKAY

Mr. Casey, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

(1) How many applications are held by the Housing Commission in Mackay for (a) houses in each of the priority categories and (b) pensioner units?

(2) How many (a) houses and (b) pensioner units are currently under construction?

(3) In view of the serious housing situation that exists in Mackay, when will additional contracts be let for the construction of houses and units?

Answers:—

(1) (a) 100 points, 1; 80 points, 10; 60 points, nil; 40 points, 20; nil points, 86; as at 31 July 1977. (b) 33 Single, 8 Couple.

(2) (a) 26; (b) 6.

(3) The honourable member will see from the figures that I have already taken action to cater very well for the above priority cases. I have approved that further tenders be called.

9. AFLATOXIN IN PEANUTS

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

(1) As not one of the last three reports to Parliament by his department contained any information regarding details of tests carried out by the Government on peanuts for the presence of aflatoxin, when did the Government Health Laboratory commence testing peanuts in Queensland for the presence of aflatoxin?

(2) How many tests have been carried out on peanut samples during 1977 and what have been the results of the tests?

(3) As the World Health Organisation recommends that the maximum allowable level of aflatoxin in peanuts should be not more than 30 parts per billion, what effect would the regular consumption of peanuts containing 2,000 parts per billion have on human beings?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) I am advised that the Peanut Marketing Board at Kingaroy has been testing peanuts for aflatoxin for several seasons now. In addition the Primary Industries Department has conducted tests for the past six seasons. I am also advised that reputable suppliers of peanuts for the retail trade have their own laboratories for testing for the substance.

The National Health and Medical Research Council made a recommendation regarding aflatoxin in 1976. In recent tests of peanuts on the retail market only a very small proportion contained aflatoxin in excess of 30 parts per billion. While there have been reports of illness occurring after eating peanuts affected with aflatoxin, a recent article on the subject in the British Medical Journal stated the incidence was not proof of a cause-and-effect relationship. The honourable member will be pleased to know that the analyst reports that Kingaroy Big Red peanuts contained less than 5 parts per billion of aflatoxin.

10. EXTENSION OF FISHERIES ZONES

Mr. Ahern for Mr. Doumany, pursuant to notice, asked the Premier—

(1) Following the welcome announcement by members of the South Pacific Forum of an agreement to legislate for 200-mile fisheries zones, will he act to ensure that resultant Commonwealth legislation gives full protection to Queensland, particularly in Gulf waters?

(2) Will he seek to take every advantage of this extended limit in respect of guarding against entry of exotic livestock diseases from foreign fishing vessels?

Answers:—

(1) As the honourable member is no doubt well aware, I have frequently made representations to the Prime Minister in this regard, and he may rest assured that I will certainly closely scrutinise these latest developments so that Queensland's interests are both recognised and fully protected. I am also pressing the Prime Minister to take action to adopt the 12-mile territorial limit on lines similar to that taken by other nations.

(2) The extended limit may well result in more foreign fishing vessels being arrested and being brought into Queensland ports. To minimise the risk from animals or animal products that may be carried on those vessels, a meeting convened and chaired by the Commonwealth Department of Primary Industry was held in Cairns on 26 July to establish detailed and co-ordinated procedures for the handling of arrested vessels. The Department of Harbours and Marine, Queensland Fisheries Service, Queensland Police Department and harbour boards and a number of Commonwealth departments were represented at the meeting. The Chief Quarantine Officer (Animals) for Queensland in the Department of Primary Industries attended the meeting where major consideration was given to procedures for guarding against entry of exotic livestock diseases. The report of the meeting is now being finalised by the Fisheries Section of the Commonwealth Department of Primary Industry.

11. LOCAL AUTHORITY GRANTS

Mr. Ahern, pursuant to notice, asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

In respect of the grants recently announced by the Local Authority Grants Commission, will consideration be given in future years to an early release of these moneys so that full consideration can be given by local authorities in the framing of their budgets to the grants that they will receive?

Answer:—

The recommendation of the Grants Commission can only be finalised after receipt of advice from the Commonwealth of the amount of grant payable to the State for distribution amongst local authorities.

As the grant is dependent upon personal income tax collections for the previous financial year, this advice must await the determination by the Commonwealth of the total personal income tax pool net of Medibank levies for that year.

This year the advice of the level of the grant was made known to the State on 2 August 1977. The recommendation by the Local Government Grants Commission was received by me on 5 August 1977 and, after complying with the requirements of the Local Government Grants Commission Act 1976 and the Local Government (Personal Income Tax Sharing) Act 1976, I was able to release the details of the grants on 12 August 1977.

Everybody, and every agency, involved is aware of the necessity for the information to be released as early as possible.

12. COMMUNITY-BUILT PRIVATE HOSPITALS

Mr. Ahern, pursuant to notice, asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

(1) With regard to the scheme which was introduced some years ago to provide a subsidy on interest rates to community organisations constructing private hospitals, when is this scheme due to expire?

(2) Is any consideration being given to extending the scheme in the light of the increased need for private hospital accommodation throughout Queensland?

Answers:—

(1) The scheme was instituted in 1972 with the aim of boosting the development of private and intermediate hospital facilities over the succeeding five-year period with the payment of interest subsidy ceasing in 1982.

(2) Since inception of the scheme, only one hospital (St. Andrews) has to date received subsidy payments.

Three other projects (including Wesley Hospital) have developed to the stage where approvals of interest subsidy payments are expected to be given in the near future.

Any further developments that are approved will, as the scheme now stands, be eligible for interest subsidy payments up to June 1982.

13. TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS, BRISBANE-IPSWICH HIGHWAY

Mr. Marginson, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Police—

During the year ended 30 June, (a) how many traffic accidents occurred on the Ipswich to Brisbane Highway between Bundamba Creek and Blunder Road, Oxley, and (b) how many fatalities resulted from the accidents?

Answer:—

(a) There were 302 recorded road accidents. (b) Three.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

PROPOSED REFORMS TO LAW OF RAPE

Mr. BURNS: I ask the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General: Has the Law reform Commission made recommendations concerning proposed reforms to the law of rape? Did the commission recommend that in certain circumstances rape between spouses be recognised? Can the Minister explain why the report or recommendations have not been released to the public to allow for informed public discussion? Will the report or recommendations be released before legislation relating to rape laws is presented to the Parliament?

Mr. LICKISS: The contents of the Law Reform Commission's report and the report itself are confidential until tabled in the House. This is provided for under the Law Reform Commission Act. The answer to the honourable gentleman's question is that the report will be tabled, depending on the approval of the Governor in Council.

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT, HERVEY BAY HOSPITAL

Mr. POWELL: I ask the Minister for Health: Has he been informed that the medical superintendent of the Hervey Bay hospital has resigned? If so, have applications for a new medical superintendent been called, and when is it expected that an appointment will be made?

Dr. EDWARDS: I am aware that the medical superintendent of the Hervey Bay Hospital has resigned, and I have been informed that the Maryborough Hospitals Board will be calling applications for the position in the near future.

There has been concern for some time over the position of a part-time superintendent at the Hervey Bay Hospital, and the honourable member is well aware of that because he has made frequent representations to me on the subject. As a result, the position is under consideration at present and consultations are taking place with the Maryborough Hospitals Board as to making the position a full-time one in the future. The views of the board and of my departmental officers will be placed before me, and a decision will be made in the near future.

FILMING AND PHOTOGRAPHING OF PEOPLE TAKING PART IN VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS

Mr. PORTER: I ask the Premier: Is he aware of reported moves by the Commonwealth Government to film and photograph people taking part in violent demonstrations? Will the Queensland Police Force co-operate in supplying information that might be sought by the Commonwealth authorities?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: Yes, I am aware of the Commonwealth intention to ask the States to assist in naming or finding out who the main people are in the various demonstrations. I can assure the honourable member that the Queensland Police Force will extend the normal co-operation to the Commonwealth authorities in regard to violent demonstrations.

In answering this very important question I want to say that I am not surprised in the least at the statements by the A.L.P. Governments of New South Wales and South Australia that they will not co-operate.

Mr. Alison: Some of their members are in them.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: That is correct; too many of their friends and colleagues are involved. That is why former Senator Murphy raided A.S.I.O.—to seize all the records that would disclose Labor's close associations and connections with the Communist Party and all those elements that are out to foment industrial and civil disruption.

Let there be no dodging around the truth. I thought the Commonwealth would know this. I am surprised that they have not got all the facts and figures that we have known for years—information that I have been trying to tell them and the rest of Australia. The Communist Party is behind the anti-nuclear protests in Queensland, just as it is the driving force behind the campaign for an independent East Timor, behind the anti-Vietnam demonstrations and behind the so-called Peace Movement. As usual we have the Communist Party well hidden behind the do-gooders and the gullible. For instance, during the vigil on the Hamilton Wharf against the loading of uranium from Mary Kathleen, whom did we find? On Friday night last there were

represented the Friends of the Dirt, the Campaign Against Nuclear Power, the Communist Party of Australia, the Communist League, the Socialist Workers Party and the International Socialists. They were all there. We know. We have kept a pretty good tab on them. The last four, of course, are various factions of the Communist Party. In the crowd there were no fewer than six well-known Communists.

However, there were also some other very interesting personalities down at the wharf. I am sure honourable members will be interested to hear who they were. There was Mr. Terrance O'Gorman, who is prominent in the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties. Another participant was the Opposition Leader's research officer, Laurie Boccabella. I do not know whether he was personally representing the Leader of the Opposition. Mr. Boccabella keeps some strange company in other places, including people such as Mark Oliver Plunkett. I would suggest to the Leader of the Opposition that he should display a little more care in choosing his staff and in finding out their activities—unless he himself is involved in it and is promoting it through members of his staff.

On Sunday 22 August, the Communist Party held a convention down at Hamilton Wharf. There were no fewer than 13 prominent Communist Party members taking part in the vigil. They included Charles Gifford, State Secretary of the Communist Party. Overall it was quite a turn-out of the old familiar faces—the professional demonstrators. Those persons on the other side who back them may find that it hurts them. Apart from the Communists and the Opposition Leader's personal representative we had the Council for Civil Liberties, the usual radical Aborigines such as Sam Watson, Jnr., the Union of Australian Women (which is a straight-out Communist Party organisation), a representative of the Women's Liberation Movement, and an Arab sympathiser. What wonderful representatives for a cause! What wonderful representation backed by the A.L.P.!

At the rally on the night the decision to mine uranium was announced, who should turn up leading the demonstration in King George Square but Mr. Hugh Hamilton of the Building Workers Industrial Union but better known for his other job as State President of the Communist Party. These are the people who have done so much harm in the public's eye to genuine movements for Aborigines and Islanders, women and conservation through their extremist, arrogant behaviour.

Every citizen has the right to state his view, but I warn the anti-nuclear movement here and now that there will be no street demonstrations in Brisbane. There are ample facilities such as King George Square and the Roma Street forum for peaceful protests, but the streets of Brisbane will not be turned into a forum by the Communist Party or anyone else. That includes the A.L.P., which

supports and backs those people. The Communist Party's technique is to plan street violence and then claim that its members were provoked. That is what it would like to do in the streets of Brisbane. But we are aware of the plans being made to conduct marches.

Mr. Wright interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I warn the honourable member for Rockhampton under Standing Order No. 123A.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I have no doubt that at first the marches will be respectable but that later we will see violence. The Queensland Police Force will be fair but it will be firm. Unlike the Police Force in New South Wales, the Queensland Police Force has the assurance that any officer who, in dealing with violent demonstrations, carries out his duty in a lawful manner has the unhesitating backing of the Queensland Government and the community.

I think I have adequately answered the question that concerns the honourable member as well as the whole community.

ALLEGATIONS BY MEMBER FOR ARCHERFIELD CONCERNING POLICE RAID ON MATADOR CLUB

Mr. PORTER: I ask the Premier: Has the member for Archerfield yet answered the challenge issued by the Minister for Police and the Queensland Police Union to name the senior commissioned officer who allegedly tipped off people about the impending raid on the Matador Club? Is it a fact that one of the people caught in the raid was a Pieter Kuiper, the endorsed A.L.P. candidate for Chatsworth?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I do not follow closely the activities of the A.L.P. in endorsing its candidates, but it is generally very easy to work out who they would be and what their calibre would be. I am sure the honourable member would know that.

As far as I am aware, the honourable member for Archerfield has not stood up and named any senior commissioned officer. I challenge him to do it right now. He has the privilege and the protection of this House to do so, and if he claims to be a man worthy of the name and of his position, he ought to stand up in the House and name the commissioned officer.

Honourable Members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I warn the honourable member for Archerfield under standing Order No. 123A. That warning applies also to any other member who interjects while a Minister is on his feet.

STATEMENT BY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION
ABOUT CESSATION OF SAND-MINING ON
FRASER ISLAND

Mr. ALISON: I ask the Deputy Premier and Treasurer: Has his attention been drawn to a statement by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Tom Burns) reported in "The Maryborough Chronicle" of 31 August wherein he claims to be shocked and staggered at the Federal Government's stopping sand-mining on Fraser Island? Would the Deputy Premier agree that the people of Maryborough and district have every reason to be shocked, staggered and annoyed at the sheer blatant hypocrisy of the Leader of the Opposition in his pretence at showing concern for the Maryborough, Hervey Bay and Tin Can Bay people when, in fact, he opposed, on behalf of the A.L.P., sand-mining on Fraser Island in the Warden's Court at Maryborough in June 1971, and was actually aiding and abetting the radical conservationists (including the Left-winger Dr. Mosley of the Australian Conservation Foundation) in their efforts to put 600 people out of work in Maryborough, Hervey Bay and Tin Can Bay? Will the Deputy Premier confirm that, at my request, he has made representations recently to the Prime Minister (Mr. Malcolm Fraser) for special compensation from the Federal Government for the retrenched sand-mining workers in the form of payment of six months' salary?

Mr. KNOX: Yes. It so happens that the article in the Maryborough paper has been brought to my attention by some anonymous source. I noticed in it the extraordinary statements made by the Leader of the Opposition when in Maryborough. Obviously he hopes that people outside Maryborough do not get to hear about these statements. He is a bit like his Federal Leader, who goes around like a bull in a china shop making statements in various parts of Queensland hoping that the rest of the world does not get to know about them. He has a habit of making some major blues.

This article in the "Maryborough Chronicle" of yesterday's date reads, in part—

"Mr. Burns, who was born in Maryborough, said he was shocked and staggered at the betrayal of his home district and families unemployed as a result of the Fraser Government's action."

He then went on to criticise the Federal Government and the honourable member for Maryborough, and made other disparaging remarks.

Of course, the fact of the matter is that his party strongly opposed the mining operations on Fraser Island. As well, as appears from the transcripts of the evidence given in the Warden's Court, the man who spoke vehemently on behalf of the Labor Party, supporting his statements with a great deal

of documentation, was none other than Mr. Burns, who appeared before the court demanding that the Fraser Island leases not be granted.

Mr. Casey: Who stopped the exports?

Mr. KNOX: I will get on to that shortly.

The people who protested and carried on throughout this period were none other than the members of the A.L.P., led by Mr. Burns, who was not at that time the Leader of the Opposition, but he held high office in his party nationally. For him, it was a national issue, and in 1971 he was, along with others, leading this effort to restrict the development of Fraser Island.

Mr. Alison: He wants us to forget that.

Mr. KNOX: He is trying very hard to make people forget. He is playing with the situation by suggesting—of course, it is correct, and he is leaning on it very heavily—that it was the Fraser Government that cancelled the export licences. Indeed, it was Canberra that did that; but I can assure honourable members that the decision to cancel those export licences does not have the support of the Queensland Government.

Mr. Jensen: Or of the A.W.U.

Mr. KNOX: The A.W.U. does not support it, either. We are doing everything in our power—the Premier has repeatedly made representations and we will continue making representations (as has the honourable member for Maryborough)—to have that decision reversed. There must be no more Fraser Islands. To have that decision reversed will take some effort on our part. But we notice that the party of the Leader of the Opposition is making no effort to have that decision reversed. Its members are standing on the sidelines, trying to make political capital out of Fraser Island. Such is the hypocrisy that comes from that party.

Mr. Wright: Fraser made the decision.

Mr. Casey: It was Fraser's decision.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I warn the honourable member for Rockhampton and the honourable member for Mackay that this is their last warning. On the next occasion I will take action under Standing Order No. 123A.

Mr. KNOX: Members of the Labor Party opposed the development of Fraser Island; but now that the Canberra Government has cancelled the licences they try to make political capital out of it. However, they are doing absolutely nothing to help correct the situation. As far as they are concerned, the more fuel that is heaped on the situation, the better is their brand of politics suited. Why don't they support us in our representations? Why didn't they support the honourable member for Maryborough,

who went to Canberra himself and saw the authorities in an attempt to have the decision reversed? We would have regarded that as a genuine attempt to help the people in that area. They could have done it if they had wanted to, but of course they did not.

QUEENSLAND PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Mr. ALISON: I ask the Minister for Works and Housing: Has he heard any results of the Queensland Permanent Building Society's annual general meeting held today?

Mr. LEE: I have had a report from the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs that the meeting concluded at 11.30. I see the honourable member for Archerfield nodding his head, so he must have got the message. The meeting was attended by some 100 people, and all reports and balance sheets were passed without dissent. Contrary to what the member for Archerfield has been saying—

Mr. Knox: He would be passed without dissent.

Mr. LEE: That is true. The Privileges Committee might do that one day.

A vote of confidence in the directors was passed by all the members present. It was a completely unanimous decision. That shows how ridiculous are the statements of the honourable member for Archerfield over the past few months. Also I understand that Hooper's thugs were there and in fact that this meeting passed and showed—

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: I rise to a point of order. The Minister made reference to my thugs. I had no people at the meeting. I do not know who attended the meeting. The remark is offensive and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I ask the Minister to accept the denial of the honourable member for Archerfield and withdraw the remark.

Mr. LEE: I will withdraw, if he wants it, to make him happy.

The fact that a vote of confidence in the directors was passed should surely show the Parliament and the whole of Queensland how much untruth there is in the remarks of this man over the past few days.

An Honourable Member interjected.

Mr. LEE: As the honourable member said, they are a pack of lies. We now see the Leader of the Opposition disowning him, trying to embarrass him and appealing to the people of Queensland to disown him. That shows him up for what he is.

PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF FEDERAL BUDGET BY
STATE TREASURER

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: I ask the Deputy Premier and Treasurer: Will he confirm reports that he had prior knowledge of the contents of the Federal Budget before it was introduced in the Federal Parliament by his friend the Federal Treasurer?

Mr. KNOX: I do not know quite the nature of the question. Will I confirm reports? I have not seen any reports that I had prior knowledge of it. I certainly did not have prior knowledge of it. One of my greatest difficulties is that, like everybody else, I have to listen to the Budget being read, and I am expected to be able to make a comment on it when the Federal Treasurer is only three-quarters of the way through it, while the media, of course, are allowed to see the Budget prior to its being delivered. That does create some difficulty.

Mr. Casey: Haven't you any liaison with Canberra?

Mr. KNOX: This is the situation right throughout the nation. I have no objection to the media getting the Budget before it is presented, because it is in the interests of the public that that should be so. But it is very difficult to comment on the Budget when the Treasurer has delivered only three-quarters of his speech, the media having studied it for some time beforehand.

I had no prior knowledge of the Budget and I am not aware of the reports that I did.

BETTING FACILITIES AT ROCKLEA TROTS

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: I ask the Deputy Premier and Treasurer: As this is an election year, will he give consideration to the restoration of betting facilities on the Brisbane gallopers at the very popular Rocklea trots?

Mr. KNOX: I am becoming used to the honourable member's being the shadow Treasurer. Obviously he is going to use his position to look after his own electorate in preference to anyone else's, which is not a bad political ploy. Should he ever become the Treasurer, the only place where he would spend the money of the State would be in his own electorate.

As to the prospects of the Rocklea trots having the concession that they used to have some years ago, I acknowledge that representations have been made to me and that I have been out to meet the folk there, who are very worthy people. There is no prospect of the changes they seek being made, and I would not mislead them into believing that there is.

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—SIXTH ALLOTTED DAY

Debate resumed from 30 August (see p. 305) on Mr. Turner's motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Mr. **AHERN** (Landsborough) (12.1 p.m.): At the outset I wish to affirm my loyalty and the loyalty of the electors of Landsborough to the Person of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I also wish to convey my congratulations to His Excellency Sir James Ramsay on his appointment and to say quite sincerely that he has been well received in Queensland and in particular in my electorate. We are very pleased to have such a fine Australian occupying that position.

I convey my congratulations also to the honourable member for Warrego, who so capably moved the Address in Reply to his Excellency's Opening Speech, and to the honourable member for Belmont for the capable way in which he seconded the motion. In the three years, approximately, that they have been here these two members have made a valuable contribution to the Parliament. They are parliamentarians rather than politicians, and I use those two terms advisedly for there is a vast difference between the two. There are many politicians who are not members of Parliament. We are parliamentarians. When we are elected, too many of us say, "We were elected to govern", or "We were elected to be the Opposition to the Government." That is not true. We are elected to be in the Government or the Opposition in Parliament, and I stress the word "Parliament". There is a vast difference between politicians and parliamentarians, and it is important that we recognise the difference.

Parliament as an institution has its inadequacies. I think it was Sir Winston Churchill who said that parliamentary democracy is the worst form of Government except all the rest, and he was pretty right. Parliament as an institution has a very fine tradition. Since medieval times it has asserted its supremacy over the Executive and established its privileges. These privileges include freedom from arrest and freedom from threat, which in those days meant primarily freedom from outside influence exerted by the Crown and its officers.

Over the years there has been clearly established in the Westminster system a system of rights and immunities for members of Parliament which clearly must exist. We must have these rights and immunities if we are to carry out our duties in the contemporary Parliament. These rights and immunities have been developed and refined. It has been a continuing process, and I have no doubt that it will continue further. During the process of the establishment of these rights there was an enormously controversial case called the "Hansard" case, in which Parliament established freedom of speech

as one of the privileges attaining to members of Parliament and their institution. These privileges are but part of the traditions of a great institution which is central to parliamentary democracy.

The honourable members for Warrego and Belmont have recognised that they were elected to a fine institution and they have recognised the pride that has been associated with the development of this tradition down through the years. They have resolved to be parliamentarians. The word "parliamentarian" implies a certain professionalism, a certain standard of conduct which ought to exist amongst its members because of the institution.

There is no doubt that we must use very carefully and sparingly, and after due consideration of all the facts, the privileges that exist. The use of the privileges of the Parliament must be the exception rather than the rule. They must be used only after due inquiry and research, and there must be recognition of the rights of the citizens in the community that we represent.

These rights have been respected in the development of this institution down through the centuries. We recognised that recently when we referred to the Committee of Privileges the question of the sub judice convention. There is no trammel in law on Parliament as to what its conduct ought to be in relation to matters that are before the courts. However, Parliaments down through the years have developed a convention, a code of practice, that recognises the rights of citizens who have to appear before the courts of the land, and we have been sticking to that convention in the interests of preserving the rights of citizens.

Parliament is for parliamentarians, not for scoundrels. Unfortunately, in the Parliaments of the nation today—and ours is no exception—there are members who have no knowledge of or respect for Parliament and what that term means. I accept that a member of Parliament must at all times have the right, conferred on him by parliamentary privilege, to speak fearlessly and with an honest belief in the truth of what he is saying. But this must be done only after reasonable inquiry and research. Personally, I have used the privilege of this House on a number of occasions. On one occasion I did so in the knowledge that it would have a severe effect on companies operating in Queensland and would probably affect employment. What did I insist on? I insisted on a full study by industrial research chemists to substantiate the information that I finally produced before the Parliament and tabled with the comments that I made.

Last Tuesday the honourable member for Archerfield, in this Chamber, saw fit to deliver another of his typical speeches. I believe that on that occasion he showed a contempt for the Parliament by reading most of his speech, as he has done on many occasions, prepared who knows where. He has made no contribution in this place since

he has been here other than to attack, denigrate and "bucket" citizens of the State and other members of this Chamber. To my knowledge, he has not made one positive contribution to the welfare of the citizens of Queensland and to the law-making process. In his distinctive Inala brogue, he comes here and says on many occasions, "Who will I 'bucket' today—the Q.P., the N.P., the police, or someone else?", and there have been many over the years that he has been here. Well, Mr. Speaker, I say with some feeling, "There's a hole in the bucket, dear Liza, and you are getting the contents all over you." That is all right; but the odour from that is settling on all of us.

Publicly the parliamentary institution today is in some bad odour, and it is due in no small measure to abuses and excesses of the type used daily by the honourable member for Archerfield in this place. It is very interesting to study what is happening to the general institutions that exist in our community today. The Parliaments, the defence services, the corporations, the universities and others are coming under constant attack by people who call themselves "conscience radicals". They are undermining these institutions in one way or another. They use every opportunity they can. Unfortunately, Australians are too easily led.

We have to be ever careful that our own institution does not sink into the mire. We must be very careful as members of Parliament that we do all we can to build our institution in public regard. There are clear reasons why our Parliament has been undermined in the public's regard. We have met the enemy; he is a few of us. When this sort of thing happens—as it did here on Tuesday and as it does almost every day the Parliament sits—by question, implication, innuendo and and so on, it sullies all of us. It sullies the institution and I am most angry about it.

On Tuesday the honourable member raised the matter of the Queensland Permanent Building Society. I do not cavil at his right to talk about it, but the character of the institution of building societies generally is such that it is very easy by innuendo or excessive language to create a run on them. Building societies borrow short and lend long, so a person can kill such an organisation by harsh, excessive backyard-type language. That is the sort of thing that was used here on Tuesday. The honourable member did it in the knowledge that there exists in Queensland the tightest rein in Australia over building society management. Inspectors from the Corporate Affairs Office are continually involved with all building societies as a result of what happened some months ago. Inspectors attend the board meetings of the Queensland Permanent Building Society because it is recognised that some concern has been expressed publicly and in the industry. But to simply

throw on the scrap-heap, or to throw at risk, the rights of 140,000 Queenslanders by such a method of approach to the discussion of this important subject is grossly irresponsible. When the honourable member opens his mouth and spurts his sullage he does it in the knowledge that he is trying to create a run on a building society. Of course, that sort of thing rubs off on all building societies—the whole industry in Queensland. He could have approached it in a much more reasonable way.

I think there are elements in the industry that would be happier if the Touche Ross report, which the honourable member obtained through a disappointed member of the society, were implemented in full. The very character of building societies requires discretion in public utterances, particularly those delivered under parliamentary privilege. It is in the public interest that problems of this type be sorted out with discretion to avoid implanting fear in the minds of the public leading to the possible destruction of an organisation, as the honourable member seems determined to do to prove his point and to gain some political mileage for himself.

I suggest that the responsible way to approach this would be for the Leader of the Opposition to seek a conference with those in the building society industry to discuss these matters with the honourable member for Archerfield and the Minister concerned, so that they could be resolved behind closed doors and the life savings of 140,000 Queenslanders (the savings of men, women and children) are not placed unnecessarily at risk. This member knows that this Government has never allowed a building society to go broke; it cannot do so now, and will not do so now. With the legislation we have and the resources we have, we can see to it that that will not happen. Yet the member for Archerfield seems to be dreadfully intent on trying to create such a happening merely to prove some grubby political point for himself. He has only exacerbated any problems that might have existed.

This building society is the one that he attacks now. Who will be next? I have no doubt that he has someone else in his sights. His type of mental attitude ought not to be that of a parliamentarian.

The problems of the building society industry go back, of course, to the days of Gough Whitlam, the heady days when everybody thought that money did not have to be earned, that speculation was the order of the day and that we would all be millionaires without having to work for our money. That had to come to an end. It did, and a problem was created in the building society industry as well as in many other private-enterprise operations in Australia. So I blame the Whitlam administration primarily for the problem that exists in this industry; I blame the very political organisation to which the member for Archerfield belongs.

In the same speech by innuendo he accused a National Party man of some involvement in a relationship with a club somewhere in South Brisbane. Not one scintilla of fact was presented to this Parliament to establish a basis for his innuendo against that person. And the member identified him in this place. That is grossly irresponsible and, in my opinion, an abuse of the privileges of the House.

When I heard of this scurrilous attack I contacted the person concerned and asked him to come down to Parliament House, where I confronted him with the suggestion that had been made. I have personally satisfied myself that there is absolutely no basis in fact for the honourable member's allegation. A citizen was slandered in this place—

Mr. Houston: Was he named?

Mr. AHERN: He was identified. Although he was not named, he was clearly identified. Read "Hansard".

As I was saying, a citizen was slandered in this place simply because he belongs to a party-political organisation different from that to which the member for Archerfield belongs. Such a slanderous attack is scurrilous—nothing else.

The honourable member also accused a senior officer of the Police Force—apparently on the advice of a harlot relative and without producing any evidence at all. No name has been mentioned by him, even though he has been challenged to mention it. But, of course, he does this on many occasions. All that he has done is wrong; he has engaged in the lowest form of parliamentary life.

I accept that the honourable member is not required to establish the complete truth of his allegations, that he is required only to have an honest belief in the truth of them. But it has always been accepted by parliamentary conventions that members make a reasonable effort to establish the truth of their allegations. Absolutely no such effort was made by the member for Archerfield. Rather do I believe that he put forward a complete fabrication. He has accepted hearsay and has fabricated things to embellish it. He has done this to obtain better headlines in the Press and to prostitute the institution of Parliament.

This member is, I believe, a disgrace to the Parliament. He came into this place in an endeavour to emulate Col Bennett. He has made a miserable effort.

This Parliament is not a meeting of the Miscellaneous Workers' Union, where connivance, contrivance and so on are the order of the day.

Mr. Houston: Who are you accusing now? You don't know who is a member of the Miscellaneous Workers' Union.

Mr. AHERN: I am making an allegation about a member of Parliament who is also a member of the Miscellaneous Workers' Union. He brought his qualifications into this place and apparently thought that the rules that apply in that union also apply here. They don't. That is where he received his education. I believe that his fellow-unionists are entitled to this admonition because they should bring pressure to bear on him, as some of his colleagues here have done, to stop him from making some of these stupid allegations. He has come to this Parliament with no respect at all for the institution. It seems to me that he has set out deliberately to discredit and destroy it. It is the ultimate commentary on the A.L.P. in this Parliament that he should be made its spokesman on Treasury affairs!

The A.L.P. in Queensland is at its lowest ebb; no-one could dispute that. That comment was made by the Federal Leader of the Opposition. The A.L.P. in Queensland is sans policy, sans speakers in Parliament, and sans political morals so far as this Parliament is concerned. The events of the past few days must lead all of us to think that our Parliament's reputation is at stake. That is a very important issue.

Mr. Houston: You are the Privileges Committee now; you are judge and jury.

Mr. AHERN: This attitude is not restricted solely to the member for Archerfield but he is certainly the worst; he is a mud-slinger of the worst order.

Mr. Houston: What about the question asked by the member for Townsville South today?

Mr. AHERN: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Houston) referred to the Privileges Committee. Whether or not this matter is referred to the Privileges Committee is a question for Parliament.

As a member who has served for 10 years, I felt constrained today to speak out and say I am heartily sick and tired of this member's tirade against this institution, which is smearing all of us. Whether or not Parliament chooses to refer this matter to the Privileges Committee is no concern of mine; but I felt I had to say something about it today.

Mr. Houston: You cannot have two jobs; you cannot condemn a person and hear the case, too.

Mr. AHERN: At this stage it is not being suggested—

Mr. Houston: You suggested it should be.

Mr. AHERN: At this stage it is not being suggested that the matter will be brought before the Privileges Committee. All honourable members have some regard for the privileges of this place.

Mr. Jones: Don't be partisan; there are a lot of others, too.

Mr. AHERN: I have just said that; the honourable member would know that if he was awake. Other members of this Parliament could well heed the disrespect shown to this institution in the past few days by the honourable member for Archerfield. He is Parliament's arch enemy.

In this pre-election period I say with pride that this Government, without doubt, has the support of the people of Queensland. The Government's resource-development policy has received immense support. People recognise it as essential to the progress of Queensland for two reasons. The first relates to the promotion of employment in Queensland and the second to bringing money into the Treasury. These matters are appreciated by the people of Queensland and supported by the workers in the resource-development areas. It is time that the Labor Party in Queensland woke up and realised that if we are to promote an improved standard of living these are the policies that have to be followed.

We have benefited immensely from the prudence of Sir Gordon Chalk, who, as Treasurer, refused to take this Government into deficit. In fact, after the days of the Labor administration first priority was given to abandoning the silly old practice of deficit budgeting that was common under the Labor administration.

Mr. Houston: What? There have been deficits year after year.

Mr. AHERN: There has been no significant deficit. If there have been small deficits they have been graded out. The honourable member knows that there has been no significant deficit budgeting in Queensland, and for him to say otherwise illustrates his ignorance of the totality of Queensland's budgetary situation.

There has been an enormous public response in Queensland to this Government's efforts to keep down the general level of taxation. The Labor Party in this State must make a public statement shortly on the reintroduction of death duties. I am quite certain that that will be Labor's first action if it assumes power. Some sort of triumvirate will be appointed, or the Leader of the Opposition and his deputy will act as the Government (as happened in Canberra for a fortnight), and the reintroduction of death duties will be their first executive action.

Mr. Marginson: Most of the Ministers admitted that they were already defeating it by their trusts and their family companies.

Mr. AHERN: The honourable member's garbled interjection does not make sense.

This Government has shown a response to public concern. The Premier and his Cabinet have taken the Government to the people of Queensland. For instance, since the last election every Cabinet Minister has been to

my electorate—and I trust the Labor Party would not suggest that it is a marginal electorate—and some Ministers have been there two or three times.

Mr. Houston: What about the Sunshine Coast?

Mr. AHERN: The honourable member would hardly know. He has never been there. The Labor Party has never done any campaigning in my electorate—never.

Mr. Houston: What a lot of nonsense.

Mr. AHERN: Labor supporters have been there only on holidays or to visit relatives.

We have shown ourselves to be concerned sincerely about people involved in primary industry. In Australia recently a quite massive country-versus-city debate has been going on. It appals me immensely that that should be happening. That is a form of racism that we are promoting in Australia. It is absolutely stupid. Surely country and city should complement each other in this country, if in no other country. To allow primary industries to run down unnecessarily would be the greatest disservice that could be done to our nation. Happily our party is doing something to prevent it.

Unfortunately, there is a tendency to discard all that valuable knowledge that has been built up by generations in agronomy and practical know-how. More importantly—and we will come to realise this in the coming months—we are as a nation closing off one of our options in handling our economy and in dealing with inflation. I refer specifically to the run-down in the export-earning capacity of our primary industries. There is no doubt that in the coming months, because primary industries are earning less on overseas markets, the currency will be affected by more devaluations in an effort to guard our balance of payment position.

Because primary industries were in a healthy position, exporting and doing well, devaluation was not previously entertained. Our primary industries were providing the economic climate in which a number of options were open to us in the handling of our economy. They were absolutely invaluable to every Australian citizen. In the future, however, Australians will pay dearly for the run-down in our primary industries. After the next election one of our major tasks must be to do something about that. Whenever a member of the National Party says something about this, a tirade of criticism is directed at him by members of other political parties. That ought not to be so. Inflation is the chief concern of those engaged in primary industry; indeed, of every Australian. Dealing with it must be the top priority at every level of government and of every Australian citizen in the years ahead.

Mr. JONES (Cairns) (12.30 p.m.): The honourable member who has just resumed his seat should recall that the greatest deficit ever in a Queensland Budget was approximately \$8,000,000, and that was in Sir Gordon Chalk's day as Treasurer. I think that that fact helps in making a correct assessment of the situation to which he applied himself.

In reply to his initial remarks on the conduct of this House, I may say that I agree with what he was trying to say. But I think that he was a little partisan; he should broaden his view a little and include also Government members in his comments concerning the deterioration in standards of conduct in this House.

Unfortunately, we are being led by Ministers such as the Premier, who this morning took time out, under privilege, to berate people and defile their good characters. It is all very well to make play on this particular aspect of the situation, but in fairness to all honourable members I think we should be a little more charitable and a little more Christian in recognising just who is and who is not at fault. We should all take a look at ourselves in this regard. It is true that sometimes it is our responsibility, under privilege, to draw attention to matters of public interest. I feel that the miscreants are not confined to one side of the House.

The issue that I want to raise first is unemployment in Far North Queensland. There is more unemployment in North Queensland than there is in virtually any other part of Australia. More people chase each job available in North Queensland than in any other region. In fact, 35 people seek each position offered. That is far worse than the State ratio of 26 to 1 and the national ratio of 15 to 1.

Approximately 8 per cent of the northern work-force is unemployed. Again, this is far higher than the State figure of 5.64 per cent, let alone the national figure of 5.44 per cent. I am here quoting the July figures of the Commonwealth Employment Service. In human terms, the high level of unemployment dashes the hopes of thousands of young people.

An added problem confronting North Queensland is the proneness of people to leave the North as families and the breaking up of families as they seek better opportunities for their children. Sometimes families forestall this situation by moving South. Young people in particular drift away from the North to seek better job opportunities. There is inevitably a drain of trained young people who are siphoned off because there are no job vacancies for them in the North. Young northerners who have moved South to obtain qualifications cannot use them in the North because of the lack of development and the vacuum in manufacturing industries.

Mr. AIKENS: I rise to a point of order. The reason for the high unemployment in North Queensland is that there are thousands and thousands of hippies there.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order! There is no point of order.

Mr. AIKENS: The Cedar Bay affair shows that.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order. Honourable members should know that when the presiding officer rises, all honourable members must resume their seats. I call the honourable member for Cairns.

Mr. JONES: Obviously the honourable member for Townsville South has not studied the figures. Anticipating that I might be questioned, I looked into the figures for the Cairns area. During the course of my speech I shall draw attention to figures which show his statement to be a lie. I throw it back in his teeth.

These people from the North invariably turn up as captains of industry and commerce or in the professions or the State Public Service. They are lost to the North. They are people who, because of their own initiative, find a niche for themselves in the South and in many instances become famous, and we in the North are very proud of them. However, the point that I make is that they are lost to the North because we cannot absorb them into our community.

Mr. Tenni: With all the unemployment in the North how do you account for the fact that the Mareeba Shire Council called applications for 10 people and only two showed up for the job?

Mr. JONES: I will answer the honourable member. If he studies the figures he might find that quite often a job for a grader driver or some other skilled position is advertised and there is no-one with the necessary qualifications. If the Mareeba Shire Council advertises for a fitter and turner and there are no fitters and turners on the unemployment roll in Mareeba, then obviously the position cannot be filled. One has to study the figures in conjunction with the breakdowns that are available from the Commonwealth Employment Service.

The July figures for the Cairns C.E.S. district present a frightening picture of hard-core unemployment at a time when the beef industry, the sugar industry, the logging industry and all the other northern industries are in full swing. So at a time when the unemployment position normally improves, the unemployment level in Queensland has risen by 30 per cent in 12 months and has increased in the month of July for only the second time in 15 years.

The Cairns C.E.S. district comprises the city of Cairns and the shires of Mulgrave, Douglas, Cook and Torres. There are now

3,757 unemployed, which represents 11.7 per cent of the area's work-force. The overwhelming percentage of these people are adult males, the family breadwinners. In fact, the 2,004 adult males who are unemployed comprise the largest group of unemployed in the North. They comprise 60 per cent of the total unemployed while surprisingly only 28.25 per cent of the total jobless are young people. This would indicate that unemployment in Cairns is not due to the influx of young hippies, as is commonly believed. Unemployment exists right across the board in both the skilled and unskilled fields. Half the adult males seek unskilled jobs such as factory, labouring and rural work, and for the 3,757 unemployed there are only 53 jobs available, which means that an average of 66 people in Cairns are seeking each position offered.

The following is a table of the July figures which I have taken out:—

Councils	Unemployed		Total
	Male	Female	
Cairns City ..	1,156	529	1,685
Cook Shire ..	217	69	286
Douglas Shire ..	144	54	198
Mulgrave Shire ..	767	276	1,043
Torres Shire ..	123	100	223

In Kuranda, which is part of the Mareeba shire, there are 79 males and 20 females unemployed, a total of 99. Within the Carpentaria shire in the centres of Kowanyama and Edward River there are 123 males unemployed and 100 females, a total of 223. I think we could say these figures would relate mainly to Aboriginal unemployment. That gives us in the area 2,609 males and 1,148 females, or a total of 3,757 unemployed. So there are more people competing for each available job in North Queensland than in almost any other region in Australia. The low vacancy figures mean that if all jobs available were filled there would still be about 12,000 people in the North with no position to apply for. According to the 1976 census, 434,063 people chose to live in North Queensland, while 2,037,032 lived within the State of Queensland; yet there are over 12,000 people unemployed in North Queensland and about 49,000 in the whole of the State. Although the North Queensland area has 21 per cent of the State's population it has 25 per cent of the State's unemployed.

The pundits tell us that the labour market will get worse, and it is predicted by economists that nothing in the last Federal Budget will relieve the problem of unemployment. It is estimated that by the next March quarter unemployment will be running 40 per cent higher than current levels. Job opportunities in 1978 will be very few

and unemployment is expected to engulf 500,000 people. People will find that qualifications are no sure-fire guarantee of employment. The Federal Budget papers themselves concede that the increase in employment will only equal the natural growth in the labour force.

Eight months after schools closed last year, 800 young school-leavers are still out of work. In "The Courier-Mail" of 31 August 1977, Senator Carrick is quoted as having said that youth is turning off education. It is any wonder, when there is no prospect of work? He said that Australia was producing a percentage of its young with low basic skills, and he also said that that did not necessarily mean that these children had a low I.Q. He admitted the emergence in the last three years of a chronic and growing number of juvenile unemployed, which has heightened the problem.

If in the safe precincts of the 48th A.N.Z.A.A.S. conference, which was held in the confines of a conservative plush Melbourne hotel, Senator Carrick uncovered that chastening truth, how much more graphic is it for those of us in North Queensland who know and see the problem daily? How heart-rending it must be for the parents of these children, who spend money to rear and educate them. And what of the dignity of these young people who, when they leave school, face only the prospect of unemployment?

In his speech opening this Parliament, the Governor was moved to comment that funds would be directed to employment-creating projects such as schools, hospitals, roads and housing. Later he commented that his Ministers fully accepted the responsibility of ensuring that adequate funds were provided and would continue to ensure that maximum funds were made available for employment-creating projects. Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will advise him in my speech in reply to his Opening Speech that this is not so.

Mr. Tenni interjected.

Mr. JONES: I am quoting figures from the Commonwealth Employment Service. If the honourable member has some beef about married women working, whether they be widows or whatever, and he has no thought for the plight of young people leaving school and is prepared to get up and say so in this Chamber, let him do it. Figures from the Bureau of Census and Statistics tell another story about job vacancies and the unemployment.

Mrs. Kyburz: Where do the people come from?

Mr. JONES: They are residents of the Cairns area.

Mr. Frawley: They are hippies.

Mr. JONES: The honourable member does not know what he is talking about. There is a high rate of unemployment, and people coming to the area cannot get unemployment benefits. A similar situation exists on the Gold Coast. A person going there cannot get unemployment benefits immediately. People come to my office and complain about not receiving unemployment benefits. If a young man comes to me, I say, "How did you get here?" He says, "I hitch-hiked here." I say, "Well, my suggestion to you, young fellow, is that you get out on the road and hitch-hike straight back to where you came from, because you won't get unemployment benefits in Far North Queensland." That is the situation at present. People have to wait six weeks for unemployment benefits.

I have seen instances in which young people who lived in Cairns have returned to the homes in which their parents reside. Unless they can get a doctor's certificate to prove that their mother has been sick or something like that, apparently they are not entitled to come back to their own town. That is a pretty grim situation. Unless a person can present documentation that he has come back into the area because of a promise of work but has not obtained employment, he cannot receive unemployment benefits.

Mr. Tenni: There are married women who actually had their name in there.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order! The honourable member for Barron River has made his point.

Mr. JONES: I will answer it, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I suppose it is quite reasonable for married women to be unemployed. If a married woman's husband is working, her name certainly cannot go on the unemployment list. A person just cannot receive unemployment benefits if one of the family is working. It is as simple as that. If a husband and wife are working at the meatworks and one of them becomes unemployed, they have to live on one wage. That is the situation that applies.

I refer to an article in "The Cairns Post" of 17 August 1977 under the headline, "Queensland concern on jobless". It speaks about the Queensland Cabinet being concerned about unemployment in this State. It states—

"The Queensland Cabinet has moved to ward off excessive pre-election unemployment with the release of \$203.4 million to the State's private sector."

Mr. Knox is reported as saying—

"We're concerned about unemployment in the State."

Mr. Knox was announcing the release of departmental contracts prior to the State Budget. The point I wish to highlight is that

with Cairns having the highest unemployment figures outside the metropolitan area, certainly in percentage of unemployed relative to population, one would logically conclude that the highest priority would be granted to works programmes in that area—not that it couldn't have been done with almost the same justification 12 months ago. If a pre-election release of funds was being made why couldn't works programmes be accelerated in Far North Queensland, particularly in Cairns where the high rate of unemployment exists? Surely the State Government should be setting the lead in a recovery effort by launching a job-stimulating programme of State works to help overcome the unemployment problems in Cairns and the Far North.

In pure economic strategy of socio-political conditions, the logical action to relieve unemployment would be the deployment of monetary resources into the areas worst affected. The Cairns figures prove the size of the pool of unemployed and the fact that 60 per cent of them are adult male residents of that city. If we had effective and honest government, readily available pools for employment would be absorbed by the activation of State works. A better allocation of resources could make a substantial reduction in unemployment figures.

We have talked about unemployed school-leavers and referred to Senator Carrick saying that children were becoming disillusioned and disconsolate. "The Courier-Mail" of 12 August 1976 carried the headline "State's schools fall short". That is certainly true of the schools of Far North Queensland. That article stated—

"The level of services in Queensland secondary schools was below that of any other State, according to the Schools Commission.

"The commission, in its report released yesterday, said primary school services also were below average."

That is particularly so in the Cairns area. I advert particularly to the need for a new primary school at Bayview Heights. In a letter directed to me by the Minister for Education, dated 3 August 1976, he said—

"I would reaffirm that no cut-backs are anticipated in the moneys to be appropriated to education buildings."

The Minister for Education visited the Balaclava school, where he looked at the accommodation provided for the pupils. I commend him for making the visit. The school would have probably the worst classroom accommodation in Queensland. With its present enrolment it has four demountables—in other words, eight class-rooms—accommodating young pupils. The construction of the Bayview Heights School would relieve that problem.

On his visit the Minister assembled the students and staff and told them that he appreciated the problems confronting them but asked them to hang on. In a very emotional speech he assured the teachers and the pupils as well as the principal, the district inspector and members of the parents and citizens' association that the Bayview Heights School would be constructed in this calendar year and would be ready for enrolments in 1978.

Yesterday, however, in answer to a question the Minister for Works and Housing told me that the school would not be completed in time for the commencement of the 1978 school year.

I know that in 1976-77, at the behest of the Minister for Education, the Bayview Heights School was placed third on the list of priorities for the State. The two schools ahead of it were Kirwan in Townsville and Woodridge. I agreed that Bayview Heights School should be placed third after Kirwan and Woodridge.

Since then schools have been built at Kirwan and Woodridge but somewhere between the Education Department and the Works Department the Bayview Heights School lost its place on the priorities. As I said in a speech that is reported in volume 267 of "Hansard" at page 336, I anticipated that someone would fiddle with the priorities. I charge the Minister for Works and Housing with having let this happen. Someone has been fiddling with the priorities and this has occurred contrary to good government as well as to the oath of office taken by Ministers; that is, that without fear or favour they will make sure that money and resources are distributed equitably throughout the State.

It appears to me that, together with other works programmes, such as the Trinity Bay State High School first-year centre, the Cairns Special Education Centre and the Cairns Technical College community building, this project has been deleted from its former place on the list of priorities and transferred to a lower position on the list. Certainly the provision of toilets at the Balaclava State School was reinserted in the list of priorities after it had been deleted; but naturally the Minister knew that he would bring the powers of hell upon himself if that work were not carried out. If it were not done the Minister would create a health hazard in the way of the education that children are rightfully entitled to receive.

I asked another question about the Trinity Bay High School, which was answered yesterday. Plans were set aside by the same Minister. Plans were complete for a first-year centre but they were set aside. They were given high priority by the Department of Education but were scotched by the Works Department somewhere in the ministerial office. We were told that plans or documents

had been prepared for the extension, remodelling and improvement of the home economics section at the Trinity Bay High School. We were told that documents were being prepared for the new library and that interim class-room accommodation was to be provided for children at the Trinity Bay High School. Art-room facilities and special accommodation for a music room were approved and the architects' plans drawn and settled but they, too, were shelved somewhere in this election year. Never since I was elected to Parliament in 1965 have I seen such blatant shifting of priorities to favour one member against another. Formerly decisions were based on the needs of children in an area, and only on that basis were priorities set aside.

When the Minister attacks the Cairns or Trinity Bay High Schools he is not only attacking my electors but also those from Barron River, Mulgrave and areas such as Yarrabah and other Aboriginal centres that send children to Cairns for higher education. The children of people who do not vote for me are also being affected. When the Minister acts in this way he should remember that he is also affecting people outside my electorate, and people who vote for the Liberal and Country Parties. If he is trying to get at me through the electorate of Cairns, he is barking up the wrong tree; he is certainly acting on the wrong premise. All he has done is to make members of the parents and citizens' associations at these schools very irate. If the Minister is worried about who goes to which school, I suggest that he should look at the figures for some of the polling booths in these areas.

The Minister for Education inspected the Cairns West School, saw the prevailing difficulties and accommodation problems—this school has three or four demountables and the toilets cannot cope with the enlarged enrolments—and he made an on-the-spot decision that extra class-room accommodation and an administrative/library block would be provided. He made a decision there and then in front of prominent citizens of the town, some of his departmental officers, members of the parents and citizens' association and me. He made the promise there and then, but a haggle developed between the Department of Education and the Works Department. Once again plans were drawn up, approved and sent to the Department of Works, but the result was the same. The new block was shelved. The people of Cairns West then held one of the biggest citizens' meetings on record, which they invited me to attend. I do not usually attend parents and citizens' meetings. I believe that those people are capable of deciding their own future and that of their children without any influence from me and that they can approach me after making a decision. But on this occasion I broke with my usual practice and attended this meeting which, I repeat, was one of the biggest parents and

citizens' meetings I have seen. The members of the committee were extremely upset at the treatment they were receiving from the Government, particularly from the Minister for Works.

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

Mr. JONES: Prior to the luncheon recess I drew the attention of the House to the problems confronting the various schools in Cairns and to the situation at the Cairns West Primary School. Let me assure members of the Assembly that the parents and citizens of West Cairns are irate, and they showed their concern at the p. and c. meeting which I attended. They are very concerned at being bypassed through methods that one can only term suspect, and in using that term I am being charitable. They are venting their spleen on a Government that would deign to use such despicable, small-minded measures to disadvantage their children.

I notice the pattern once again in respect of the toilet block at West Cairns, which was grudgingly conceded for fear that the health aspect will be thrown at the Government and that public outrage will follow. However, the parents will not be duped into accepting that the educational needs of their children can be cast aside for some remote reason such as the personal aggrandisement of some political aspirant elsewhere—an expedient and abuse not unknown to this Government. If the health and bodily needs of the children are not catered for there will be adverse political repercussions, and I assure those responsible for such a reprehensible decision that the parents are in no mood to accept such treatment being meted out by this Government. It overlooks basic educational needs.

To sum up, Cairns has a pool of unemployed adult local males looking for the dignity of work. As \$203,400,000 has been set aside in the pre-Budget release to relieve unemployment, and with the moneys in the offing after the presentation of the Budget by the Treasurer, I call on the Minister responsible for the expenditure of that money to administer his portfolio without fear or favour, in accordance with his oath of office, and to well and faithfully discharge his responsibilities in all things honestly, zealously and impartially. If the Government does not do that, it will certainly bring down on its shoulders the wrath of the people not only of Cairns, but also of the rest of Queensland.

I warn Government Ministers that, if they continue with their present course of action, ultimately the recent practice of offering the best deal in allocations and approvals to Government members (as is happening at present) will degenerate into corruption. It will deteriorate into a practice of offering allocations to the highest bidder among

Government members. If the system of priorities is allowed to collapse and the needs of our children are overlooked, then the bull-gang system cannot fail to operate. Petty vindictiveness is no substitute for objectivity in Government. We must always bear in mind a child's right to the proper and best educational facilities that are available. I underscore the warning that the Government is playing politics with children's lives, and the parents are aware of it and resent it.

The Government should embark on initiatives in the Cairns area, with its high pool of unemployed, that would soak up that pool. I refer particularly to a pre-school at Parramatta. There has been a considerable delay in granting approval for that. The need is there—as it is at the Central School and the Hambledon School. Plans have already been prepared and the needs are there.

Aboriginal housing and the high top at Yarrabah will soak up some of the Aboriginal unemployment. There is a scheme for dwellings for aged pensioners. Some units are being built in Cairns. That scheme could be extended. The continuance of the Queensland Housing Commission programme of construction of rental and purchase homes is another way to soak up the pool of unemployed in our area. The new hospital block, which is already in the planning stage, could have its priority lifted, and this type of building could absorb quite a number of unemployed within the Cairns area.

The special education centre to be built on the Bayview Heights site—it has been relocated from the Cairns West area because of the overcrowding in the schoolgrounds—could easily have been gone ahead with prior to the erection of the pre-school and the primary school at Bayview Heights. There is the Cairns Technical College project. The completion of programming and extension of the final stages of the technical and further education complexes at Cairns, where planning has already been done, readily comes to mind. The transfer of the technical educational centre to the Eureka Street location from its previous location in the Cairns High School grounds has gone very smoothly. That will add to the proud record of Cairns. I know that the initiatives and the funding came mainly from Commonwealth sources but, with high unemployment in the area, complexes of this sort could readily be accelerated, with progress of work in the particular areas.

It is obvious that all of these works are in areas to which funds could be directed. They are in a district where unemployment demands that the Government commit itself to expenditure to take up the slack and to grant equity to those children in conformity with their needs not only now but in the future.

On 10 August 1977 I asked the Minister for Industrial Development, Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs if he would undertake to carry out an investigation into North Queensland retail prices for building materials (including cement), foodstuffs, clothing and other household items. In his reply, the Minister said that if I could supply details of specific anomalies he would consider referring the matter to the Consumer Affairs Council. Although in his answer he referred only to Cairns, my question concerned North Queensland retail prices.

The evidence that I intend to document and bring before him consists of the Bureau of Statistics figures, which show that prices in Townsville are 3 per cent higher than those in Brisbane; in Ingham, Cairns and Mackay, 4 per cent; in Mt. Isa, 12 per cent; in Longreach, 15 per cent; in Bowen and Cloncurry, 11 per cent; in Tully and Mareeba, 8 per cent; in Hughenden and Sarina, 9 per cent; on Thursday Island, 35 per cent; in Weipa, 17 per cent; in Innisfail, 7 per cent; and in Cooktown, 23 per cent.

The State Government's contribution was to raise rail freights by 60 per cent in two years. That has added fuel to the inflation flames. I notice that the Minister is reluctant to outline prices in Far North Queensland. In the 20 months since the Federal Government took office, it has done nothing to bring prices down. In fact, the inflation rate is exactly the same now as it was in December 1975 when it took office. The Queensland Government's increase in rail freights was a breach of an election promise as well as a factor contributing to the high prices in Far North Queensland.

We should be combining efficiency and marketing drive with the manufacturing industry in Far North Queensland, so that the goods being used there can be manufactured and marketed at their source. I notice that the honourable member for Mackay brought this matter to the attention of the House during his speech on the Address in Reply, particularly in relation to sugar products.

(Time expired.)

Mr. BOURKE (Lockyer) (2.25 p.m.): I rise to speak in the debate on the Address in Reply to the Governor's Opening Speech and to support the motion so ably moved by the honourable member for Warrego and seconded by the honourable member for Belmont. I desire to associate myself and the people of my electorate with the message of loyalty to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. This is particularly apt in view of the recent successful visit by the Queen to our State.

The people of Australia have only recently demonstrated that they will not fall for any political three-card trick over the monarchy.

Her Majesty's recent visit was attended by spontaneous displays of personal loyalty and affection which can only have greatly impressed any rational onlooker. I believe that the Australian people have no illusions that because of distance and the passage of time their bonds with Great Britain might in time weaken; but they are not going to see an institution for which they have immense respect manipulated by political hacks and has-beens.

The recent events in Canberra were due to the courage and principle of Her Majesty's representative. The nation was saved from a descent into illegal chaos by forcing the Whitlam circus to go back and face the people. It was a perfect example of the safeguards and very real benefits that the form and substance of the monarchy in our setting of democratic Government bring to our nation.

While the howls and whingeing of Whitlam and company still ring loud, it must be remembered that the great fear and guilt demonstrated at the suggestion that the people should give their judgment are an indication of their failure. Whitlam, Uren and their local stooges were prepared to steal the savings of the ordinary people from the savings banks rather than give the people their rights of judgment. When the Governor-General acted to protect the people from those cowboys, they were frantic to take money from any Arab or terrorist crowd silly enough to back such a mob of incompetent losers. It is indeed typical of their hypocrisy that Whitlam could sneer at the idea of the monarchy and yet the same man could whinge that the Queen would never have sacked him. He can ignore the fact that it was the people who sacked him and treated him with the contempt that he deserved. His ghost walks the State today. As Prime Minister he gave my city of Toowoomba a wide berth. We have had the honour of having the present Prime Minister, Mr. Fraser, in our midst twice and he has impressed the local people greatly with the ease with which he can be approached and the ability which he brings to the job. I can only say that heaven forbid that a person of Her Majesty's calibre and standing should ever be required to deal personally with the likes of Mr. Whitlam.

In Sir James Ramsay, as with Sir Colin Hannah, we have as Governor a man of courage and steadfast principle. He will serve Queensland and Australia well, just as his life and career have been devoted to the service of Australia on the seas in peace and war. He has the attributes required for the position, as the Canberra circumstances so recently indicated. He will do his duty with dignity and steadfastness and the people of Queensland are lucky to have him as their Governor.

In the area I have the honour to represent, the people have long demonstrated their love of Australia and its democratic traditions. My electorate serves as the gateway to

South-western Queensland. The shire of Gatton takes up the major portion of the Lockyer valley. I wish to express my appreciation and that of my electors to my predecessor, Sir Gordon Chalk, and to previous coalition Governments which have served the area well and faithfully. I say that I am a Liberal and I fully support the concept of coalition government, both in the State and the Federal context. It is government by a stable, balanced coalition dominated by neither party that the people of Queensland and Australia have demonstrated time and time again they support. It is this balanced coalition that gives the people of our State and nation the responsibility and stability that they can trust. The Whitlam Government was a perfect example to our people of what a Government and party utterly lacking in financial responsibility and honesty can do to a prosperous, happy, united nation. Gross incompetence coupled with an utter lack of honesty has nearly crippled us as a nation.

As an extra effect, the politics of envy, which is the trade mark of the Labor Party, has seriously and harmfully divided our nation. The people of my area know the benefits that 20 years of stable State coalition have brought to them. They know that in a stable, balanced coalition they have a government of stable, responsible people whom they can trust and respect.

The major concern in my area of Lockyer is water conservation. Water is vital to the future of the whole Moreton and Darling Downs region. It is, of course, an Australia-wide need.

Thanks to the foresight and the planning of the coalition, we have now in existence a number of weirs in my area on the smaller creeks, but more must be provided. Water supply is the sole limiting factor to our future growth, and it is on this growth that the future provision of vegetables for Brisbane and Sydney depends.

We hear a lot of publicity about the larger schemes. The Burdekin scheme is indeed a praiseworthy one, but it is a national project and should be handled as such because the whole nation will gain from it. The Queensland Government's espousing of it is indicative of our view of the Australia of the future being a major nation, with growth and prosperity spread over the whole continent.

The Bundaberg project is in a similar category. It is mainly future generations of Australians who will reap the benefit of these schemes. The benefit of small weirs is here and now, and it is these that should receive our first priority.

We can no longer excuse ourselves by saying that we are a pioneer nation. It is time for the final long-term ordering of the nature of the country in the Moreton and Darling Downs regions at least. Weirs should

be constructed at every possible feasible site. Small weirs give immediate and positive financial return to the community.

Tests by officers of the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission have confirmed the vast improvement in subterranean water supplies in the Ma Ma Creek area, resulting from the Ma Ma Creek weir. This is an improvement in both quantity and quality of supply.

Rainfall in the Moreton region and the Darling Downs area has been shown to be insufficient to sustain indefinite population growth without wise provision now. These relatively small projects are urgent, both on their own and in combination with larger projects such as the Wivenhoe Dam. The coalition has always shown its responsibility in its preparations for the future of Australia as a mighty nation, as opposed to the Labor concept that we can afford to be a nation of layabouts, concerned only with the latest foreign fads and talking rubbish about vague responsibilities to the world at large and to humanity.

The Minister for Water Resources recently visited the site of the weir on Ma Ma Creek and talked to the local people. He understands the needs of the area, and the people were glad to have the opportunity of talking to him. He has, of course, a close knowledge of the problems of primary producers and of their need for water. This is another advantage of coalition Government, that we have Ministers with experience and expertise who can discuss problems face to face with people. What a contrast with the Labor Party! It has deliberately set out to destroy industries and ways of life that have sustained our nation in times of peace and war from the beginning. The only people with whom Labor leaders can talk face to face and impress are radical union leaders and street demonstrators out to destroy our institutions, out to stop any progress—just out to exert their will over the majority.

I also represent the eastern section of the city of Toowoomba. Toowoomba is confronted with problems resulting from its success, its growth and its location. It is a large inland city that has grown naturally. It has not had much in the way of Government support in the past. It existed and grew from its own strength before the days of Albury-Wodonga and artificial Government encouragement of such areas. Again, it has problems of water. We have extra expense in obtaining it and extra expense in disposing of it. We are faced with the problem of constructing a major new dam on Cressbrook Creek. This is the same river system as Wivenhoe and is on the eastern side of the Downs. The Toowoomba City Council—and I am an alderman of that council and a member of its finance committee—has faced up to its responsibilities and will continue to meet them. It has arranged to begin construction of that dam, and it will, of course, receive a State Government subsidy of 33½ per cent. However, the cost will be very high. In the long term, it will be of the

order of about \$35,000,000, and the cost to Toowoomba will be \$22,000,000 or \$23,000,000.

As I said, we have the problem of geography. As we are 100 miles from the ocean, we should receive special consideration. If decentralisation is to mean anything, we must receive extra help from the Federal Government, or, if the Federal Government cannot provide it, from the State Government. The water will finally have to be pumped up from the eastern side of the Great Dividing Range to the western side, and this will make the provision of water much more expensive. We will have to meet the additional cost of power. This is in contrast with cities on the seaboard that have a higher rainfall, and water tends to flow down to them by gravity from the eastern side of the range. They are faced with far less expense in obtaining water and, in addition, they have larger quantities available. Without more Government aid the future industrial development of my city will be curtailed by the cost of water. In addition, rates will have to rise unless we get more Government aid for the capital cost of it.

There is a further complication in that our sewerage treatment discharges into the western river system. We are obligated to discharge into Oaky Creek, which ultimately flows into the Darling and the Murray and reaches Adelaide. Rightly this system is required to meet certain standards of purity. The water, after all, does finally reach Adelaide via the Darling and the Murray. I understand that the Commonwealth pays some of the financial costs of treating that water for drinking at that end. But we are thus required to have a higher standard than that which applies to coastal cities which can discharge directly into the sea. They are not obliged to have the same standards of purity. They don't have to worry about salt, for instance. I do not argue against the need for higher standards in these western creeks but the city of Toowoomba should not be expected to carry the whole cost for the benefit of the whole nation. It is not right that ratepayers in Toowoomba should be put to extra expense for the benefit of people living to the west and in South Australia. They acknowledge their responsibility but the extra financial costs could prove to be too heavy for one city of 65,000 persons and a mere 20,000 to 25,000 ratepayers. We should be getting Federal aid for this project.

I am concerned about employment opportunities in my area. Country areas have always had problems in this field, especially for young people, and more especially for young people just out of school. It has always been totally wrong that any young person should have to leave his area and his family, although it must be acknowledged

that if a person has left school he is an adult and he has to make his own way. Wherever possible school-leavers should be encouraged to stay in their own home town. Today this problem for young people is particularly difficult. I can understand the personally devastating effect of unemployment on young people. Contrary to what some Opposition politicians may believe, they don't want the dole. They want work. Often the effect of unemployment is that they give up and feel that it is not worth trying. We give every care and consideration to their education. They have the right to expect that work will be available for them when they leave school. The dole is not a suitable alternative to providing them with a job where they can learn a trade and feel that they are contributing to society. That is what they all want.

Mr. Jensen interjected.

Mr. BOURKE: I would not express an opinion on whether the dole is enough. I have not lived on the dole and would not express an opinion on that matter. I feel that those most qualified to give an opinion on the effects of the dole are those on the dole.

The Federal Government has a number of worthwhile programmes to relieve the unemployment situation. It is essential that we practise decentralisation meaningfully as much as possible. Job opportunities must be provided in places such as Gatton, Crows Nest and Toowoomba—even Bundaberg. It would be of great benefit to connect Toowoomba with Brisbane with high-speed trains powered by electricity to facilitate commuting. The development board in Toowoomba has received much consideration from the Minister, Mr. Campbell, and his department. The department has certainly done its best to encourage factories to locate themselves in Toowoomba. I feel that a natural prospect should be placing food-processing plants in areas such as Gatton where much of the food is grown. The opportunities to provide employment for persons in such places are there. They are keen to work and would make a stable work-force. I feel that there would be far fewer stupid strikes, such as we see in the larger cities where people in such places tend not to know each other so well. Unions with extravagant claims have vastly worsened the problem of unemployment. That is widely recognised. The workers on the job are coming to recognise that every silly large claim only increases their chances of ultimate unemployment. I feel that they would all rather have a job than a few extra dollars a week which are soaked up in taxes and higher prices.

Inflation must be reduced for any long-term hopes of improvement. The Federal Government has wisely seen its responsibilities, and continues to work at reducing the rate of inflation. Despite lies being told by Federal Labor people, it has succeeded. Inflation at last is down below 10 per cent. We have not got down to the 4 per cent we used to enjoy before Mt. Whitlam came to power and went crazy, but we will ultimately see that under the wise stewardship of Mr. Fraser.

I welcome the recent announcement about small special projects to get young people into work. The Commonwealth Government has already come up with some new initiatives to ease the problem, but the special capital projects will be very worth while. These youngsters will then be able to make their contribution to the future of their country and they will derive pride from worthwhile capital works. Works such as weirs, dams, roads and reclamation projects should have the highest priority. In future years these young people need not look back on this effort as something to be ashamed of; they can point to these works as items of pride that they helped to construct. They will have played a meaningful role in building our future Australia.

Toowoomba has some exciting employment projects such as coal-mining at Millmerran and elsewhere. These developments, given the go-ahead, can provide exciting employment prospects locally. A further happy development is the scientific involvement of the Darling Downs Institute of Technology in the industry. It will be doing the chemical work on the coal deposits at Oaky Creek. The institute is a great asset to my area. The staff play a very full role in the Toowoomba community, as do the staff of Gatton College. They stimulate cultural pursuits in the area. The institute at Gatton plays a major part in training specialists for our State primary industries. It is a long-standing institute and one that plays a very full role in Gatton's life.

Something that is happening at present in the Toowoomba area demonstrates a minor defect in our State's laws. Straying cattle are devastating residential gardens. These cattle come not from established farm areas but from fringe areas. They come not from viable farms but from small areas that will ultimately be subdivided. It is not worth while for the owners to replace the old barbed-wire fences that cannot keep their cattle in.

The only redress at law is the impounding of the stock, but this has proved not to be practicable. The cattle are wild and people chase them out of their yards, throwing rocks at them. It is almost impossible to approach them, especially on foot. In some instances they come out only after dark, and the herdsman cannot be expected to ride his horse around at night chasing these cattle. In law he is not allowed to pursue them onto private property without having obtained the prior permission of the owners. Once the stock go off the road, the herdsman is powerless. The owners have resiled from all responsibility for their stock, and as the law stands the home owner has no redress. If the cattle cannot be caught, they cannot be impounded. As I say, the property owner has no redress. It is not practical to impound a yearling steer in a yard covering one-quarter of an acre. At daybreak the stock go back to their yard, and the owner of the property that is damaged has no redress.

The Government must examine ways of protecting those people whose gardens are ruined by straying cattle. The Local Government Act should be examined to give local authorities power to insist on high standards for fencing. This could also apply to Gatton, where crops are grown. There are no stock in the area, and fences have been removed to provide economies in ploughing. The whole block can be ploughed. Straying stock pose a problem there, too. The problem arises from the indifference and selfishness of a few amateurs whose cattle plague whole streets of residences in my area.

Toowoomba is the gateway to South-west Queensland. Every Australian must be saddened by the changes that have taken place in the West since the depression. It, together with the world wars, had catastrophic effects on the West. My parents and my brothers were born there, but the area has changed since they left it. The sheepmen and the cattlemen have had gross injustices meted out to them by the community. Australia has failed as a nation to give them a fair deal. Although Mr. Whitlam has never met them, he sneered at them, telling them that they had never had it so good. But that is typical of his arrogance.

Australia has failed to negotiate fair access to foreign markets for its produce. Our primary producers could feed a hungry world, and the failure of our Foreign Affairs people to gain access to decent markets has ruined our primary industries.

In the interests of so-called free trade, Australia buys from all over the world. The Europeans, Japanese, and even the Americans are cheating us and are ruining whole areas of our nation.

At last the people of Warrego have, in Mr. Turner, a representative whom they can respect and trust, a man who can work for their benefit. What has happened to the area is a national disgrace and it is up to the nation to plan and initiate its recovery. Given a fair go instead of mere subsidies, which are all the socialists can offer and which are nothing more than a method of control, the primary producers could bring about a tremendous resurgence of the area.

Subject to the final decision of the electoral commissioners, I will be representing the Shire of Crows Nest. People in this area have a problem in that it is in the front line of the battle to prevent the spread of cattle ticks, which are another accident in Australian primary production that should never have happened. If they spread throughout the cattle-producing areas, the effects will be catastrophic. It is surely unfair that land-owners in this area should be expected to bear costs for the benefit of land-owners further west. These people are aware of their responsibilities. People in rural Australia have always been aware of their responsibilities and have always been prepared to work for the community rather than for their individual good. But they believe they could be given some more Government help, perhaps by the Government's meeting the cost of sprays. They believe that checking the spread of ticks should be a community responsibility rather than that of individuals in a relatively small area.

Mr. Jensen: There are not too many of those outposts left today.

Mr. BOURKE: I am sure that they are still there.

Mr. Jensen: There are only a couple of them.

Mr. BOURKE: I am optimistic that the silent majority of Australians is composed of the same decent, hard-working and patriotic people that it always has been. Given the right leadership, they will respond, but they cannot help being disappointed about the rubbish pushed at them by the Labor Party in recent years.

Surely some method can be devised to help meet the cost of tick treatment in these border areas, and so reflect the fact that

the battle is in the interests of cattlemen further west rather than of those in this immediate area.

Yarraman and Crows Nest are important timber-producing areas. People often forget that most of our timber is imported. This is a national disgrace. Planning will help to alter this, and this area will play an important role in meeting the future timber needs of our State.

Today, no-one can be other than concerned about developments in the union movement. I support the valid role and aims of unions. I believe that employees should join a union. I always encourage my staff to do so, but the final decision is up to them. I do not believe in compulsion. The union man can talk to them and I tell them that there are advantages in joining a union. But when people join a union, they should play a meaningful role in its affairs. As it appears that most of the unions' efforts today are devoted to the collection of fees, recruitment of members and victimisation of non-members, perhaps the Federal Government could consider the payment of union fees out of taxation revenue. After all, taxpayers subsidies unionists in the form of tax deductions. If fees were paid by the Federal Government, unions, instead of chasing members, could perform their main role and try to do something for their members. When one considers the high union fees today, one can understand people being reluctant to join unions, particularly when the so-called union leaders can be seen on television talking a load of rubbish.

The manner in which certain union leaders have played street politics can only gravely concern anyone interested in the welfare of Australia. When someone in Federal Parliament, receiving pay from the community, can make statements like those uttered by Cairns and Uren, people with the welfare of the unions at heart can only be gravely concerned for their future. These people care nothing for the union movement. Their allegiance lies with their political theories of the 1920s. They want to destroy our way of life, and anything else is secondary to them. The whole concept that unions can play a role in forming Government policy is ridiculous. They cannot do it any more than other organisations in the community.

The function of Government is governing and no democratic Government can resile from its responsibilities. In the Whitlam era

we saw demonstrated what the public felt concerning a Government that resiled from its responsibilities. The decision on uranium is one for the Federal Government, and the decision has been made. I do not wish to speak at length on the issue itself, but I think it is disgraceful that unions can challenge this decision on purely political grounds. The old concept was that a worker received a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. That is all our Australian worker wants. The concept that union leadership can decide what tasks are to be done on a job is utterly foreign to Australian nature, as are bans and work limitations. The Australian worker has dignity and pride and expects to be paid for what he does. He does not want money for nothing, irrespective of what some present union leaders may say. The idea of a clash between unions and the Government is ridiculous. The Government only can win such a clash. It can come only from extremist union leadership out to harm the community, and it would be only too happy with any resultant harm to legitimate unions. The attitude of the Labor leaders to these extremists is one of support and friendship. They should be thoroughly ashamed of themselves.

Mr. Jensen: Did you see the news item on T.V. the other night when all the workers went against their union?

Mr. BOURKE: They were talking sense, too.

Mr. Jensen: They did not want to go on strike.

Mr. BOURKE: One of them said that all that the unions had done was to exacerbate the unemployment situation, and he was speaking the truth. He could see it.

Mr. Jensen: They are all to be pulled out on a four-hour strike next Wednesday.

Mr. BOURKE: It will be interesting to see how many of them go out. But that is typical of the political misuse of unions.

Mr. Jensen: It's got nothing to do with the workers. It is a court case.

Mr. BOURKE: These extremists have nothing in common with the workers.

The sight during the 1975 Federal election of howling, demonstrating mobs in support of Labor was horrifying. Certain Labor politicians are obviously at their best

in the streets. In that election they deliberately built up tension and hysteria by deceit and deception. They did all they could to further turn Australian against Australian in hatred. They were whistling in the dark, as it was finally proved, about their electoral prospects. It was all straight out of revolutionary street tactics. No wonder the pathetic ratbags of Communists joined in enthusiastically. The poor Reds thought the revolution was here.

I am on the Education Minister's committee and I have a large number and variety of schools in my electorate. In education, the coalition has a progressive record of which it can be thoroughly proud. The provision of pre-schools, with Commonwealth help, is a record unique in Australia and one of which we can be proud. It is a great credit to the Minister, to previous Ministers in that portfolio and to Mr. Ashby, the director. My own child is in pre-school, and I can say that the main benefactors of this policy, while they may not be able to express their joy at what they gain from the programme, make it very obvious to their parents. Similarly, the whole education process in Queensland has gone ahead. On visiting schools, one cannot fail to be vastly impressed by the professional approach and the dedication of principals and staff in our schools, both State and non-State.

I am concerned about the problems confronting non-State schools. I believe that they deserve more aid from State and Federal Governments. We believe in freedom of choice—and the parents of children in non-State schools pay taxes like everybody else. These schools have been major victims of the inflation resulting from Labor's crazy Federal regime.

Recently I attended the centenary celebrations of the Upper Tent Hill State School, which is in my electorate. It was established about two years after the passing of the Education Act of 1875, which was a progressive Act proclaiming a revolutionary new philosophy that education should be free, compulsory and universal. I was struck by how this must have pleased the original settlers. The establishment of a school was a No. 1 priority for them. They came here from Germany, Britain and Ireland. They were strangers in language and custom, brought together to found a new nation. What a contrast with the hippy attitude, promoted by Left-wingers, that it is accept-

able to drop out! That may be all right for Cairns and others with the safety of parliamentary superannuation in the bag, but what of the young people he and his kind have egged on to ruin and disaster?

I believe in the sanctity of the family unit. It is the decent families who are raising the Australians who will build our future nation. I can understand why mothers want to work, and I support their right to do so. They are entitled to have a life outside the home. In fact, I can see that in many cases it is an economic necessity for mothers to go out and bring in a second salary. I am saddened by this; but I am particularly concerned about the very young children of those mothers.

I am concerned about the concept promoted by sections of Labor that mothers should want to place their children in care at a very early age. I think it has been scientifically proved and is accepted universally that children under the age of four should not be separated from their mothers and that it is essential for a child's sound development that he establish a stable relationship with one female person, his mother. It can be potentially harmful for such a child to be placed in constant care, in a child-minding centre for perhaps five days a week, while the mother works. It is noted that the Labor Party is very enthusiastic about the provision of child-minding centres to encourage mothers to go out to work. Once women have made the decision to go to work, sometimes through necessity, we should look after their children and provide first-class facilities for minding them.

However, I believe we should be looking at ways of permitting mothers to stay at home and raise their children, at least till they are 3 or 4 years of age. I suggest that the Federal Government could perhaps consider increasing substantially child endowment for children in this age group and making that payment conditional upon the mother's staying at home and performing her full role. I do sympathise with mothers who, because of financial circumstances, are not permitted to remain at home. They are the major sufferers—apart from the unfortunate children, of course.

I am an Australian and believe that a person can hold only one nationality. I am concerned about talk of secession, which I believe is harmful to our national unity. I believe in the future of this country and in

the principles and beliefs that have sustained us until recently. We are descended from pioneers or migrants who came here with vast reserves of courage and principle and built this nation. Our migration programme was a major victim of the Whitlam years. For all the rubbish they talked about ethnic affairs (they purported to be on side with people from Italy and Greece and to do all sorts of things to gain the support for these people), they are not doing much to encourage more of them to come here. It is a national tragedy. I think that the future Australia is Australia with a big, growing population all over the continent. We should have a major migration programme with all stops out. We want as many people coming out here as want to. We need to hold to the principle that has guided us from first settlement, which is that, while the disadvantaged deserve help and consideration and the right to live in dignity and relative comfort, and the individual's destiny and future depend on himself and his own endeavours, our tax system has made adherence to this principle difficult. This is now being redeemed by wise and progressive moves from Fraser and his party. It is the principle that built this nation up to now and it is the principle that will build up the mighty Australia that is the heritage of future Australians.

Mr. SIMPSON (Coorooora) (2.56 p.m.): I wish to join in the debate on the motion moved by the honourable member for Warrego and express allegiance to and, in fact, affection for Her Majesty the Queen and her representatives in this State and in this country. During Her Majesty's recent visit we saw an example of just how we love and support her, contrary to the actions of a few people who tend to be the ratbag element—the Left-wing people in our community, who want to bring down our society and our parliamentary heritage.

Sir James Ramsay is a wonderful example of a straightforward gentleman who stands up and expresses his thoughts in the way that we expect the representative of the Queen to do. I wish him all the best in his high office and I wish him and his wife all the best in carrying out their duties in this State, as was done by Sir Colin Hannah over the past few years. His duties were carried out courageously at a time when this ratbag element tended to try thug tactics on our representatives.

I am proud to be a Queenslander during such an exciting stage of development and progress. Our population is increasing because those in other parts of Australia are

recognising our potential and are coming here to take up the increasing number of jobs. I shall touch on that later.

Our economy in this State is supporting the rest of Australia. It is because of the leadership of our Premier that we are forging ahead in Queensland. This is not happening only because of our potential wealth in the ground and the resources of individuals; it is happening also because of solid leadership and good government, which is being provided by the coalition Government.

Queensland contributes to Canberra more per capita in tax than any other State in Australia. This fact needs to be recognised in determining the amount of that tax we get back to support the State and local government. That fact must be remembered also when people look at the resources in Australia and the need to develop them. Whether it be roads to service our development, defence or surveillance of our coastline, careful consideration must be given to Queensland's input.

It grieves me that industries, such as dairying and the beef industry, are experiencing such adverse prices for their products. At a time when other Australians are doing very well in their pay packets, the percentage of the pay packet spent on food is dropping steadily. In 1955-56, 22.8 per cent of the disposable income was spent on food in Australia. In 1965-66, the percentage had dropped to 20.1. By 1975-76 this figure had dropped to 14.5 per cent of disposable income, which is in effect a man's pay less tax. So in Australia today the purchase of food assumes a lower and lower priority. And what is happening to prices? In the case of beef, average shop prices are now some 90 cents a pound yet the producer receives only some 18 cents a pound for his product. I believe that that return would not account for even half his cost of production; he should be getting at least 36 cents a pound. Some people might think that shop prices would then double, but that is not so. Such an increase to the producer would add little more than 18 cents a pound to the shop price of beef. That would in fact bring about a more equitable distribution of resources by ensuring that the wage earner pays a fair price for the food he consumes. Beef and dairy producers do not want hand-outs; they would prefer to be paid a fair price for their products. At this stage they probably require special assistance to help tide them over the problems they face with decreasing returns, which make it difficult for them to remain viable.

I believe the Government can assist producers to develop further markets by perhaps lowering the amount people on the dole and pensioners are paid by way of the dole, pensions and so forth and, instead, handing out food coupons. The dole and pensions would be reduced by the value of the coupons but people using the coupons to purchase beef and dairy products would help these industries directly. I believe this would be a positive move towards overcoming some of the producer's problems.

Our other agricultural industries also face problems, mainly because of their remoteness. One particular problem is the rising price of fuel, which I believe the Federal Government must look at closely. I believe that fuel should be the same price all over Australia. Not only would this help those in remote areas but it would also help the tourist industry because tourists who travel by road would be encouraged to go to the Outback, which holds so much interest for city dwellers, quite apart from the fact that they should know more about their country, anyway.

The tourist industry is at a distinct disadvantage with overseas countries. It just cannot compete, especially when we look at the comparative affluence of the people of Australia and those of some overseas countries who seem to be able to afford to travel in great numbers. We are disadvantaged by high air navigation charges and the fact that people in the tourist industry do not work a seven-day 40-hour week. A waitress working in the tourist industry gets \$3.72 an hour ordinary time, but on a public holiday this figure jumps to \$9.30 an hour. It must be realised that, although tourists do not have to be looked after on a 24-hour-a-day basis, they certainly cannot be looked after on a nine-to-five basis five days a week. People stay at a resort irrespective of the fact that public holidays fall within their stay, and restricted working hours and penalty rates are a great disadvantage to the tourist industry in this State and are virtually crippling it. If prices of accommodation and services could be made more competitive, the tourist industry would be stimulated and more jobs would be available for local people. At present the industry is being priced out of the market and unemployment is increasing.

I am concerned about the load that local authorities in my electorate have to carry. They have to meet the cost of providing beach inspectors, public facilities and extra amenities for tourists and day trippers, and

eventually that cost has to be borne by the land owners and the ratepayers in the area. In my electorate, a high percentage of these people are pensioners and they are having increasing difficulty in paying their rates. In my opinion, the cost of providing these services is falling too heavily on the ratepayers. I believe that the only solution is, through federalism, for Canberra to return a higher proportion of personal income tax to local authorities. They now receive 1.52 per cent. I advocate the doubling of that figure. Although it would be only another 1.52 per cent, it would make all the difference to local authorities, and especially to the ratepayers who have to carry this load.

Mr. Gunn: What did Noosa Shire get?

Mr. SIMPSON: They got only about 4 per cent from the Grants Commission. I think that is what the honourable member is referring to.

All the shires along the coast have the heavy responsibility of undertaking development and providing sewerage and other facilities. Let us face it, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It is no good saying to someone from overseas who is expecting first-rate tourist accommodation, "Well, the loo is down the back yard." That situation does not arise in my area, but in some areas there are septic systems instead of sewerage systems.

As I said earlier, if we expect to develop the tourist industry, we must provide all the necessary services. The local authorities have in fact been doing that in my area—the Noosa Shire Council, the Maroochy Shire Council and the Widgee Shire Council—and I am pleased to see that the chairman of the Maroochy Shire Council supports my contention that a greater share of personal income tax should be returned by the Federal Government to the shires.

I believe that the Grants Commission should provide about 80 per cent of the money from Canberra on a formula worked out by the local authorities in Queensland. It would overcome many of the present anomalies, particularly the one in the Noosa Shire to which I have just referred. It would then be possible to budget for a certain amount for the future, which cannot be done at present. I believe that the other 20 per cent should be allocated according to the case put forward by local authorities to establish their eligibility for grants moneys.

Another matter that concerns me is crime prevention and the efficiency of our Police Force. It is essential that people be on side with members of the Police Force. Proportionately their numbers are not great in the community, and we sometimes refer to the "thin blue line" that gives us protection and looks after us. The police can provide protection only if the large majority of people in the community co-operate with them in the carrying out of their duties.

The operation of radar traps puts the police offside with the public. Once a person is pulled up by a policeman after being caught in a radar trap he tends to have a different attitude to the Police Force. I believe that radar traps should not be operated by police officers. This work should be carried out by other personnel, perhaps by officers of the Transport Department. In that way police officers would be freed from this rather mundane task and at the same time they would be able to command more respect from the public. I am sure the people would be more ready to come forward to assist them in their major role of crime prevention and detection.

The Department of Local Government administers such legislation as the Clean Waters Act and the Clean Air Act. We have legislated to deal with those aspects of the environment, but it strikes me as being strange that we have no legislative control over the pureness of food. We allow any sort of junk in the way of food and drink to go down our throats. Every day we are taking in food and drink that are not properly monitored as to additives such as preservatives, artificial colourers, dyes, extenders, flavourers and tenderisers.

We are very concerned about what our water supply contains. We require our rivers to be as clean as possible and we are concerned about what floats around in the air. We do not seem to face up to the fact that we need something like a pure food council to monitor additives in food and drink to ensure that we are not consuming anything that is likely to be cancer-causing or otherwise adversely affecting our health. If industry comes up with a new product that will make a particular flavouring go 10 times as far, it will use that product if it is economic to do so. In most instances it would not be investigated for possible side-effects. Whatever the additives, whether they be cyclamates, sodium nitrates, sodium nitrites, anti-oxidants, B.H.A.s, B.H.T.s,

softeners or emulsifiers, we need to know what we are eating and drinking. We need to know whether it is harmful to us.

Uranium debaters are very concerned about our future, but those same people would go down to the corner store or the supermarket and buy what looked attractive to them without knowing what is in it. Certain additives could be far more harmful than any fall-out from nuclear accident. It is about time we looked at the whole matter in perspective. Whatever body is set up—say, a pure food council—should have the authority to test products to see whether they are harmful. Such a body should have the necessary teeth to have the product taken off the market. If it comes within the grey area—some commodities are not much good to us but they are not very harmful—it should be stated on the label just what food value the product contains. Some products are publicised as possessing qualities that are beneficial to our health, whereas they are passive, non-nutrient substances or are even harmful to us. If they are harmful, they should be taken off the market; if they are passive, we should be told what use they are to us.

As to our environment and the facilities that are being made available for those people who wish to get away from the cities and commune with Nature in our national parks—our national parks cover such vast areas of the State that any child who began walking through them would be very old by the time he got to the other end. There is, however, a problem. Quite often the national parks are taken out of the hands of the Forestry Department and, because the National Parks and Wildlife Service has insufficient funds it is not able to provide adequate rangers and facilities to allow visitors and tourists to enjoy them to the full.

A few national parks in my area are those at Conondale, Cooloola and Noosa. The Noosa National Park is being developed; the Cooloola National Park desperately needs the appointment of new rangers and the establishment of better facilities; and the Conondale National Park is very new.

Recently a group of people approached me saying that if the National Parks and Wildlife Service could not manage these parks they should be handed back to the Forestry Department. It certainly looked after them more capably. The National Parks and Wildlife Service is not to blame for that; it is simply that it does not have adequate funds to manage them.

Beautiful forestry areas of Conondale, Kenilworth, Cooloola, Cooloolabin, Kin Kin, Pomona and Noosa—all in my electorate—are delightful areas for people to traverse on forestry roads and have picnics in. Furthermore, they produce timber.

People need enjoyment such as that to help them counteract the hassles that are part and parcel of their everyday lives in the cities.

The restoration of beaches is a problem that confronts shire councils. Although the wear and tear on the beaches is caused by Nature, everyone seems to expect the local authorities to maintain and repair them. This is getting beyond the resources of local authorities. They simply cannot afford to rehabilitate and restore all beaches in these areas. Beaches that I have in mind particularly are those at Noosa, Marcoola and Mudjimba. The present 20 per cent State subsidy that is applied to them is totally inadequate and needs to be increased.

The construction of a better four-lane highway to the Sunshine Coast is long overdue. The commercial development of the area is being strangled by traffic congestion on the present highway. It is adding to costs and turning people away because of the time it takes to get from Brisbane to the area. It is sad to think that a convoy of army trucks has to trundle along at 25 miles an hour, because that is the highest speed attainable in the traffic. The speed I cite is not the lowest; it is about average. Queensland is not getting an adequate return of fuel tax. In view of our high rainfall and large number of rivers and creeks we have to provide more money per mile for the construction of bridges and roads than is necessary in other parts of Australia. The defence of the North must create some concern for the people in Canberra having to use these inadequate roads.

It is terrible that, if a war were to be declared tomorrow, we would have no capacity to clothe our servicemen and women. We have witnessed the dismantling of most of our textile industries. If we continue to treat these and allied primary industries as we are presently treating them, we will be in trouble. We cannot afford to say that we will import these goods. That is just not on. We cannot be caught unclad if another war should break out.

The elimination of death duties, of which I was proud to be the instigator—

Mr. Houston: You are claiming credit for that, now?

Mr. SIMPSON: The honourable member should read "The Courier-Mail"; he is not up to date.

Death duty fell unfairly as a capital tax on small business. Expertise was destroyed when businesses had to be sold out to pay probate. Queensland's abolition of death duties has been only partly successful. While it is Federal policy to maintain death duty, small business will not get the necessary incentive, or know where it is heading. This tax was payable when business was least able to afford it, that is, after the loss of a principal or other person with major expertise in a business. The increased interest in the State flows from people who realise that Queensland leads Australia in the abolition of death duties. The number of new businesses and increased capital coming to the State prove what I say.

Mr. Houston: Why is unemployment so bad?

Mr. SIMPSON: I will move to unemployment. It should be realised that in Queensland the number of employed people has increased by 4 per cent, with, unfortunately, a slight increase in the number of unemployed. The number of people coming to this State because of its success and good government is helping to embarrass us with unemployment.

Mr. Houston: What a lot of nonsense.

Mr. SIMPSON: To cite my own area of the Sunshine Coast, the Commonwealth Employment Service has told me that half the number of unemployed come from outside the area—either from interstate or other parts of Queensland.

For the benefit of the honourable member for Cairns, who became confused between the dole payments and the number of unemployed, I point out that anyone who puts his name down as being unemployed, or wanting a job, is listed as unemployed whether he has just arrived from Perth, Sydney or Melbourne. It bears no relationship to the dole numbers in that area. It bears no relationship in fact to whether the people are locals who might be trying to get a job. However, I am concerned about unemployment among school-leavers. It is demoralising for those who leave school and cannot find a job.

Mr. JONES: I rise to a point of order. I would like to correct the honourable member.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Miller): Order! What is the honourable member's point of order?

Mr. JONES: The honourable member is misrepresenting what I said. The people who are on those lists are still unemployed.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! That is not a point of order.

Mr. JONES: The honourable member is attributing to me statements that I did not make. I feel that they should be corrected. He is saying that people on the dole not receiving benefits are not unemployed. There are a lot of unemployed people who are not receiving the dole, and that is the point that I take.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I ask the honourable member for Cooroora to accept the word of the honourable member for Cairns.

Mr. SIMPSON: I suggest that he reads "Hansard", but I accept your ruling.

I believe that pay-roll tax contributes to unemployment. If it were abolished, there would be an incentive for further employment in our State. I make that suggestion even though I realise that it would be a headache for the Treasurer. Because of the added number who would be employed, abolition of pay-roll tax would be a stimulus to production.

Another point I wish to touch on is the importance of Parliament and the education of our young people in its processes. I also mention the standard of behaviour in the Chamber. If the proceedings of the Parliament could be filmed on closed-circuit television operated by Mr. Speaker and displayed to visiting school children in the Legislative Council Chamber, they could then ask questions, which is something they are not able to do at the moment, and they would have a clearer appreciation of the business of Parliament and how it is conducted.

I am pleased that the Speaker has agreed to have a film made of the proceedings of Parliament so that schoolchildren who cannot visit Parliament House have an opportunity of seeing the film in their schools. In that way we may improve the standard of debate, as well as the behaviour in this place, which at times disappoints me.

Once again, I affirm the allegiance of the people of Cooroora to the Queen and her representative.

Mr. DEAN (Sandgate) (3.29 p.m.): On behalf of the people of the Sandgate electorate, I affirm our loyalty to Her Majesty and express my best wishes to her representative in Queensland, His Excellency Sir James Ramsay, and to Lady Ramsay. I sincerely hope that their stay will be a pleasant one. It will certainly be a busy one. I do not think any State works its Governor harder than we do by reason of the commitments we put before him and the places to which we expect him to travel throughout the State. However, after meeting His Excellency I have no doubt that he will be able to carry out his job very efficiently.

I do not wish to cover the wide ramifications of the State's economy. My leader gave a very good survey of economic problems and I listened carefully and intently to his speech. He put forward a 20-point programme which I am convinced, if the Government takes notice of it and puts it into practice, will ease unemployment and assist the people who are out of work.

Unemployment is a very grave problem at the moment, especially for those who are out of work. I feel very sorry for the young people in particular. They have a very bad start in life when, on leaving school, they find themselves on the dole. This is a great disillusionment and, in many cases, quite a set-back. Certainly their character and tenacity are tested in their attempts to rise above this great obstacle confronting them when they start out in life.

Some of the blame could lie with Commonwealth employment officers and their selection of the people whom they send to jobs. I mentioned this briefly to my deputy leader (the honourable member for Bulimba) a few moments ago. He said that he thought selection could be one of the problems. I told him what I had been told by the manager of Braemar at Geebung, who rang me a few minutes before lunch. He said that he had job vacancies but could not fill them. He said that people turned up but, for some unknown reason, they stayed only a few hours or, in some cases, simply reported and then left. There might be something in what my deputy leader said to me about the selection of applicants for jobs. As I said, I feel very sorry for people who are out of work.

Before dealing directly with His Excellency's Opening Speech, I should like to put the record straight in regard to the speech made yesterday by the honourable member for Merthyr. We hear much today about Parliamentary privilege. I have heard many speeches in my 17 years in the House and what has happened over the past few years, particularly the past three years, has disgusted me. Some members are taking advantage of Parliamentary privilege to the degree that it is becoming dangerous. People outside this place say that the privileges we enjoy here are being abused, and in many cases they are right.

I shall now refer specifically to what the honourable member for Merthyr said about the endorsed Labor candidate for Sandgate, Alderman Warburton. I have known him for many years.

Mr. Gibbs: So have I.

Mr. DEAN: I hope the honourable member for Albert is not making the same mistake in identity as was perhaps made by the honourable member for Merthyr.

I have known Alderman Neville Warburton for many years. I knew him well before he became an organiser in the Electrical Trades Union and before he became active in the Sandgate political scene. The people and I have always found him to be a first-class, good-living citizen. His family is beyond reproach. His wife, daughters and son are a very good family unit living in the Deagon area. I thought that it ill-behaved the honourable member for Merthyr to say what he did.

I walked into the Chamber yesterday after attending a funeral and heard his remarks. I am not prone to interject; I take pride in being able to control myself to a certain extent. But yesterday I really lost control for a few moments when I heard this vilification of a man whom I have known for many years and who is quite capable of taking his place in this Chamber—as I am confident he will—as the State member for Sandgate.

Since his election to the Brisbane City Council at the last election, he has done an excellent job in the area of Bramble Bay. The people of Sandgate have accepted him well for the work he has done. He has kept himself personally close to the people down there. He is in his electorate office every day doing his job for the Bramble Bay area. As I said earlier, I feel sure they will show their appreciation by making him their State member at the next election.

I hope it will not be too long before the Committee of Privileges makes a recommendation to enable a citizen of Alderman Warburton's stature to make application to the House to appear before the Bar. As honourable members know, that cannot be done at the moment; only the Parliament can summon a citizen before the Bar of the House. But every citizen should have the right, if he feels he has been aggrieved in some way or has had his character impugned, to make an application to the Government of the day to appear before the Bar of this House and state his case. I am sure that many of those who are vilified in this House at the moment would take advantage of that opportunity. I could speak about that subject for a long time, but I will not pursue it any further because I am sure it will be taken up from time to time by other members after I am no longer in the House.

While reading His Excellency's Opening Speech certain paragraphs struck me very forcibly. The first to which I refer reads—

“One of the major undertakings at the present time is the urban public transport improvement programme. Work is well advanced on both the suburban rail electrification system and the cross-river rail link.”

What a wonderful thing it would have been if, when this Government came into power in 1957, it had continued to work on the foundation that had been laid by the previous Labor Government for the electrification of the railway system of Queensland, especially that of the Greater Brisbane area! Nevertheless, I shall be pleased if this system is implemented as quickly as possible.

Mr. Bourke: Will you take an interjection about Sandgate?

Mr. DEAN: I will take an interjection about anything.

Mr. Bourke: Are you saddened, as a man who was the council representative and one who, I might say, had a very good name down there, about the way council facilities in Shorncliffe—the shark-proof enclosure and the kiosk, for instance—have been allowed to fall to pieces in the last couple of years?

Mr. DEAN: All I can say to the honourable member is that he has been away from Sandgate for so long that he has completely lost touch with the local scene. When he was a resident of the area we had no sewerage—we had the little humpty-doo in the backyard. During that time a party of his political colour—the C.M.O.—was in power, and although they kept making promise after promise about sewerage it took that outstanding politician and municipal leader, Clem Jones, to bring sewerage to the Sandgate area.

Mr. Casey: Do you say the area of Sandgate has improved since the honourable member for Lockyer left?

Mr. DEAN: Precisely; he has lost touch altogether.

Mr. Bourke: What about the swimming-pool?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Miller): Order! The honourable member for Lockyer has had his opportunity to address the House. I want to hear the honourable member for Sandgate.

Mr. DEAN: I do not mind if the honourable member wants to help me make my speech, although I do not need his assistance. But as he is a young and inexperienced member, perhaps he is trying to gain some knowledge and I am quite prepared to help him. He asked about the swimming-pool.

We have one of the most modern swimming-pools in Queensland and it was built by the Brisbane City Council.

Turning again to His Excellency's Opening Speech—as I said earlier, what a difference it would have made to the traffic chaos in this great city of ours if the railway electrification scheme had been continued when this Government came to power! As one who travels into the city every morning along one of our main north-side arterial roads, you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, would know that what I say is correct.

His Excellency also said in his Opening Speech—

“A public hospital capital works programme valued at more than \$80 million is well advanced to provide new and improved hospital services in many parts of the State.”

I am disappointed that part of that money has not been allocated for the building of a new hospital at Sandgate, which I have been advocating for many years. I cannot find in the Governor's Opening Speech or anywhere else an indication that a hospital will be built in the Sandgate area for some time to come.

I pay a tribute to the Minister for Health for providing the people of Sandgate with a very modern dental clinic. It is giving wonderful service. A hospital would have complemented the dental clinic. However, again disappointment is our lot.

Nowhere in the Governor's Opening Speech could I find reference to a new “Eventide” home at Sandgate. We have been waiting a long time for that, but so far there has been no indication that one will be built. I have been told that there are plans for a new “Eventide” at Sandgate. However, I have been hearing of plans for the last 25 years, and I appeal to the Minister to ensure, even after I have gone from this Assembly, that a new “Eventide” is built as early as possible.

I hasten to say that the service given by the staff at the present “Eventide” home is beyond reproach. Although the buildings, particularly the residential buildings, leave much to be desired, the staff do an excellent job under very adverse conditions.

His Excellency referred also to additional funds for developing the Police Force and increasing the number of police. One of the shortcomings of the Sandgate electorate is the lack of adequate facilities for members of the Police Force. The 22 or 23 police officers in the area work under very poor conditions. Although the building in which they work has been painted recently, it is an old wooden building that was built before the days of the great Depression. When I say that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you would be well aware what the building is like.

I could not find in the Governor's Opening Speech any mention of provision for the registration of vehicles in my electorate. The

people of Redcliffe and other outlying areas have had the benefit and convenience of being able to register their vehicles in their local area. Although I have appealed to the Government to provide similar facilities within the Sandgate electorate, I could not see any mention of them in the Opening Speech.

Work on the boat harbour at Shorncliffe is going ahead very slowly, but I am afraid that congestion exists there just as it does on the highways. The existing facilities are very poor indeed.

Mention was made in His Excellency's Speech of the drug menace in our community. It dismays and at times disgusts me, when the drug menace is under discussion, that the No. 1 drug is not listed with all the other harmful drugs. I refer, of course, to alcohol. I have mentioned this on many occasions; I will continue to do so while I have the strength and fortitude to speak in this Chamber. In my opinion, alcohol is doing far more harm than any of the other drugs that are mentioned from time to time. I can truthfully say that I do not know one drug addict, but I know plenty of alcoholics.

Mr. Lane interjected.

Mr. DEAN: I am very thankful that a message was sent to the honourable member to bring him back into the Chamber. I do not know where he was found, and I don't care, but I am going to tell him now to his face that he ought to be ashamed of himself for his attack yesterday on a good citizen. I referred to that good citizen earlier, and I repeat his name—Alderman Warburton.

Mr. Lane: Are you scared of the Trades Hall, too?

Mr. DEAN: I am not scared of any Trades Hall. I have never indulged in vilification in this place in all the years I have been here. I have not been a character assassin, but if I were like some members in this place—

Mr. Lane interjected.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Miller): Order!

Mr. DEAN: Let him go on, Mr. Deputy Speaker. He is vindicating me. If I were to repeat what I have heard about the honourable member from time to time—I don't intend to repeat it because I don't indulge in that sort of thing, and I have only been told these things so it would be second-hand knowledge—

Mr. Lane interjected.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. DEAN: I don't intend to carry on any character assassination of the honourable member for Merthyr, but it ill-behoved him

to make that attack yesterday. He made it the subject of a political speech to assist the Liberal candidate in the area. I can assure him that he was wasting his time. He will need more ammunition than that to stop Alderman Warburton taking his place in this Chamber as the State member for Sandgate.

Mr. Lane interjected.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Persistent interjections will not be tolerated.

Mr. DEAN: Before I was interrupted by the honourable member for Merthyr I was dealing with the drug menace. Through you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am speaking to the Minister for Health. I was developing my argument that alcohol should be included on the list of drugs in this State. I have had no personal experience of alcohol myself, and I don't want any, but I have had visual experience of the results of the alcoholic drug. Alcohol should be included on the drug list, and then we might be able to do something about the problem. I often think that the great publicity given to the general drug scene aggravates the problem. Not enough is done to mitigate this great evil in the community. It is indeed an evil.

As I said earlier, I know no drug addict personally, but I know plenty of alcoholics. If a survey were taken in Parliament House it would be interesting to see how many honourable members would be declared alcoholics. I feel sorry for them. Such a survey would be a good thing for the State and for the members themselves—I am not naming any of them—because they might be helped to overcome this shocking drug habit. As far as I am concerned alcohol is a drug and should be regarded as such.

I would now like to deal with the shortcomings of the State's education system. I refer to a problem that has caused me and the Brighton Primary School considerable concern. The problem that I am about to refer to was brought to the attention of the Education Department some years ago, but in spite of that no action has been taken so far. The problem is the state of the buildings at the very old Brighton State School.

The principal's office, for example, was formerly a hat porch and it houses the major electrical switchboard. The principal has to perform his daily work and interview people in an old hat porch and switch-room. Chairs are provided for visitors in the actual doorway. No waiting-room is provided; in fact, no suitable place is provided where parents can wait for interviews. They are forced to sit on the veranda.

Recently cold winds made conditions very uncomfortable for parents and children. The lack of a waiting-room and the position of the office door in relation to the stairs make it extremely difficult for the principal to conduct interviews in private. Quite frequently

parents, children and visitors have waited unobserved less than two or three metres away from the point where the principal was interviewing another parent. There is no privacy whatever. Is it fair to subject a principal of a school to that sort of hardship?

Mr. Frawley: Which school is that?

Mr. DEAN: The Brighton State School.

Mr. Lane: Isn't it a fact that you are reading that from one of Don Combie's Press releases?

Mr. DEAN: No, it is not. I am reading this from my own typewritten notes.

The appearance of the office is quite unsatisfactory, as are the working space provided, the interviewing area and the waiting area. To add to the difficulties, the office occupied by the clerk-typist was once a store-room and is located down a flight of stairs from the principal's room.

Furthermore, the health services room is very small with a low ceiling and a concrete floor covered with malthoid. Very few of the items listed in the administration handbook as being available for health services have been issued to the Brighton State School. For years I have complained about the inadequacy of the staff-room facilities.

Letters from the department dating back to 1972 indicate that the department acknowledges the need for improvement. As a matter of fact, from time to time we have been told that improvements have been approved. However, at the last minute, through either a switch of funds or a change of policy, the school has been placed lower on the list of priorities.

Early this year the principal drew attention to these conditions and in due course received from the Minister for Education a letter advising him that \$55,000 for the upgrading of the administrative and health facilities was proposed for inclusion in the 1977-78 financial year. Recently, however, the principal received a statement of approved Government spending and noted with concern and disappointment that his school had been deleted. This has been going on for years, and that is why I am highlighting the matter today. I hope I can prick the conscience of the department and persuade it to improve the facilities at the school.

The principal pointed out to Mr. Ted Cullen, the district inspector—one of the best officers in the department—the need to upgrade the buildings at the school as well as its facilities. Mr. Cullen agreed with the principal's comments and made recommendations to the department. In spite of that, however, the school has been put further down the list of priorities.

Many other things are required at this school. I am only highlighting the most important annoying defects that are of grave concern to the students and teachers. Over the years members of the parents and citizens'

association have gone to the Press to draw attention to some of these items. I have supported them. Anything worth while, which is tackled in the normal, legal way will always get my support.

We often hear about what the Government is doing to improve education, but it appears to me that the newer schools are fortunate and that the older ones are forgotten. While I am talking about this school, I should bring to the attention of the House some of the requests made by the principal, Mr. Huth. Following in his predecessor's footsteps, he requested that ceiling fans be installed in rooms 13, 14 and 15 at the school. These rooms make up the infants' wing and were constructed about 40 years ago. While they were solidly built, conditions in these rooms are trying and distressing for the children. Being cut off from all prevailing breeze, the rooms are extremely hot. In Sandgate we boast about the prevailing bay breezes, but the angle of the building precludes breezes from entering it. That is why electric fans are essential.

To illustrate the manoeuvring taking place, I point out that following the application the head teacher received advice of work authorised for installation of the ceiling fans. But the fans were not installed. After some time he checked with the department and was finally told by a Works Department officer that a typing error had been made.

Mr. Bird: That would be the Works Department, not my Department of Education.

Mr. DEAN: With respect to the Minister for Education, I know that it is the Works Department, but it is part of the system. I am not trying to blame the Minister for Education.

I am placing these comments on record so that at some time in the future the typing error will be rectified and the school will get the fans. This is not a trivial request. Conditions in the rooms are very trying. I have seen what the teachers and children have to put up with. With summer approaching, conditions will be getting bad again. My main idea is to make sure that this matter is not forgotten.

I have here a copy of what was sent to me by the school about this.

Mr. Lindsay: Why didn't you fix this 10 years ago?

Mr. DEAN: If the honourable member for Everton read "Hansard", he would not make that remark. He would know that my remarks on matters concerning my electorate are indelibly recorded in "Hansard". I commend the reading of "Hansard" to the honourable member if he has time to do that before the next election.

Mr. Casey: He will have plenty of time after the election.

Mr. DEAN: He has plenty of time before it. If he reads "Hansard" before the election, it will help him to make a more sensible interjection.

While I am dealing with that school, which is an old school—I could deal with many others, but it is impossible to get everything done, and we all realise that we must be sensible about our requests—

Mr. Frawley: What school is this? The same one?

Mr. DEAN: I am dealing with the same school.

I refer to an application that was made for the painting of the new roof on block B at the Brighton State School. That might sound trivial to some honourable members—a bit of paint on the roof—but anyone who has seen it would realise the hardship and inconvenience caused by the glare from that roof. In his application to have the roof painted, the principal explained very fully the severe glare resulting from the installation of the new roof—and I emphasise that it is a new roof. The problem has not been reduced by the ageing of the metal. Oxidisation of metal with age often diminishes the glare from it. However, that has not happened at the Brighton School. The glare is still extreme and causes a lot of inconvenience. Many complaints have been made by the children and their parents. The teachers have had to resort to pasting paper over the windows and putting up curtains to reduce the glare. That should not have to be done. Although it may seem trivial to some honourable members, as I have said, anyone who goes down there and experiences the difficulties that the children are working under would appreciate the problem.

I hope that by my putting those matters on record it will not be long before they will be rectified. I sincerely hope that Alderman Warburton will not have as long to wait as I have to get these remedies effected.

I will now return to a subject I touched on earlier. I wish to extend my remarks about it. I refer to under-age drinking. That problem within our community is getting worse; there is no doubt about it. I received a letter from a parent which says—

"I am writing to you as a very worried parent about the prevalent ease with which youths—obviously under 18 years of age—are able to walk into any hotel and purchase liquor.

"I have noted on two occasions recently that the Police Department has sent out 40 police to raid casinos both in Brisbane and the Gold Coast.

"Whilst casinos are illegal, I hardly feel they are a danger to anyone and they are also not creating a nuisance to anyone, unlike hotel licensees who obviously don't care who they sell liquor to."

I do not actually see under-age drinking in hotels, since I do not frequent them. However, I do see the results in young children on the streets.

I have been told by community workers concerned with the interests of young people that it is not uncommon to find intoxicated boys and girls of 10 years of age who belong to sporting clubs with bars attached or in close proximity—and who go home in that state. Somewhere along the line law enforcement is falling down. We must police our Liquor Act. In my opinion there is only one way to stop under-age drinking: the licence should be withdrawn from any premises where any child under the age of 18 years is found to be intoxicated or to have taken alcohol of any kind. The licence should be cancelled immediately and not renewed, regardless of the pressures that are brought to bear. I know the views of the Minister for Health on this and I support him fully in his approach to the problem.

I think I should again quote from this letter because what it contains is very apt and to the point. It reads—

"Parents of teenagers these days have enough problems without kids drinking and of course it is the parents who are blamed for this as with all other problems which arise from time to time. I would mention that both my husband and myself are people who have done their best to raise our family with our own strict standards being observed, but one cannot keep children attached to their apron strings all their lives, and away from other teenagers who don't appear to have the same standards."

That is the crux of the whole matter. If a child comes from a home that is a little bit lax, or is away from his home and parental control and in the company of other teenagers who are given too much licence in regard to the drinking of alcohol, he will follow suit and form the habits of his mates.

This will be one of the last speeches I make in this Chamber, so I again appeal—as I have done on many occasions here—for something to be done about this great menace of alcohol. I know that it is of great commercial value. But why should we have two standards or two sets of law? We sit here till late at night passing legislation to improve the enforcement of the Liquor Act, but it is not being enforced. I feel that the law should be very drastic in its application.

As an example, I cite what is done in Singapore in relation to the drug problem. There is only one way to deal with the person involved in drugs—and I do not mean the poor victim (who should be looked after), but the so-called pushers—and that is to introduce the death penalty, as was done in Singapore. If it is proved conclusively

that people trade in drugs to the detriment of any person in the community, the death penalty is too good for them.

Mr. Ahern: That is contrary to your party policy.

Mr. DEAN: It is not contrary to my party policy. My party would never agree to protecting pushers in the community. Every day, victims of drugs are brought before the Southport magistrate. They are repeatedly fined and dealt with according to the rule of law. But they are not the people who should be dealt with. The dangerous people are escaping. Very few of them are caught and nine times out of 10 those who are caught are let off, are given a caution or are let out on bail. They have plenty of money for bail because they derive plenty of money from their illicit dealings in drugs. Money is nothing to them. Sooner or later we must take a drastic and severe view of drug pushers. I am afraid that we might have to copy Singapore. I do not want to take anyone's life. But they are taking the lives of many people in the community, especially young people.

Mr. Frawley: Don't you think a flogging would be good enough?

Mr. DEAN: That's no good. A pusher should suffer the rigours of the law.

Mr. GUNN (Somerset) (4.9 p.m.): I express my loyalty and that of my electorate to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, and I congratulate our new Governor (Sir James Ramsay) and his lady. I am absolutely convinced that the people of Queensland will receive Sir James and Lady Ramsay very well indeed.

I should like to support the remarks of the honourable member for Sandgate on the abuse of parliamentary privilege, which is becoming very prevalent. This is becoming more prevalent as we near an election. It is very common approaching election-time. Honourable members should realise that becoming a member of this Assembly is the ambition of many and the privilege of very few, and they should conduct themselves accordingly. Honourable members are very privileged to represent the people, and their constituents do not endorse the gutter-type politics that we hear in this House on occasions.

On the occasion of the debate on the Address in Reply, it is common to talk about one's electorate. My electorate of Somerset is no doubt one of the biggest in Queensland on an area-population basis.

Mr. Casey: What about mine?

Mr. GUNN: The honourable member did not listen. I said, "on an area-population basis." With the redistribution it will be even bigger. I certainly have not lodged any objection to the redistribution. I am prepared to go wherever I can serve the people and serve them well. After all, I

think this is what we are here to do. I can assure honourable members that although my electorate has not been made any smaller—in fact, I have been given another 1,600 electors—I will still do my best.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: How many does that give you?

Mr. GUNN: A total of 15,700.

An Honourable Member: That's enough to handle.

Mr. GUNN: It is enough for any member of Parliament. If we are going to have to handle numbers greater than that, we will have to look at creating more seats, particularly in country areas, because they deserve the best possible representation. The distance from my home to the far end of my electorate, which is Nanango, is 120 miles, and that is a fair area to cover. My electorate also takes in quite a deal of urban territory around the Ipswich area, and my constituents include graziers, farmers, and meat and forestry workers in the rural areas.

Agriculture in my electorate is a mixture of irrigation and dry-land farming. I suppose I am in an unique position at the moment in that the dry-land farmers up in the Burnett and Esk Shires are drought-stricken whilst down in the big irrigation areas in the Lockyer Valley the crops look excellent. The farmers in that area do not need a great deal of rain because they are able to tailor the water requirements to suit their various crops. What does concern me, however, is that irrigation has been stepped up. We now have what is called a travelling irrigator which, in one sweep, can irrigate somewhere around 10 acres.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: How does that work?

Mr. GUNN: It is quite simple. It has a massive polythene pipe which traverses the length of the paddock. But it does use a massive amount of water, as members would realise, and I am concerned about it because, although we have good underground water in the region, there is a great draw on it at the present time. I support the statement of the honourable member for Lockyer that we have not done enough work on weirs in the Lockyer and Laidley Creeks, which would recharge the underground supply. I think this is one area we have to look at. I know the Government is experimenting with several recharge weirs and experimental basins, but I think we have to do more because that area is the food bowl of Queensland. There is no doubt that it is a very efficient farming area.

I am also concerned about the valuation of small holdings, particularly in Laidley Shire. There are many 10-acre blocks, as we refer to them, which have been bought by people who work them at week-ends and commute to Brisbane. Having seen what has happened in that area, I think there is an anomaly in the Valuation of Land Act. When a person

buys a 10-acre block, he pays for a road too, which is then dedicated back to the shire. Then when the Valuer-General values the land the owner finds that the road is valued as well as the rest of his block and he is paying rates accordingly. This is a very serious situation which should be looked into by the Valuer-General.

Mr. K. J. Hooper interjected.

Mr. GUNN: He cannot deduct it from his rates and it is not deducted from his valuation. This is a very important matter. I did hear the honourable member for Brisbane mention it on one occasion, and it has certainly been brought home to me now.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Have you referred it to the Minister for maps?

Mr. GUNN: It has been referred to him during discussion on various Bills and we are hoping he can come up with something. As I say, it is a very serious situation. I think it can be overcome if he takes into consideration the amount that was spent on roads and deducts that.

Mr. Simpson interjected.

Mr. GUNN: That is true. A serious anomaly exists at present, but I think it can be overcome.

I was surprised to see the number of registered unemployed in Laidley and other townships nearby. I suggest that the Lockyer Valley is an absolute dole cheats' paradise, and I urge the Federal Government to investigate the situation there as quickly as possible. There is a large number of itinerant workers in the area and identification of these people is extremely difficult. Let me illustrate my point. Recently a big potato farmer in the area engaged many of these people to work for him. When they had completed their work, he asked them for their names and their addresses so that he could send their group certificates to them. He had, of course, taken the tax out of their wages; the Government was getting the tax. Every group certificate was returned to him because the person concerned was unknown at the address to which he had sent it. One can only presume that these people had not given their correct name or address. It is a serious matter when things such as that happen. I am not opposed to anyone who is truly unemployed receiving assistance; I do not wish to take that benefit away from him; but I do not think anyone can get lower than to cheat in that way, and it is happening.

In addition, of course, there are many de facto relationships, and they are very profitable. One can well understand, therefore, that not a great number of marriages are taking place. When a de facto relationship exists, the husband goes out and gets the dole and any contract work is done in the woman's name. That is happening in many

instances, and I urge the Commonwealth Government to check on this because I do not think there is as much unemployment in the region as the figures indicate.

On a couple of occasions it was necessary for me to get in touch with the A.B.C. television programme "This Day Tonight" and ask for assistance in getting workers out to my electorate to pick the potato and onion crops in the Lockyer Valley. In fact, I have had to do that two years in succession. Although people had been in touch with the Commonwealth Employment Service in Ipswich and had been told that so many people would be going out to Tarampa, or wherever it might be, to pick potatoes, they did not arrive.

I believe that the problems that now exist could be overcome. I will admit that identification is a very difficult problem, but surely there must be a way of solving it. I cannot offer any advice as to how it should be done, but I think it is up to the department to investigate the situation because the problem is becoming greater each year.

I suggest that a more effective way of providing employment would be to make an additional financial allocation to the shires. The Forestry Department could also employ many more people. I think it is far healthier for young people to do even two or three day's work a week in country areas. I am not against their having a good time in town, but I think it is in their own interests to do some form of work. Of course, I should like to see everyone in the community with a job.

The position of young workers causes me some concern. In my opinion, wages for juniors are a little bit too high. In most jobs, a junior now gets the senior rate of pay at 18. For that reason, most businesses are reluctant to employ juniors. Some of them are skilled, but generally speaking they are unskilled, and private enterprise is reluctant to employ people of that type. If juniors were paid a much lower rate of pay, many more of them would be employed. At the same time they would receive training, and this is a matter that the unions, in particular, should consider carefully. I presume that it is within their province to see that more people are employed. It is within the province of the Government, of course, to ensure that as many people as possible are employed.

I should like to see much more money spent on forestry work, which is of the utmost importance to this State and this nation. Ironically enough, although we have a good timber industry we still import \$250,000,000 worth of timber each year into this country. I hope the Federal Government will look at this area. We must never forget that the Government employs only about 25 per cent of that work-force. About 40 per cent of it is employed by private

enterprise. I have asked many small businesses why they don't employ more people. Of course, they have said straight out that if they did so they would have to price themselves out of the market. They cannot afford to pay one month's holiday plus 17½ per cent loading each year.

Around election-time it is usual for A.L.P. members to go into country areas and express their great concern for those engaged in rural pursuits. I suppose that is politics. But I do deplore the deathly silence of A.L.P. members when strikes cripple the State's great export industries. It is time that those members of the A.L.P. with any influence on unions told them what is expected of them. Many unions in Queensland, and no doubt elsewhere in Australia, particularly the militant unions, must be a great embarrassment to the A.L.P. Unions have a role to play. I agree that there has been exploitation by employers in the past, and I believe the same thing would happen again tomorrow if there were not unions, so unions are absolutely necessary, but there must be a thin line drawn, and it is time that the situation was looked at in some areas.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: You realise that the rural employer has the worst reputation of all?

Mr. GUNN: I am not here to defend anyone in particular. I deplore what can happen whether it be done by a rural employer or the fellow with a shoe factory. I believe in a fair go. It is in my interests as well as everybody else's that employees get a fair go and receive a reasonable wage. That is in the interests of everybody in the country. The people who are working in my area—a lot of them vote for me—are doing extremely well.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: They're misguided.

Mr. GUNN: They're not misguided. They are a very fine type. I invite the honourable member for Archerfield up to my area to have a look for himself. I know he is often there and he would know that they are a pretty fair bunch of people. I don't care which country they come from, whether it be Yugoslavia, England or anywhere else. People are people.

I am concerned about the policy of the Education Department in country areas. Unfortunately secondary departments seem to be the poor relation of high schools. I deplore the fact that in many country areas the science departments, libraries, etc. in secondary departments do not compare with what is available in high schools. It is absolutely essential that we have an upgrading of secondary departments. I would like to see every secondary department become a high school. With the present situation it is very hard for any junior to get any type of a job. It would be in the interests of the Education Department to ensure that country areas are better catered for.

It was very sad to see the treatment meted out to the former member for Ipswich West, Mrs. Vi Jordan. I deplore it. I am sure every decent member of the A.L.P. would deplore what happened. She was the endorsed candidate for Ipswich West. She was a very good member when she served her time in here. I don't think she made any enemies here. She was well known in Ipswich West. What happened when that young person was endorsed gives some indication of the strength of the Q.C.E. She had been endorsed by the people and had actually commenced her campaign and was working very hard on it. Now a young fellow, in whom she put all her trust—her campaign manager—has stabbed her in the back. I have a lot of friends in Ipswich West and I am sure that they and many other people there deplore the fact that, after she and her husband gave so much service to the A.L.P., she was treated in this way. It indicates how low a level the A.L.P. and the Q.C.E. will stoop to. There is a lesson for all A.L.P. members to learn from this.

Fortunately, however, the people of Ipswich West have been well looked after by Mr. Hales and he will continue to look after them in the future. He is keenly interested in mining and is to be commended for doing his utmost for his constituents. I know that they will not support the young man who has been endorsed by the A.L.P. He is so ambitious that he is prepared to stab in the back the lady who served that area very well. I did not agree with her politics, but I look upon her as a lady. It is a shame to see her treated in this way. I have a lot of faith in the people of Ipswich West and, because I have represented the adjoining electorate for quite some time, I know the impact that the present member has had on them. I feel certain that they will give him their full support.

Mr. Lane: She was stabbed in the back.

Mr. GUNN: Indeed she was.

I now want to talk about the problems that confront local government. In spite of the fact that local authorities have received increased Government grants, their administration costs are rising. I do not know whether the 1.52 per cent from the taxation pool will help them. There is a need to have a good look at local government. The amalgamation of shires certainly is not the remedy; it would not help. The small shires are doing the best they can, but they are continually faced with rising costs.

Corporate crime is to be deplored. Directors of firms and companies should be made liable for unscrupulous actions of their organisations. We have seen firms go bankrupt and later start up again under another name and with the same old directors as before.

Mr. Yewdale: Why don't you do something?

Mr. GUNN: I am suggesting that something should be done.

Mr. Yewdale: You have been talking about it for years.

Mr. GUNN: And I am talking about it again. I would remind the honourable member that when the Labor Party was in office in Canberra it did not come up with anything to solve the problem. I would welcome suggestions from anyone as to what should be done. I suggest that directors be made liable. We see repeated examples of directors plundering assets before their companies go broke.

Mr. Yewdale: They put property in their wife's name.

Mr. GUNN: Yes, they do. They will do almost anything. Their actions are to be condemned. As I say, they start up under a new name with the same set of directors.

There is no doubt that the number of business houses in country areas is dropping. The scene is changing, of course. Years ago every little country area had its own baker. Now, however, country bakers have gone out of business and country people are supplied with pre-packed bread that is sold in every corner store. Similarly, the country grocer, who used to come round with his goods in a covered wagon, has disappeared. These days grocery lines are sold in almost all shops and even in service stations. This is, of course, part of the free-enterprise system.

A major project in my area is the Wivenhoe Dam and the Splyard Creek hydroelectric scheme. This is proceeding quickly and according to schedule. Some 250 properties have been resumed, and I have been involved in a lot of them and have tried to assist the landholders concerned. I think I have helped them to gain satisfaction. People believe the Government has treated them fairly and, of course, it is only right that a person losing his land should be so treated.

I am hoping for an announcement that the next power-station will be built at Tarong. If that should happen it will be somewhat ironic that the Swanbank station, the hydroelectric scheme at Splyard Creek and the new station at Tarong will be in my electorate. All the power-stations in the region will be in my electorate.

The Racing and Betting Act should be looked into to cater for country racing. This is essential, as many horses would not get a start if they had to rely on racing in the metropolitan area. Country racing should get a fairer go. Some time ago the race club in my area was closed down. I have not yet found out why it was closed but I have my own ideas.

Mr. Elliott: It was the Treasurer who did that.

Mr. GUNN: On that occasion it was the Treasurer. But I am not finished yet. I hope that the present Minister in charge of racing will be fair and reasonable and reinstate the club.

I deplore the fact that the Ipswich Amateur Turf Club, which is at Bundamba, just outside Ipswich, gets only one Saturday meeting a year. It is right next-door to Brisbane and is a wonderful little club, yet it gets only one Saturday meeting a year. Its other meetings are on Thursday or other weekdays when no major club wants to hold a meeting. The area is not getting a fair spin. I am sure that Bundamba can handle about six Saturday meetings a year and I see no reason why Albion Park and Doomben should get all the Saturday meetings. I hate to see anything centralised and I deplore the move by trainers and owners to centralise racing in the Brisbane region. The motive for that is the wish to gain the lion's share of the profits of the T.A.B., despite the fact that every country town has a well-patronised T.A.B. I am concerned that T.A.B. dividends have dropped to a record low. This can only breed a lot of S.P. bookies. We should have investigated the dividends paid by the T.A.B.

While acknowledging the value of the Queensland Agricultural College, I deplore its entry into private-enterprise ventures, such as the private killing of cattle for outsiders. The college should not engage in private-enterprise activities.

Mr. Yewdale: You should raise that with the Minister.

Mr. GUNN: I have raised the matter with the Minister but I think it well to bring it to the attention of the House. I deplore the fact that the college is engaging in the killing of cattle for outsiders.

Primary production has a future, but changes are inevitable. I am sure that eventually the young people will return to the land. Lucrative academic positions are becoming scarcer, marketing of primary produce is becoming more organised and more contract growing is taking place. If anything is wrong with primary producers it is that they are too efficient and tend to over-produce. It is well to remember that we have to feed the people of socialist countries for the simple reason that they cannot feed themselves. As long as we lack a large population, we will continue to have an over-supply of basic food items.

I pay tribute to the excellent work done in homes for the aged. Although the honourable member for Sandgate said that a new home for the aged is required at Sandgate, I would think the money should be made available to the churches for building such homes. I cannot speak too highly of the job done by the Baptist and Lutheran Churches in my area. I believe that the churches can handle this job far better than can the Government. I do not denigrate the job done at the "Eventide" Home—it is excellent—but the churches are more dedicated. I am not suggesting that the workers at "Eventide" are not dedicated; but in homes run by religious orders there are people who do a lot of voluntary work. They see it as an outlet for themselves. It does one good

to inspect such homes and to witness the dedication of the staff and the volunteer helpers. In the Baptist home at Laidley there are some 50 guests, as we call them, who are very happy. I might mention that the home has added up to 10 years to the lives of some people, particularly as a result of the medical attention available. In the near future we will see a big extension to that home.

Mr. Dean: There is a wonderful fellowship in those homes.

Mr. GUNN: There is indeed. I think the honourable member for Sandgate will agree that many aged people who stay in their own homes eventually suffer from malnutrition. They are not interested in cooking for themselves and half the time they do not cook at all. On the other hand, in a home their nutrition is looked after. I have seen elderly folk who I did not consider would last for any time at all go into one of these homes and, because of the love and attention, proper medication and food they have received, become absolutely changed.

Mr. Dean: They meet people of their own age.

Mr. GUNN: Yes, they do. It means a lot to them to have the companionship of people in their own age group. It will be appreciated that there is not much companionship in sitting looking at the four walls of a house or in watching television.

In conclusion, I say that it has been my pleasure to serve in this Chamber. I hope that I will be here for a long time yet. While at times we may deplore conduct that we witness in this Chamber and attitudes that are expressed, marvellous companionship exists. I have gained pleasure from it during my two terms here. I would like to think that I have not made any enemies in that time. I feel that I have not. It is nice to feel one is making some contribution to society, and any member who goes out and works in his electorate must feel some sense of satisfaction.

Mr. ELLIOTT (Cunningham) (4.37 p.m.): It gives me a great deal of pleasure to take part once again in an Address in Reply debate. I take this opportunity of pledging my loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen and to her representative in Queensland, Sir James Ramsay. In the short time he has been here he has demonstrated a tremendous empathy for people and a great understanding of them. He is a most humane person who, I believe, will become one of the most popular figures to have had the pleasure of holding the highest office in our State.

I take the opportunity also to congratulate the honourable member for Warrego on the way in which he moved the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. Neil Turner is a member who has proved to be an outstanding representative for the western area of this State. Unfortunately in the

past the western areas have been represented by members of other political allegiances who did not tend to bring into this Chamber the type of representation one would hope for. I believe that Neil Turner has the various qualifications that are so necessary in the representative of an electorate such as Warrego.

I go on record, too, as saying how much I admired the way in which the honourable member for Belmont seconded this motion. He is, although the youngest member in the House, another who has proved to be very effective, particularly for his own area. David Byrne has done an outstanding amount of work. I believe that the next election will see his return here and that we will see him go on to bigger and better things.

In a debate such as this, members should take the opportunity, for the benefit of the people who take enough interest to read "Hansard", of outlining some of the advantages and some of the problems in their areas. We should outline the problems and say what we hope to do about them. In particular, I should like to speak about what I believe is the No. 1 problem not only in the Cunningham electorate but in the nation as a whole. It is the very serious problem of soil erosion. Many honourable members will probably claim that I never stop talking about it; that every time I rise I speak about soil erosion. If they represented an electorate such as mine in which soil erosion is such a major problem, they, too, would probably never stop talking about it.

Mr. Houston: That problem is man made.

Mr. ELLIOTT: The honourable member is dead right. Many of the problems are man made. Labor Governments cut up the land in such a fashion that many of the people who have the biggest problems today are on small holdings on the tops of the hills. They just did not have living areas. They flogged the land to death. They overcleared it and overfarmed it. People said, unfortunately, "If you can stand on it, farm it. If it stands, cut it down. If it moves, shoot it." That was the attitude in the bad old days.

Mr. Houston: It is changing.

Mr. ELLIOTT: Yes, fortunately it is changing. It is taking a long time but it is changing. People are becoming far more conservation conscious.

Mr. Houston: Your crowd condemns conservationists.

Mr. ELLIOTT: The honourable member is totally wrong. I do not condemn conservationists. My attitude depends upon whether they are practical conservationists or whether they are academics who sit at the university and do not practise what they

preach. Academics make excellent conservationists if they get out and look at the problems and tackle them in a practical manner.

To me, soil erosion is the No. 1 problem. I hope the people realise that if we allow our most precious resource—soil—to be washed away after every storm, we will create a problem not only in Cunningham but throughout the nation. Soil erosion is an economic loss today and a loss of a resource that could be used by future generations. Once soil is gone, it is gone for ever. If this is allowed to happen, we will not have the very rich area known as the Darling Downs. It will cease to exist in many of the upland areas, which are the most productive areas of this State. No-one should forget that 22 per cent of the total rural production of this State comes from the Darling Downs area.

If we do not tackle this problem, all of our soil will go. The people there are trying to do something about it but, unfortunately, many of them, particularly those in the upland areas, are in dire economic circumstances. The holdings are very small and the owners have little ability to handle the problem. As a nation, we must try to do something about soil erosion. We cannot afford the parochial attitude that has been developed by some city people who say, "It is your problem; live with it." It is not just our problem.

Mr. Houston: Your Government has been in for 20 years. What have you done?

Mr. ELLIOTT: It is just as much the honourable member's problem as it is mine. I want him to do something practical about it. We have been doing something in the past 20 years. In the past few years, since soil erosion areas were declared, some \$330,000 of the Government's money has been spent on subsidising soil-erosion works. From the figures, that represents about 25 per cent. I believe that that is not enough. Because of the people's involvement in this problem, they must be prepared to accept their responsibility. It is directly attributable to the resources and to the finance that comes into every business house and flows through into every wage earner's pocket. So I would seek this Government's support for a plan to spend \$7,000,000 in that area in the next 10 years.

This would be done on the basis of a 50 per cent subsidy to producers. It would be of great assistance to those people who have enough gumption to get out and help themselves and thus help the nation solve this problem. It would cost the Government \$350,000 per year, which I suggest is a mere pittance compared to the \$200,000,000 which is earned by this area each year. I urge the Government, and particularly the Minister for Primary Industries, to take note of what I am saying here this afternoon because this is the only way we will overcome this disastrous problem.

Another matter of great concern to the Cunningham electorate and other areas is the problem of water storage in the Condamine Basin. We have there a resource area which is bringing a tremendous amount of revenue into the State and for the expenditure of a comparatively small amount—I think some \$2,000,000—to implement Stage II of the Leslie Dam, we could supplement the work that has already been done. Statistics have already been taken out on this project by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and, of all the projects in this State which have been put forward by various members, this is the one project which can stand up to analysis in sheer economic terms. The B.A.E. has proven a 13 per cent return on capital in relation to this project. It is most essential that we continue with it.

We must also give taxation incentives to all those farmers who are prepared to do something to help themselves by installing off-stream water storages, because this is the sort of self-help which will enable us to retain our tremendous underground water reserves. Unfortunately, these reserves are being depleted by the day, and in a dry season like the one we are having at the moment a quite incredible amount of water is pumped out of the area. So we must do something practical about this problem. I cannot stress too highly the importance of taking all practical steps to implement the metering of bores, because so many people in the past have tended to waste water. When we have such scant supplies of water, we cannot afford to waste it. So I say to the Government: why not get on and do what I have asked for in the past, that is, implement the metering of all bores in the area? I ask that this be done as a matter of urgency. It has the support of the majority of farmers in the area and I believe it must be done post-haste because if it is not done we will see more water wasted. In the driest continent on earth, it is criminal to waste this sort of resource.

Another matter I would like to discuss is a recent statement about the wheat stabilisation scheme. I was most annoyed to read an article in "The Australian" headed, "Our daily bread too expensive." The article refers to consideration by the Industries Assistance Commission of a report by the South Australian Industrial Commission on possible ways of lowering the price of bread. It is suggested that producers are being subsidised in respect of wheat used to make bread.

I remind the public—let us get it quite straight, Mr. Speaker, once and for all—how the wheat stabilisation scheme works. Eighty per cent of Australia's production goes overseas, and when export prices are high wheat for local consumption is subsidised by the wheat growers. Let there be no mistake about that. Wheat growers paid into the

stabilisation scheme—in other words, subsidised the taxpayers—the following amounts:—

Year	\$ (M)
1973-74	48.5
1974-75	30
1975-76	30
1976-77	14

The lower amount in 1976-77 was attributable to a lower export price. The estimate for 1977-78 of \$4,200,000 reflects an even lower price, with a projection for 1978-79 of \$8,000,000.

I would be the first to admit that in the past, when world wheat prices were disastrously low, the taxpayers did contribute to the cost of stabilisation. But stabilisation is a two-edged sword; it cuts both ways. When people make statements such as the one to which I referred earlier, we should take the trouble to advise them that this is how the stabilisation scheme works. It is not some sort of rip-off that takes the taxpayer from the city, grabs his money and pays it to what the media, unfortunately, at times refers to as the wealthy farmer. Wealthy farmers are becoming very much thinner on the ground. Admittedly, there are a few who hold very large areas, but the majority of farmers in Australia today are anything but wealthy. That is why I become annoyed when I read articles such as this one in "The Australian".

Let me get down now to the nitty-gritty of some of the problems that have been experienced in my electorate and mention some of the things that I pledged myself to work towards in the Cunningham electorate in my last speech in the Address-in-Reply debate. The first is the hospital situation at Oakey.

When I became the member for Cunningham, I was already a member of the Oakey Hospital Establishment Committee, which had done a considerable amount of work towards obtaining new facilities. It gives me a considerable amount of pleasure at this stage to be able to tell my constituents that I have received an assurance from the Minister for Health that the senile annexe at Oakey will be rebuilt, and that while plans are being drawn up, using the Wynnum Nursing Home as a model, consideration will also be given to the possibility of building general facilities at the hospital to complement those at the senile annexe. It is hoped that in the next few years facilities will be provided that will be commensurate with the population of the Oakey area.

The other serious problem that I mentioned in my speech in the Address-in-Reply debate last year was the lack of high school facilities at Millmerran. Again, we have taken some steps forward in relation to this. I am glad that the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities is in the Chamber to hear what I am saying, because this is a matter of great

significance to people in the Millmerran area. They feel very strongly about it and, through me, they have taken tremendous pains to make representations to the Government in regard to it.

I am pleased to be able to say that land has been purchased adjacent to the water tower at Millmerran, up near the hospital. It is a very suitable site and the 30 acres will provide excellent grounds for a high school. I am currently having discussions with the Minister about the possibility of getting such facilities at Millmerran.

At this stage I should like to deal with the milk problem in my area. The dairy industry is probably one of the most complex and difficult primary industries. Very few people even in this Chamber fully understand the complexity of the marketing system. I am hopeful that as a result of current negotiations we will be able to find a solution to the problem that will be satisfactory to all producers. No matter what is done, one cannot please everyone but I am hopeful that, through consultation and discussion with the industry, we will be able to come up with a workable programme that will suit the majority of dairy farmers.

Over the years we hear a great deal about unemployment. From time to time Opposition members try to play up unemployment. They always seem to play it up in the winter months. It is very interesting to look at the figures, and take into account the migratory workers, that is, those people who are not overly fond of work. Those people tend not to be fond of work in a good climate. They seem to be able to migrate with their thumb up along the east coast as far as North Queensland. The unemployment figures, particularly in the Far North, improve in the summer months because many of those persons return South. Opposition members should investigate that situation before they send us off with figures. It is rather like the problem we used to have with hospitalisation when we had a free hospital scheme. It seemed that all the illegitimate births occurred in Queensland because of the free hospitalisation that was available. We now have the same problem with unemployment.

Mr. Houston: It is a pity you weren't in the House when the honourable member for Cairns spoke. If you had been you would have known the answer to that.

Mr. ELLIOTT: The honourable member for Cairns has problems in his area. His area is one of those I am talking about. It is very interesting to see how the unemployment figures drop in the warmer weather. The unemployed seem to go away again. They drift back south.

I see that the Deputy Premier is ready to bring on legislation so I believe it is my duty not to delay the House at this stage.

Debate, on motion of Mr. Knox, adjourned.

SUCCESSION AND GIFT DUTIES
ABOLITION ACT AMENDMENT
BILL

INITIATION IN COMMITTEE

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

Hon. W. E. KNOX (Nundah—Deputy Premier and Treasurer) (5 p.m.): I move—

“That a Bill be introduced to amend the Succession and Gift Duties Abolition Act 1976 in certain particulars.”

As honourable members will be aware, succession and gift duties were abolished in Queensland as from 1 January 1977. It was the intention of the Government that no succession duty be payable in Queensland in respect of any death occurring on or after that date. Many people have already benefited greatly from the Government's action.

However, because of the form in which the legislation was drafted, doubt has arisen as to its correct interpretation. There is a doctrine of law which says that, if an estate is still in the course of administration at 1 January, the legislation also applies to these estates, which would then receive the benefit of the exemption even though death had occurred prior to 1 January.

An estate is normally considered to be in the course of administration until the executor has gathered in the estate assets and paid all debts, including those incurred since death, and is in a position to hand over to beneficiaries their entitlements.

It was not intended that the qualification for the exemption be dependent upon the status of administration of the estate at 1 January and the purpose of the Bill is to clarify the intention of the legislation.

For a number of reasons, it would be quite unrealistic, inequitable, troublesome and anomalous for the legislation to be interpreted in any other way than that intended.

For instance, in the case of a specific devise of real property, some succession duty might nevertheless be payable under the Act as it now stands, even though the estate may still be in the course of administration as at 1 January. This situation arises because under Queensland law ownership of the property vests in the beneficiary immediately upon death.

Also, in the case of assets that are jointly owned, on the death of one owner his interest immediately passes by survivorship to the other joint owner. In other words regardless of the state of administration of the estate, the ownership vests in possession immediately upon death and succession duty is still payable in respect of such a succession as the Act now stands.

Therefore, it is quite possible and indeed likely that, where an estate was still being administered at 1 January last, there may

be successions both subject to duty and exempt from duty. These could even occur in respect of the same beneficiary. This is clearly anomalous.

It is also quite inequitable to in effect penalise the executor who is able to attend promptly to the administration of the estate before 1 January and who therefore pays full duty, while other estate beneficiaries would have obtained a windfall simply because delays occurred in the course of administration. I do not believe such a situation can go uncorrected.

It should be stressed that the Bill is a form of declaratory legislation designed only to explain the original intention of the Act. It will deem successions derived by reason of a death prior to 1 January 1977 and which do not vest possession in the beneficiary before that date only by reason of the doctrine of law referred to by me as vesting the possession in the beneficiary before that date and therefore subject to normal succession duty under the Succession Duties Act 1892–1975, regardless of the state of administration of the estate.

It should not be looked upon as imposing any tax or duty that the Government did not originally intend should be paid. Other than as already indicated, no principle of the original legislation has been changed.

In particular, I would mention that this Bill does not vary the principle contained in the original measure with respect to remainder interest whereby, if the life tenant was living at 1 January 1977, duty was not to be levied on the remainder interest on the death of the life tenant irrespective of the fact that the predecessor died before 1 January 1977.

I commend the motion to honourable members.

Mr. HOUSTON (Bulimba) (5.4 p.m.): I think that when the original legislation to abolish succession duty and gift duty was introduced, all honourable members clearly understood what the Government had in mind. I think it would also be true to say that members were unanimous that the legislation should be passed and adopted. Since that time, and as recently as today, many Government members have claimed credit for having originated the idea of the abolition of succession duty and gift taxes. If we were to go through the volumes of “Hansard” we would find that, over the decades, many members advocated the abolition of such taxation, while others wanted it to remain in force or replaced by other taxes.

As time passed it became abundantly clear to members of all major political parties that this type of tax was no longer a legitimate form of financing Government affairs. I recall that in 1969, when I had the privilege of outlining Labor's policy speech, I announced Labor's intention to reduce or ease this taxation. The present Government

did likewise in its policy speech. From time to time there has been a movement to gradually eliminate this tax.

At the time the legislation to abolish death duties was introduced I understood that it was the intention to eliminate this form of taxation. I also understood that the legislation was to apply to the estates of people who passed away after 1 January 1977. If that is the purpose of this Bill, as indicated by the Treasurer, the Opposition accepts it. When the original legislation was introduced we said it was unfortunate that a date had to be set which would exclude people who died even a minute before the year changed but, as with all legislation, particularly taxation legislation, there had to be a starting time or a cut-off point.

Without labouring the point, I indicate on behalf of the Opposition that at this stage we certainly accept the introduction of this legislation. I believe that the intent of all legislation should be abundantly clear to the mass of the people. The need for this legislation demonstrates that when a clause or provision is queried by a member of the Opposition or a back-bench member of the Government, the Government should clearly recognise that the query should not be set aside as if the draftsmen were the only people able to make an interpretation. I have a very high regard for the parliamentary draftsmen but, as with all legal jargon, two interpretations are open. We accept the legislation but will look at it in detail when the Bill is printed.

Mr. HALES (Ipswich West) (5.8 p.m.): I congratulate the Treasurer on introducing this legislation to remove an anomaly. However, the subject I wish to deal with briefly for a couple of minutes relates to who is the Opposition spokesman on Treasury matters. Is it the honourable member for Bulimba or the member for Archerfield?

Mr. Houston: If you want a decent stoush, I will give it to you. That's a lot of rubbish.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member's comments should be relevant to the motion under discussion.

Mr. HALES: They certainly are.

I again congratulate the Minister but I would like to repeat the comment I made before I was rudely interrupted. Who is speaking on behalf of the Opposition on Treasury matters? Has the honourable member for Archerfield been sacked once again for his incompetence?

Motion (Mr. Knox) agreed to.

Resolution reported.

FIRST READING

Bill presented and, on motion of Mr. Knox, read a first time.

The House adjourned at 5.11 p.m.