

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

THURSDAY, 30 MARCH 1978

Electronic reproduction of original hardcopy

THURSDAY, 30 MARCH 1978

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

COMMISSION TO ADMINISTER OATH

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that his Excellency the Governor has been pleased to issue a Commission under the public seal of the State empowering me to administer the oath or affirmation of allegiance to such members as may hereafter present themselves to be sworn. I now ask the Clerk to read the Commission to the House.

Commission thereupon read by the Clerk.

ADDRESS IN REPLY**HER MAJESTY'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have to report that I have received the following letter from His Excellency the Governor—

“Government House,
“Brisbane, 31 October, 1977.

“Sir,

“I have the honour to inform you that the Message of Loyalty from the Legislative Assembly dated 13th September, 1977, has been laid before The Queen and

Her Majesty has asked that her thanks be conveyed to the Members of the Legislature of Queensland.

"Yours faithfully,

"JAMES RAMSAY,

"Governor.

"The Honourable the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly,
"Parliament House,
"Brisbane."

ELECTIONS TRIBUNAL

JUDGE FOR 1978

Mr. SPEAKER announced the receipt of a letter from the Honourable the Chief Justice intimating that the Honourable Mr. Justice J. D. Dunn would be the judge to preside at the sittings of the Elections Tribunal for 1978.

PAPERS PRINTED DURING RECESS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to report that the following papers were ordered to be printed and circulated during the recess—

Reports—

Auditor-General on the Loans Sinking Fund, for the year 1976-77.

Department of Harbours and Marine, for the year 1976-77.

Beach Protection Authority, for the year 1976-77.

Commissioner of Irrigation and Water Supply, for the year 1976-77.

Commissioner for Railways, for the year 1976-77.

Co-ordinator-General, for the year 1976-77 and Estimates for the year 1977-78.

Separate Report of the Auditor-General on the Accounts of the State Government Insurance (Queensland), The Egg Marketing Board, The Central Queensland Egg Marketing Board, The Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing, The Brisbane Market Trust and Contingent Liabilities, for the year 1976-77.

Auditor-General on the Books and Accounts of the Brisbane City Council, for the year 1976-77.

Metropolitan Transit Authority and the Metropolitan Transit Project Board, for the year 1976-77.

Department of Primary Industries, for the year 1976-77.

CIRCULATION AND COST OF "HANSARD"

Mr. SPEAKER announced the receipt from the Chief Reporter, Parliamentary Reporting Staff, of his report on the circulation and cost of "Hansard" for the session of 1976-77.

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS OF PARLIAMENT

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to report that, following the vacancy occurring through the retirement of Mr. Cyril George, I.S.O., who for seven years occupied the position of the Clerk of the Parliament, that office has been filled by the appointment of Mr. George Wyborn, lately Clerk-Assistant and Sergeant-at-Arms.

Mr. Alan Robert Woodward has been appointed Clerk-Assistant and Mr. Arthur Sydney Roy Doddrell has been appointed Sergeant-at-Arms.

Whereupon, Mr. Wyborn, having produced his Commission, took the oath of allegiance and the oath of office.

PANEL OF TEMPORARY CHAIRMEN

Mr. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the requirements of Standing Order No. 13, I nominate the following members to form the panel of Temporary Chairmen for the present Parliament:—

William Angus Manson Gunn, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Somerset;

William Bernard Kaus, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Mansfield;

Colin John Miller, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Ithaca;

Edward Charles Row, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Hinchinbrook; and

Keith Webb Wright, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Rockhampton.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

APPOINTMENT OF MINISTRY

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier) (11.6 a.m.): I desire to inform the House that, on 16 December 1977, His Excellency the Governor—

(a) appointed—

The Honourable Johannes Bjelke-Petersen,

The Honourable William Edward Knox,

The Honourable Ronald Ernest Camm,

The Honourable Frederick Alexander Campbell,

The Honourable John Desmond Herbert,

The Honourable Victor Bruce Sullivan,

The Honourable Allen Maxwell Hodges,

The Honourable Neville Thomas Eric Hewitt, M.M., A.F.M.,

The Honourable Russell James Hinze,

The Honourable Thomas Guy Newbery,

The Honourable Kenneth Burgoyne Tomkins,

The Honourable Llewellyn Roy Edwards, M.B., B.S.,

The Honourable Valmond James Bird,
The Honourable Norman Edward Lee,
The Honourable Claude Alfred Wharton,
The Honourable William Daniel Lickiss,
Q.G.M., F.C.I.V., F.A.I.C., Hon.
F.R.A.P.I.

The Honourable John Ward Greenwood,
B.A., LL.B.,

Charles Robert Porter, Esquire,

to be Members of the Executive Council of Queensland;

(b) appointed—

The Honourable Johannes Bjelke-Petersen, to be Premier of Queensland;

The Honourable William Edward Knox, to be Deputy Premier and Treasurer of Queensland;

The Honourable Ronald Ernest Camm, to be Minister for Mines, Energy and Police of Queensland;

The Honourable Frederick Alexander Campbell, to be Minister for Labour Relations of Queensland;

The Honourable John Desmond Herbert, to be Minister for Welfare of Queensland;

The Honourable Victor Bruce Sullivan, to be Minister for Primary Industries of Queensland;

The Honourable Allen Maxwell Hodges, to be Minister for Maritime Services and Tourism of Queensland;

The Honourable Neville Thomas Eric Hewitt, M.M., A.F.M., to be Minister for Lands, Forestry and Water Resources of Queensland;

The Honourable Russell James Hinze, to be Minister for Local Government and Main Roads of Queensland;

The Honourable Thomas Guy Newbery, to be Minister for Culture, National Parks and Recreation of Queensland;

The Honourable Kenneth Burgoyne Tomkins, to be Minister for Transport of Queensland;

The Honourable Llewellyn Roy Edwards, M.B., B.S., to be Minister for Health of Queensland;

The Honourable Valmond James Bird, to be Minister for Education of Queensland;

The Honourable Norman Edward Lee, to be Minister for Industry and Administrative Services of Queensland;

The Honourable Claude Alfred Wharton, to be Minister for Works and Housing of Queensland;

The Honourable William Daniel Lickiss, Q.G.M., F.C.I.V., F.A.I.C., Hon. F.R.A.P.I., to be Minister for Justice and Attorney-General of Queensland;

The Honourable John Ward Greenwood, B.A., LL.B., to be Minister for Survey and Valuation of Queensland;

The Honourable Charles Robert Porter, to be Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs of Queensland.

I lay upon the table of the House a copy of the Queensland Government Gazette Extraordinary of 16 December 1977 containing the relevant notifications.

Whereupon the honourable gentleman laid the Queensland Government Gazette Extraordinary upon the table.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier) (11.9 a.m.): I also desire to inform the House that arrangements have been made, and the Honourable the Speaker notified accordingly, for the Honourable T. G. Newbery, Minister for Culture, National Parks and Recreation, to be Leader of the House.

LEADERSHIP OF OPPOSITION

Mr. BURNS (Lytton—Leader of the Opposition) (11.10 a.m.): I desire to inform the House that the following Opposition officers have been elected by the State Parliamentary Labor Party:—

Leader of the Opposition, myself;

Deputy Leader, the honourable member for Bulimba (Mr. Jack Houston);

Whip, the honourable member for Cairns (Mr. Ray Jones);

Secretary, the honourable member for Rockhampton North (Mr. Les Yewdale).

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

MEDICAL AND HOSPITAL FUND, ANCIENT ORDER OF FORESTERS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY

Hon. W. D. LICKISS (Mt. Coot-tha—Minister for Justice and Attorney-General) (11.11 a.m.): I draw the attention of honourable members to the article in this morning's "Courier-Mail" in relation to the Ancient Order of Foresters' Friendly Society in Queensland. This article advised contributors to the hospital and medical fund maintained by the society that they should immediately seek membership of some other hospital and medical fund. The society stated that this fund operated by it, pursuant to the Commonwealth National Health Act, was in serious financial difficulties. Honourable members will be aware that the conduct of the hospital and medical fund of this society's operation in Queensland is subject to Commonwealth legislation.

I have been advised this morning that the society is undertaking a complete review of all its affairs and that legal advice is being sought concerning certain matters. Pending the obtaining of legal advice, and ascertain-

ment of the position under the various funds conducted by it, the society, I am also advised, has temporarily closed its doors.

The affairs of this particular society concerning the operations of the funeral, sickness and life assurance funds conducted by it are subject to State legislation and the operation of the society in this regard is under examination by inspectors from the Queensland Corporate Affairs Office. I have requested the commissioner to provide me with a detailed report as soon as possible.

This is an interim statement for the information of honourable members and I will keep the House informed of developments concerning the affairs of this society in so far as they relate to those matters under State legislation.

AURUKUN BAUXITE PROJECT

Hon. R. E. CAMM (Whitsunday—Minister for Mines, Energy and Police) (11.28 a.m.): I wish to resolve the misconception and confusion surrounding claims, which I believe are being deliberately manufactured, that the Government's action to take control of the Aurukun and Mornington Island Aboriginal Settlements stems from its desire to promote bauxite mining at Aurukun.

The State of Queensland already exercises complete control of mining of the bauxite deposits in the Aurukun area, through the Aurukun Associates Agreement Act 1975. Pursuant to the provisions of this agreement, special bauxite mining lease No. 9 has been granted over the land described in the second schedule to the agreement. However, no mining or other development may take place on the lease until the companies have submitted an environmental study according to the guide-lines set out in the first schedule to the agreement and received the necessary approval in relation to their proposals for the care of the environment.

The guide-lines laid down in the first schedule are very comprehensive. The clauses relating to the town site and service routes include provisions which will lead to safeguards for the well-being of the inhabitants, including the Aboriginal people. I quote from section 5—

“This report will include reference to mitigation measures to be employed for the purpose of ameliorating adverse environmental effects in the following areas:—

Sociological effects of rapid increase in population;

Effects on the natural environment of the region due to increased human pressure and intervention;

Environmental effects of increased waste generation and associated problems of disposal and drainage;

Sociological needs as they relate to indigenous employees.”

There is also provision for extensive consultation with advisory bodies and administering authorities within the State. I quote from section (8)—

“For the purposes of detailing the environmental parameters specified in sections (1) to (7) above, and for the purposes of applying for a licence under any Statute, the Companies shall consult with the following Departments and Statutory Authorities of Queensland as may be appropriate:—

(a) Water Quality Council of Queensland;

(b) Air Pollution Council of Queensland;

(c) Department of Mines;

(d) Department of Health;

(e) Department of Primary Industries;

(f) Department of Irrigation and Water Supply;

(g) Department of Commercial and Industrial Development;

(h) Department of Harbours and Marine;

(i) Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement;

(j) Department of Electricity Supply;

(k) Department of Forestry;

(l) Department of Lands.

“The Companies shall also consult with any Local Authority likely to be affected by works undertaken by the Companies.”

I would also draw the attention of members to the third schedule of the agreement, by which companies have given extensive undertakings in regard to the welfare of the Aboriginal people in addition to the sociological requirements of the environmental study. The validity of this agreement between the Director of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement and the companies has been upheld by the Privy Council. It includes the provision that not later than the end of the third year of mining activity 3 per cent of the net profits of the companies from mining operations conducted in, on and about the reserve is to be paid to the director on behalf of Aborigines.

The Commonwealth Government cannot exercise any direct control of bauxite-mining at Aurukun. It can, however, apply indirect controls in terms of its financial policy of the day relating to Australian equity in the development or by withholding an export licence for mineral or product on the basis of some selected principle. As such, the responsibility for any decision of this nature would rest entirely with the Commonwealth.

There are no mining leases nor authorities to prospect over land on Mornington Island. Any distortion of the motives of the State for taking over the Aboriginal settlement on grounds related to mining there would also be specious.

PAPERS

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

Reports—

Queensland Cultural Centre Trust, covering the period 3 March 1977 to 30 June 1977.

Government Gas Engineer and Chief Gas Examiner, for the year ended 30 June 1977.

Commissioner of Police, for the year ended 30 June 1977.

Director, Department of Children's Services, for the year ended 30 June 1977.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Proclamation by His Excellency the Governor, notifying and declaring that in respect of a Bill passed by the Legislative Assembly of Queensland intituled "A Bill to authorise the Australian Shipping Commission to establish, maintain and operate shipping services for the carriage of goods between places in Queensland and for related purposes" and assented to by His Excellency on 7 October 1977, Her Majesty has signified Her pleasure that the Act may come into operation.

Proclamations under—

Acquisition of Land Act 1967–1977 and the State and Regional Planning and Development, Public Works Organization and Environmental Control Act 1971–1974.

Public Service Act 1922–1976.

Queensland Film Industry Development Act 1977.

Torres Strait Islanders Act 1971–1975.
Aborigines Act 1971–1975.

Orders in Council under—

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

Audit Acts Amendment Act 1926–1971.
Racing and Betting Act 1954–1977.

Workers' Compensation Act 1916–1974.
Gas Act 1965–1976.

Mines Regulation Act 1964–1968.

State Counter-Disaster Organization Act 1975.

Police Act 1937–1977.

Forestry Act 1959–1976 and National Parks and Wildlife Act 1975–1976.

Land Act 1962–1975.

Fauna Conservation Act 1974–1976.

Metropolitan Transit Authority Act 1976 and the Local Bodies' Loans Guarantee Act 1923–1975.

Explosives Act 1952–1975.

Physiotherapists Act 1964–1976.

Ambulance Services Act 1967–1975.

Medical Act 1939–1976.

The Rural Training Schools Act of 1965 and the Local Bodies' Loans Guarantee Act 1923–1975.

Grammar Schools Act 1975 and the Local Bodies' Loans Guarantee Act 1923–1975.

Industrial Development Act 1963–1976.

Industrial Development Act 1963–1976 and the Local Bodies' Loans Guarantee Act 1923–1975.

Co-operative Housing Societies Act 1958–1974.

Co-operative and Other Societies Act 1967–1976.

Jury Act 1929–1976.

The Supreme Court Act of 1921.

Trustee Companies Act 1968–1975.

Regulations under—

Public Service Act 1922–1971.

Motor Vehicle Insurance Act 1936–1975.

Pay-roll Tax Act 1971–1977.

Stamp Act 1894–1976.

Workers' Compensation Act 1916–1974.

Mining Act 1968–1976.

Fire Brigades Act 1964–1977.

Police Act 1937–1977.

Children's Services Act 1965–1974.

Urban Passenger Service Proprietors Assistance Act 1975–1977.

Traffic Act 1949–1977.

State Transport Act 1960–1972.

Health Act 1937–1976.

Hospitals Act 1936–1976.

Education Act 1964–1974.

Legal Assistance Act 1965–1975.

Liquor Act 1912–1976.

Public Curator Act 1915–1974.

By-laws under—

Railways Act 1914–1976.

Dental Act 1971–1973.

Education Act 1964–1974.

Statutes under—

University of Queensland Act 1965–1973.

Griffith University Act 1971–1977.

James Cook University of North Queensland Act 1970–1977.

Rules under—

Coal Mining Act 1925–1976.

Coroners Act 1958–1977.

Notification under the Queensland Film Industry Development Act 1977.

Reports—

Burdekin River Authority, for the year 1976–77.

Dumaresq-Barwon Border Rivers Commission, for the year ended 30 June 1977.

Timber Research and Development Advisory Council of North Queensland, for the year 1976-77.

Audit Inspector's Report on the Books and Accounts of the Metropolitan Transit Authority, for the period 1 April 1977 to 30 June 1977.

PETITION

ROLE OF PARLIAMENT IN RESTRICTING DRUG USAGE

Hon. R. E. CAMM (Whitsunday—Minister for Mines, Energy and Police) presented a petition from 418 citizens of Queensland praying that the Parliament of Queensland will take no measures that could extend the major social problem of drug usage and will oblige those who are promoting marijuana and/or similar drugs to prove without doubt that such drugs are harmless before any legalization of use is introduced.

Petition read and received.

DEATHS OF MR. F. W. PATERSON, MR. C. W. RUSSELL, MR. E. MARGINSON AND SIR FRANCIS NICKLIN

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier) (11.38 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 Frederick Woolnough Paterson, Esquire, and Charles Wilfred Russell, Esquire, former members of the Parliament of Queensland, and Evan Marginson, Esquire, F.H.A., recently serving as member for the electoral district of Wolston, and Sir Francis Nicklin, K.C.M.G., M.M., LL.D., a former member of the Parliament of Queensland, Minister of the Crown and Premier of Queensland.

"2. That Mr. Speaker be requested to convey to the widows and families of the deceased gentlemen 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."

Sir Francis Nicklin, the longest-serving Premier of Queensland, died at Nambour on 29 January last at the age of 82 years. As we all know, Sir Francis had a long and distinguished career in this House. I am sure all will agree that he served this State and this nation well. He was an outstanding leader, soldier and citizen, who won a great many friends. He will be long remembered in the annals of history of this State.

Sir Francis was born at Murwillumbah, northern New South Wales, and migrated to Queensland with his parents. His early days were spent on his father's farm in the Beerwah district of the Sunshine Coast, and it was from there that he joined the 49th

Battalion, which saw very bitter fighting in France during the Great War. Sir Francis won the Military Medal for bravery in action. He had the distinction of receiving a field commission and was mentioned in dispatches.

After his discharge he developed a pineapple farm at Palmwoods near Nambour. It was from his personal experience that he developed a general concern for soldier-settlers, and eventually he decided to enter politics. He was elected to this Parliament in 1932 as the Country Party member for Murrumba. He became Parliamentary Secretary of the party in 1935 and assumed leadership of the Opposition in 1941.

During the Second World War he continued to serve the Monarch and his country as Commanding Officer of the 6th Battalion, Volunteer Defence Corps, with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

With the war behind him, his patience, determination and leadership won through in 1957 when the Labor Government split and he became Premier of the then Country-Liberal Government.

Sir Francis retired as Premier and Chief Secretary and member for Landsborough in 1968 after a record term as Premier of 10 years, five months and five days. In the same year he was knighted by Her Majesty the Queen as a Knight Commander of the Order of Saint Michael and Saint George for his outstanding service to his State. He also received an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from Queensland University.

It was during this record term as Premier that Sir Francis set Queensland upon a road to progress and development unsurpassed in the nation's history. This was all the more obvious since Queensland was emerging from a period in which stagnation had left the State behind other Australian States in development.

I believe that it was due mainly to his vision and drive that Queensland has emerged as one of the most prosperous States in the Commonwealth and one with the best potential for future progress and development. Were Sir Francis with us today, he would freely admit that the services and support of all of his Country Party colleagues and his Liberal colleagues, including Ministers, who were in partnership with him in that Government helped to put Queensland at the beginning of the road to prosperity that now has it ahead of every other State of the nation.

Honourable members will know that Mrs. Nicklin predeceased her husband in 1960.

In his spare time Sir Francis was a councillor and fruit judge with the Royal National Association for many years, and took an active interest in surf-lifesaving, bowls, gardening and cricket.

With many others here, I remember Sir Francis as a fine Christian gentleman. He was exceedingly sincere and honest and, although mild-mannered, he was a very tough and astute politician who effectively welded the Country and Liberal Parties into an effective coalition, which has continued down the years. He truly has left his footprints in the sands of time in the political history, growth and development of Queensland.

I was personally saddened—and I am sure we all were—by his passing, and I am sure I speak for members on both sides of the House, and particularly the Government parties, when I say that we have lost a great Queenslander and a distinguished former member and Leader of this House. On behalf of the Government and the people of Queensland, I extend sincere condolences to his surviving relatives.

Mr. Speaker, another respected member of the Queensland Parliament, whom some of us remember particularly well—I do myself, of course—was the late Charles Wilfred Russell, of Jimbour, who died at Dalby on Friday, 21 October last year, at the age of 70 years. His death was sudden and came as a shock to his many friends and political acquaintances built up over many years. He had established many supporters and friends in the community during a very active public life.

I was privileged to be personally associated with Mr. Russell and can attest to his integrity, public spirit and life-long pursuit of principle. He entered Parliament on the same day as I did in 1947. He was the person with whom I first gained flying experience. I used to fly with Charles Russell between Jimbour and Brisbane on occasions before I learnt to fly myself and purchased my own plane; so I have very happy and pleasant memories of Charles Russell and the role he played in this State in so many ways.

As I said, he entered State politics in 1947, but after two years he resigned his State seat of Dalby to contest the Federal seat of Maranoa.

Charles Russell had a highly developed sense of faith in decentralisation, and his life-long battle to stem the drain-off of wealth from our rural areas was one of his main objectives in life. He was, above all, an individualist in the fine tradition of Australian pioneering, and concerned himself in a wide field of activity. Certainly he was a very prominent businessman and a very active supporter of private enterprise, which has made this nation grow as fast as it has and become great.

He was a foundation member of the Country Party, in 1936, but when his basic principles, as he saw them, were challenged, as often occurs in party politics, he resigned rather than break with his particular beliefs and faith.

In his formative years, he was a jackaroo and later manager of Nardoo Station in Western Australia. While he was at Nardoo, his father, Wilfred Adams Russell, died after having served for nearly six years in this House as the member for Dalby, and Charles was left to assist his mother in the management of the family's large pastoral and associated business interests.

He loved flying, and did so for some 40 years. His Beechcraft Baron, as I remember very well, was a familiar sight over the Darling Downs. He acquired his flying licence in 1938, and during the war was a flight lieutenant with the R.A.A.F.

Even outside Parliament he continued to voice his opinions forcefully, and his ideas and views were widely sought and respected. He was somewhat of a prophet, as many of his earlier warnings on problems facing primary producers have come true. He was a very practical man. He built the then ultra-modern Barnes Mill at Dalby, which brought the price of flour down for country people, and highlighted his lifelong ambition to settle industry in the country.

At one time he was a Wambo Shire councillor, a Dalby Rotary Club member, a director of Napier Brothers Ltd. during its most difficult years, and a patron of many organisations such as the Dalby Show Society, Dalby Rotary Rodeo since its foundation, the Save Our State Campaign, Red Shield, and since 1975 he was an active supporter of the Workers Party (now the Progress Party). He was the longest-serving director of Primaries MacTaggart's Co-operative Association Ltd., a director of Buckingham Downs Pty. Ltd., chairman and general manager of Logan Downs Pty. Ltd., and a former chairman of Barnes Milling. He had been active in the Early Birds Flying Club, Archerfield Aero Club, Royal Sydney Golf Club, and Queensland Club.

Mr. Russell is survived by his wife, Hilary, one daughter, Margaret Anne, four sons, Alex, David, Ian and Derek, and two surviving sisters, Muriel and Eileen. I extend to the family of the late Mr. Russell my own personal regrets at his passing, and also the sincere sympathy of the Government and, I am sure, of all members of this House.

Mr. Evan Marginson, who died at the age of 68 in St. Andrews Hospital, Ipswich, on 16 November last was forced by illness to retire the previous month after some 40 years in the public eye. For eight years he served in this House as member for Wolston and, prior to 1972, as member for Ipswich East. Mr. Marginson won the respect of all members of Parliament. He was a vigorous representative and a dedicated fighter for the interests of the people of Ipswich. His friends in political life were many, and the respect accorded Mr. Marginson was ample recognition of his long service and dedication to the community.

He was born in 1909 in Chorley, England, and came to Ipswich as a child when his parents migrated. His first employment was as a clerk in a legal office in Ipswich. He entered public life in 1937 when he was appointed secretary of the Ipswich Hospitals Board, and held the position until 1969 when he entered this House. From 1952 to 1970, he was an alderman in Ipswich City Council and was Deputy Mayor for two terms in 1952-55 and 1958-70.

Mr. Marginson was a delegate to the general conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association at New Delhi in 1975 and attended Australian Constitutional Conventions in 1973 and 1975. He was a member of the Standing Orders Committee in 1973-74, a member of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Privileges in 1976-77 and a member of the Parliamentary Buildings Committee from March 1976 until his retirement. He was a strong party man and a keen sportsman, and in later years served a term as president of the Booval Bowls Club.

Mr. Marginson is survived by his wife Queenie and married sons Noel and Geoffrey. I extend to Mr. Marginson's widow and family the sympathy of this House.

Frederick Paterson, the only Communist Party member ever to be elected to this House and the only Communist ever to become a member of a Parliament in Australia, died on 7 October last year in Sydney. He entered this House in 1944, three years before I did, as the member for Bowen and served for six years until April 1950, when he was defeated by Mr. Lloyd Roberts of the then Country Party.

Although I had no sympathy for his brand of politics—I often sat and listened to him speaking from the back of the House—he was dedicated to his party and the various activities it was pursuing, and I think I can say fairly that he certainly sacrificed both his time and wealth to achieve his aims. He was a persistent debater and, because of his politics, he drew the ire and attention of many from both sides in this House.

Mr. Paterson, who was 80 when he died of a heart attack, is survived by a widow and a son. He was born at Gladstone. At school he topped the Junior and Senior examinations and he was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship, which allowed him to study at Oxford. With such an excellent education behind him, it is not surprising that he became a barrister-at-law and practised throughout the State.

I extend the sympathy of this Parliament to the widow and family of the late Mr. Paterson.

Hon. W. E. KNOX (Nundah—Deputy Premier and Treasurer) (11.52 a.m.): I wish to second the motion moved by the Premier

and to extend to relatives of the four deceased gentlemen the sympathy of members on this side of the House.

Mr. Paterson was, of course, as the Premier pointed out, unique in Australian politics. He also had a brilliant academic career and was a distinguished lawyer. In these days when people are talking about street marches it will perhaps be recalled that he was involved in one march that ended up with confrontation with the police during which he was hit over the head with a baton. Those days were somewhat turbulent and he was himself a very turbulent man in his public life.

If one reads the speeches that he made here one realises that he must have spent an enormous amount of time in preparing his arguments. Whilst his causes did not receive popular support, his advocacy of them was extremely thorough. He certainly earned the respect of many people both in and outside Parliament for the manner in which he went about his public duties.

Mr. Charles Russell, another member who served this State before my time, was a man with tremendous political courage and a great deal of individual initiative. Although he was a founding member of his party, he chose to resign from it and join other parties. In fact, on the day on which he took ill he was addressing a political meeting. All his life he seemed to be involved in political interests in this State. He was a very formidable member of Parliament in both the State and Federal arenas. He also wrote extensively. In fact, he produced a book titled "Country Crisis", which covered his own life and many of the interesting events in which he had been involved.

He thought nothing of pursuing causes if he thought they were right. In fact, he defeated the Government of Queensland in the High Court as recently as last year on what he felt was a matter of great principle. He never weakened in any way on any matter that he thought deserved to be pursued to the end, so in a very active political life, one in which he made a considerable contribution, he never at any time wavered from those things in which he believed so much.

Mr. Evan Marginson served in this House while I was a member. I knew him very well, as did most members. He was held in very high regard, not only in his own community but also by members of this Parliament. He was at all times a gentleman and an easy person with whom to talk. He enjoyed the respect of his opponents as well as his friends. For many years he served on local authorities in Ipswich. In fact, he became the deputy mayor of Ipswich on a couple of occasions and also served on the hospital board of that city. He was involved in many community activities in his area, not simply because it was politic to do so

as a member of Parliament but because he was intensely interested in matters concerning his own community.

It was the nature of the man that when he entered this Parliament he became an active member of a number of committees. He also pursued an interest in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and attended some of its conferences, and was a delegate to meetings of the Constitutional Convention. He was shadow Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Energy and his contributions to the debate were always of a high standard and certainly backed by great sincerity. We will all miss Evan Marginson very much indeed, and because of our recent knowledge of him his death has been a very sad loss.

In the case of Sir Francis Nicklin, of course, we are speaking of a former Premier of this State and a very distinguished and long-serving member of this House. We should consider that he was Leader of the Opposition for 16 years, a position which is probably the most difficult in this House to fill, and certainly the support that he sustained for such a long period shows that he must have had tremendous character and a great deal of personal ability, which his colleagues recognised many years ago. Whilst it seemed that he was going to be perpetually Leader of the Opposition, it is no doubt valid that in politics there are many accidents and the most important thing is to be present when the accident happens, otherwise nothing at all happens. I refer particularly to the circumstances in 1957 when he became Premier of this State.

He was a man who can best be described as having as his friends those who worked closely with him—his driver, his personal staff, and the staff of this House, where he lived on occasions. Whoever was close to him became his friend. When he travelled around the State by train to meet the people, which he liked to do and which he did frequently, those who were serving closely with him came to admire him very much, and he regarded those people as his friends. That was the nature of the man. Whether people met him walking down Queen Street or on the beach at Caloundra, he would chat with them and take them into his confidence about important matters of the day. After only a very short acquaintance, people felt that they were very close to him.

He took a personal interest in every member of this House regardless of his politics, and over the years very many members of this House had reason to thank Frank Nicklin for the personal interest that he took in matters causing them concern. I know that from personal experience and from remarks made by current and former members of this House. In fact, it would be true to say that when Frank Nicklin became virtually the father of this House he was already a father figure. He had an innate natural modesty which was not artificial or cultivated,

and although he had a very distinguished record in World War I, most people were unaware of it because he never went around boasting or talking about his achievements.

The fact that he was again asked to serve in the Volunteer Defence Corps during the Second World War—he was in fact a colonel in the V.D.C. in the area in which he lived—is an indication of the high regard in which he was held by the community in which he lived. That, of course, was prior to his entering Parliament. When he entered Parliament he showed a great deal of the strength and courage he had displayed both in wartime and peace, and people rallied to him and held him in high regard. When he became Premier of this State, those who were serving with him—I was one of them, and I was subsequently a member of his Cabinet—learnt that he was a man of tremendous will and determination.

He was one of the most patient people I have even seen in politics—a most unusual trait in a politician. He was able to listen to a deputation for many minutes, in fact hours, without interrupting, and make people feel that they had had a fair hearing. Of course, they did not always get what they wanted. Very often people went away from a deputation to Frank Nicklin feeling that they were going to get what they wanted, but by the time they got to the bottom of the stairs they would realise that he had not said “Yes”, and they would want to rush back up to see whether he was going to say “Yes” to their proposal. He was extremely patient and listened to everybody’s problems. I am sure there are many members here who can refer to instances in which he shared their problems.

He was awarded the Military Medal for his distinguished service in war and was commissioned in the field. During his service in this House his patience and his tolerance were often mistaken for weakness and softness. After making the mistake of assuming that his gentlemanly nature was simply a form of weakness, some people found to their sorrow that he was a man of tremendous strength.

It was very difficult for us in Parliament to say goodbye to Frank Nicklin. At the time of the valedictory that year Frank Nicklin was ill in hospital, and had already indicated that he would not be serving in future Parliaments, even though he had retired as Premier. The fact that it was not possible for the House to give to Frank Nicklin the proper farewell befitting a man who had given long service to the House, irrespective of his status, was a matter of tremendous regret to all of us at that time. Frank Nicklin was very ill indeed when the House adjourned on that occasion. Most people felt that he would not be long for this world, but he recovered and went on to take an interest in community affairs in Caloundra for some time after.

I am quite sure that all who knew Frank Nicklin would want to support the motion before the House. It would not be possible for everybody here who knew him to speak today but I know that they would join with me in extending to all those close to Frank Nicklin our sincerest sympathy as we record in the annals of this Parliament what a great and distinguished gentleman he was.

Mr. BURNS (Lytton—Leader of the Opposition) (12.5 p.m.): On behalf of the Opposition I wish to be joined with this motion of condolence moved by the Premier and seconded by the Deputy Premier.

When I first entered Parliament in 1972 the then Deputy Premier, Sir Gordon Chalk, rose in his place on a day just like today and said that one of the sad features of the opening of each Parliament was the time spent in moving motions of condolence concerning members and former members who had died. What he said is quite true. We are part of the passing parade of Parliament. Our life is, so to speak, a fleeting one. Although people make their mark in the parliamentary sphere, their life is not long, and the result is that in some instances those of us who speak to motions of condolence to their relatives and families have never had the opportunity of meeting those departed members.

I never met Fred Paterson or Charlie Russell, but I knew of them as colourful political personalities. As the Premier has said, Fred Paterson was the only Communist elected to a Parliament in Australia. I know that in the Maranoa and Dalby areas Charlie Russell's name was a household word. He was known by everybody who had met him, who had worked with him and, I would imagine, who argued politics with him. I personally cannot say anything about them, but I know that if they did their jobs as members of Parliament their wives and families lost a lot of the comforts that they would normally be given by their husbands and fathers and that they contributed in every possible way to the betterment of the community. Although, as the Deputy Premier has said, we might not agree with the politics of these men, we must accept that they did their job as well as they could in the interests of the people they served.

Although I knew a great deal about Sir Francis Nicklin and even campaigned against him for many years, I never met him personally. People used to talk of "honest Frank Nicklin". He was never referred to as Sir Francis Nicklin. Everyone in his area spoke of "honest Frank Nicklin", and spoke of him with sincerity. They did not use the term "honest" in the way that it is sometimes tagged onto a politician.

I have been Leader of the Opposition for 3½ years and I would like to think that Sir Francis Nicklin will continue to hold the record as the longest-serving Leader of the Opposition and that no-one else will be Opposition leader for 16 years. Perhaps I should

say that if anyone is to equal his record I hope he is a member from the other side of the House.

The record of Frank Nicklin as the longest-serving Premier and, as far as I can ascertain, the longest-serving Leader of the Opposition is one that is unsurpassed in the history of this Parliament.

As the Deputy Premier said, Frank Nicklin left the House before members could pass on their respects to him. We are in a similar position with Evan Marginson. He was with us here last year and when he became very ill he was forced to leave. He went into hospital; he retired from Parliament, and then he died from the cancer that had been eating away at him for many years. Evan Marginson is the only one of the four gentlemen concerned in this motion with whom I was involved in any way in this Parliament.

Over the past three years when the Opposition was small in number Evan Marginson was a tireless worker. He was quiet and easy-going. Although he had to go into hospital and have as many as four or five operations on his cancer, he would come back here as though nothing had happened. He always smoked cigarettes. Perhaps he was a walking argument for the warning that appears on cigarette packets. Before he died I visited him in hospital and he said to me, "Go and get me a box of matches. They won't let me smoke in here." That was typical of Evan Marginson. Evan was a good family man. He lived for his wife Queenie and family and she and the boys returned his love in full measure.

For 32 years he was secretary of a hospitals board and for 15 years he was Deputy Mayor of Ipswich. He was a good bowler, and he was a good bloke. I join the Opposition in the motion of condolence to the four gentlemen concerned and ask that we be associated with the messages that are to be sent to their families.

Hon. R. E. CAMM (Whitsunday—Minister for Mines, Energy and Police) (12.9 p.m.): As has been indicated by previous speakers, this is a sad occasion. Today we are talking to a motion of condolence to the families of departed friends. I wish to be associated with this motion to the four gentlemen concerned, each of whom I knew personally.

As the Premier has indicated—and his remarks were supported by the Deputy Premier and the Leader of the Opposition—Sir Francis Nicklin was a man of outstanding personal qualities. He was firm in his approach to any subject that he was considering, but he was always very fair in his decision. He had a distinguished life as Premier of this State and as a member of Parliament. He also had a very honourable record in the defence of this nation as well as in the community. He was interested in primary industry and he was happiest when judging at the R.N.A. Show the fruit exhibits from the various regions of the State. Frank

Nicklin was a very close personal friend to many of us. I join with the other speakers in offering my sincere condolences to his relatives and friends.

Evan Marginson was also quite well known to me, being the Opposition spokesman on mining industry matters in Queensland. He served his area very well as a member of Parliament. He had a distinguished career in local affairs. As the Opposition spokesman on the mining industry he and I often clashed verbally in debates but we always remained very firm friends. His quiet, dignified appearance and his courteous manner attracted to him many friends from both sides of the House.

The late Charles Russell was a very well-known grazier with wide interests in Queensland. I met him on several occasions but I did not have the privilege of being in Parliament with him. He will always be well remembered, well respected and highly regarded in the area in which he lived. He was a very outspoken gentleman with a very individual approach. As the Premier indicated, many of the things he advocated or forecast have come to pass in Queensland.

I knew the late Fred Paterson quite well. He represented virtually the same area as that which I represent today. He was our member of Parliament for two terms. I led quite a number of deputations to him when he visited the Proserpine area. As the Premier said, he had a very distinguished scholastic career. He was a Rhodes scholar and a barrister-at-law. He embraced the political faith of the Communist Party and, as has been said, he was the only man to represent that party in either the State or the Federal sphere. He played a very difficult role in the House because he was really on his own, but I can say with sincerity that he represented his area very well. Although he knew I was president of the Country Party branch in my area, whenever I approached him he was always very courteous and worked hard to achieve results on anything I put to him. I will remember that on the eve of his departure from Parliament he was involved in a street march which resulted in his suffering considerable injury. To his wife and friends I extend my sincere condolences.

Hon. F. A. CAMPBELL (Aspley—Minister for Labour Relations) (12.13 p.m.): I associate myself with the messages of condolence to the families of our four late departed brethren. I knew of Mr. Paterson but I did not meet him. I knew Mr. Charles Russell as a man with forthright ideals and ideas and as a man who was much misjudged when he was actively engaged in a political role.

I have a very warm recollection of the friendship that Sir Francis Nicklin extended to me and my family. At one stage the area where I still reside formed part of the

electorate of Murrumba. My association with Sir Francis started long before I became involved in politics.

I wish to speak mainly about the late Evan Marginson, particularly as I was closely associated with him through the Parliamentary Bowls Association. For several years he was one of our leading players. He was not only a very fine person but also a very fine sportsman. I express to his widow, Queenie, my deep regret at his passing. I am happy to associate myself with this motion of condolence.

Hon. V. B. SULLIVAN (Condamine—Minister for Primary Industries) (12.15 p.m.): In associating myself and the electors and people of Condamine generally with the motion of condolence before the House, I shall be brief but nonetheless sincere. The Premier and the Deputy Premier have already outlined the qualities of the people whom we are honouring today.

Sir Francis Nicklin was a great Queensland. In fact, he was the closest person I knew to approach my own father, who was somewhat of the same stature, and a kindly but firm old gentleman. That is how I always remember Frank Nicklin. I believe that the Deputy Premier made a very good point when he said how very close Sir Francis was to his staff. Jack Clancy, my driver, drove Sir Francis for 10 years. By coincidence, he has been driving me for 10 years. He was very close to Sir Francis and gained a very high regard for him. Only a couple of months before Sir Francis died, Jack and I called on him in Nambour. His eyes really lit up when he realised Jack was there. I say quite unashamedly that when we said goodbye both of us shed a few tears. We knew it was indeed goodbye.

Charles Russell, as the Premier indicated, was the member both State and Federal for the people I have been privileged to represent over the years, and this is why I want to associate the electors and the people of Condamine generally with this motion. The Premier gave an outline of the career of the late Charles Russell. He was a great pastoralist, farmer, industrialist and commercial businessman. He played a very major role in many things in the Dalby area. I was certainly impressed when I read a letter from a young lass of about 22 years who learned of his passing when she was in northern Germany. She wrote to "The Dalby Herald" saying how saddened she was, and she recalled what Mr. Russell did for the Jimbour school and the children. She wrote of her memories of that. That is another side of the man.

He made his facilities—and the swimming-pool in particular—at Jimbour House available, and many children attending the Jimbour school learned to swim because of Charles Russell's generosity. Charles and I did not always see eye to eye politically, but we had a great respect for each other. I commend him for his contribution to

Queensland in the many fields outlined by the Premier. I was saddened when I heard of his sudden passing.

Evan Marginson I knew and had a great respect for. He was a great fellow. I did not have time to be associated with him on the bowling green to the extent that the Minister for Labour Relations has spoken of. That is probably my own fault for not arranging things better. He loved his game of bowls and he loved playing for Queensland and for the Queensland Parliament. As Tom Burns has said, he was a great bloke.

I did not know the late Mr. Patterson. However, as has been said, any man who gives part of his life to serve his people in politics makes many sacrifices.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to associate myself and the electors and people of Condamine generally with the motion.

Hon. L. R. EDWARDS (Ipswich—Minister for Health) (12.19 p.m.): I am very pleased to support the motion of condolence moved by the Premier and seconded by the Deputy Premier. I did not serve in this Parliament with Sir Francis Nicklin, but I came to know him well over the years I have been a member of this House. In passing, it is interesting to note that he entered Parliament before I was born. He was, as the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Leader of the Opposition have said, a great Queenslander, an outstanding and respected leader, and a man of great integrity and honesty.

I had the privilege to be present at the opening of the Nicklin Room at Sundale Garden Village in Nambour recently, when I laid the foundation stone for the new development at that centre. Even though he was quite ill on that occasion, he was a fine example of a great yet humble and sincere man who served his State in a wonderful way. His integrity, honesty and sincerity, his passion for the development of Queensland and his kindness to Queenslanders, are certainly fine examples for those of us who follow him.

I am also pleased to associate myself particularly and the electors of Ipswich in the tribute to Evan Marginson, the former member for Wolston. I knew him since I was quite young, as my father and he were aldermen together for many years on the Ipswich City Council. It was Evan Marginson, as secretary of the Ipswich Hospitals Board, who welcomed me to the Ipswich Hospital when I joined the staff of that hospital in 1965. I was also privileged during my years in general practice in Ipswich to have a close association with him and his wife and family—particularly his son Dr. Noel Marginson, who spent part of his general practice training period as a student with me in my practice.

It has been said that Evan Marginson served Ipswich very well. This is very true. He was a highly respected alderman, member of Parliament and citizen of Ipswich. Although we differed politically, Evan Marginson was a great man to work beside, never interfering in another electorate and never playing politics at any time, but practising ethics in political life for which I have the greatest respect. He was a fine speaker and represented Ipswich people well in representations to Ministers and in the Parliament. He earned the respect of all who knew him and his braveness and fortitude over the past few years, during which he faced continued set-backs in his health in a struggle against great odds, provided a fine example and inspiration to all who knew him.

Evan Marginson was a fine man, a respected citizen and a good friend. I extend to his wife and to Geoffrey and Noel and their wives my deepest sympathy in their sad loss.

Mr. AHERN (Landsborough) (12.21 p.m.): I say very sincerely that the people of the Sunshine Coast generally were deeply saddened at the passing of Sir Francis Nicklin. They had immense pride in him and, of course, the feeling was mutual.

Much has been said and written about this great man. I think it was put best by Dr. Lewis Born at his commemoration ceremony. He spoke of Sir Francis Nicklin the man, the soldier, the statesman and the man of God. If I had to summarise—and today, with a restraint on time one has to—I would say simply that this man's life was interest in, concern for and work on behalf of people, whoever they were and whatever their walk of life. That included all people.

People were his first and last concern. I remember the last occasion when my wife and I were able to visit him in hospital. He was very seriously ill and his speech was very badly affected, yet his primary concern was that there was not enough seating accommodation and he would not rest until that was rectified. That was the man.

He had an extraordinary manner and engendered love and respect in those who worked around him. He had respect for and generated respect in those who were his political enemies. A couple of months before he died he was quite delighted when young John Duggan, a son of Jack Duggan, who had been his political adversary for years, stopped him in the main street of Caloundra, offered him good wishes from himself and from his father and asked how he was going. The fact that that message meant something special to Sir Francis Nicklin indicated the character of the man and the concern and respect that he had for everyone.

He had a special warmth and humility and concern for others that were felt by many. We lived next door to him for some months after moving to Caloundra. He kept

us in pineapples, lettuce, cabbages, and so on. That saved me an immense amount of money. For years he assisted me in my electorate, but never once did he intrude into an area which he felt was my jurisdiction. He gave selflessly of his time to impart to me an immense amount of information that he had gathered during his political life and thought might be useful to me.

Many enjoyed the type of feeling that I, too, was honoured to enjoy. Many lives were touched by this great man. On many his life had a deep personal effect. The loyalty that this man was able to evoke in people around him was almost unbelievable.

For 17 years, Mrs. Roberta Campbell offered him loyalty, help and understanding.

Reg McAllister and Col Curtis—former Under Secretaries of the Premier's Department—maintained a very close personal association with him right up till the end of his life. That was the type of loyalty that he was able to evoke in those around him. His secretaries, Graham Swan and Keith Livermore, remained close to him right to the end of his life. They visited him and stayed in his home and he waited on them.

Mr. Bjelke-Petersen: Keith Spann, too.

Mr. AHERN: Yes. As the Premier says, Keith Spann was also immensely helpful.

I should also like to say something about the late Jim Grimes, who passed away in the last few days. He gave many hours of his time attending to the personal needs of Sir Francis Nicklin when he made his decision to move to Sundale Retirement Village. I should like to thank the board of Sundale, too, for the very special consideration they gave to Sir Francis.

I should also like to mention Mrs. Edna Robinson, who used to visit Sir Francis at night when he was heavily disabled to read to him for hours and attend to his personal needs. I also mention his personal confessor, Ray Townsend, who remained with him right to the end. Sir Francis Nicklin was an extraordinary person and in the very best sense of the term he was a man of the people.

I should now like to say something very briefly about the late Evan Marginson. For several years in this place he served opposite me as Opposition Whip. As has been said, that was a difficult task and it was complicated towards the end of his life by ill health that caused him much suffering. In all my dealings with him—and over those years they amounted to many hundreds—I found him to be a man of honour in every respect. I extend my sympathy to his widow and family.

Mr. HOUSTON (Bulimba) (12.27 p.m.): Naturally I 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.

Like the Premier and Deputy Premier, I did not serve in Parliament with either Mr. Russell or Mr. Paterson but I knew them by reputation. In my earlier days when I believed that studying "Hansard" would help me in my approach to the office of member of Parliament. I found the speeches of both gentlemen most enlightening. As other speakers have indicated, they reflect truly the character of the men as they were known by their colleagues.

On the first day that I entered Parliament Sir Francis Nicklin was a first-day Premier in the House, although naturally he took up his duties immediately after the election. I can certainly endorse what has been said about the man himself. Later I got to know better the great strengths that he had and his great belief in parliamentary democracy. Sir Francis Nicklin was Premier of this State when I assumed the position of Leader of the Opposition. Occupying that office means on many occasions getting together with the Premier and talking, perhaps compromising, on issues that concern the development and welfare of the State without involving party-political decisions. The Constitution, for instance, was spoken of many times prior to the holding of the Constitutional Convention. Sir Francis Nicklin will always be remembered by me as I knew him in this Chamber.

I knew Mr. Evan Marginson prior to his coming to this Parliament. As others have said, Evan was a very loyal and hard-working man. I think his loyalty to friends and beliefs was shown over the many years in which he lived in Ipswich. He was always a very close associate of Mr. Jim Donald and he was looked upon as Jim's heir and successor, but never once did Evan cause embarrassment to Jim Donald whilst Jim was a member. His loyalty to Jim Donald and his support for him were always there. Because of his close association with Jim Donald, when he came to Parliament, with the support of the electorate, he was a member with long experience.

As the Labor Party Whip there was never a time when Evan did not carry out very well indeed anything he was asked to do on behalf of the Opposition. His bad health must have placed a tremendous strain on him, but never once did he complain and, to my knowledge, never once did he not carry out the duties required of him in his position.

Lastly, I endorse the remarks of the Minister for Labour Relations about Evan's sporting ability. I and those others who were present when we played at the Gold Coast know how sick he was but he still carried on. He also played in Perth. I believe he was in great pain but he carried on and thus allowed Queensland to attain a quite respectable position. Those who attended the last carnival realise the great difference his absence meant to us. His death was a great loss to his widow Queenie and family, but I know they will be comforted by the knowledge of the great

respect in which he was held by those of us who knew him and who had the privilege of being associated with him.

Mr. W. D. HEWITT (Greenslopes) (12.31 p.m.): Today we lament the passing of four men who were well known to us, either personally or by repute. Mr. Paterson and Mr. Russell were stormy petrels in their own time, and I must confess to a certain affinity with stirrers even though I have always studiously avoided being one myself. But they did make an impact upon Queensland politics and I associate myself with the sentiments that have been expressed about them.

As to Sir Francis Nicklin, I will always be proud that I served here for two years under his Premiership. He was an outstanding man and one can do little more than endorse the sentiments that have already been expressed about him.

Mr. Speaker, some three years ago under your chairmanship the Queensland branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association was re-formed, and one of the early decisions of that association was that Opposition members should participate in the delegation to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference each year. The first person to be selected to go to a conference under these changed rules was Evan Marginson. He represented our Parliament at the conference at New Delhi. His wife accompanied him and I know that he discharged his obligations with great dignity and great responsibility. I know that he was always grateful to you, Mr. Speaker, for your influence upon that decision. He enjoyed that trip and the experience very much indeed, and I hope that the fond memories of that trip will assuage his widow in her grief. Suffice it to say that Evan Marginson was a warm man, a friendly man, a simple man. And we all associate ourselves with his widow's grief at his passing.

Dr. LOCKWOOD (Toowoomba North) (12.33 p.m.): In speaking to this motion of condolence I shall confine myself to comments about the late Evan Marginson, whom I knew quite well. I first met Evan when I was a resident medical officer at the Ipswich Hospital. He was the hospital secretary and the whole of the hospital, indeed the whole district, regarded him as a man capable of making cool, calm decisions and a fine administrator. He was given the job of taking that hospital from one giving general practitioners full access to public patients in public wards to one with full honorary specialist facilities, staffed by a registrar and offering resident medical officer care, with the exception, of course, of the intermediate wards. He always carried himself with the dignity befitting his position, but I think the feature about the man that struck everyone most was his snowy hair and the smiling eyes behind his spectacles.

He treated everybody equally and did his best to serve them both as an alderman of the city and as an administrator of the hospital board.

In my first year at the hospital, 1962, funds became frightfully short and the hospital ran out of antibiotics by the end, I think, of March. I remember writing one or two scripts for selected patients and sending them down town to a chemist. There were a few phone calls about this. Evan Marginson heard about it and informed the Department of Health. The department could not ignore what we had done, and so on 1 April Evan Marginson had the money to supplement his hospital budget until the end of the financial year.

He was valued throughout the city. As the Deputy Leader of the Opposition said, he was the heir apparent to the Ipswich East seat held by his friend Jim Donald. Never once did he play his hand on this, but it was so widely known that a few minutes after I was introduced to him one of the clerks at the hospital said, "Mr. Marginson will be the next member for Ipswich East." That was in 1962. Sure enough that came to pass, but not until 1969. The important thing is that during all that time nobody could out-perform Evan in his service to his city and in his occupation.

It was typical of his life that, when many other people would have given up, he was still serving this Assembly as the illness he fought to the end gradually took its toll of him. He was speaking in this House when his final illness overtook him. Indeed, he already had election signs up for the forthcoming election when illness forced him to resign.

I valued him as a friend and I was pleased to meet him in this House. I know that Dr. Lew Edwards and I, who had a lot of dealings with him in those early 1960s, will always value the experience he gave us.

Mr. SIMPSON (Cooroora) (12.37 p.m.): I rise to support the motion of condolence and in particular I wish to refer to the late Sir Francis Nicklin. That much-loved gentleman set an example that this Parliament is following. He displayed Christian dedication in this place and in the stormy situation in which politics often puts one. I found him to be a very sincere and humble adviser in the last few years when he resided in my electorate. Those around him were always put at ease. They felt that advice from him was something to be cherished. A word from him was something they remembered for a long time.

Similar sentiments have been expressed by previous speakers today, but I would just like to put a few facts on record for historians because Frank Nicklin's career is an important part of Queensland's history. A

record has been compiled in the special historical room at Sundale in Nambour, where people can view personal effects, records and photographs of that former Premier's association with the Queen and other important leaders throughout the world and certain important events in the history of the State. This record indicates the calibre of the man and his association with that part of the history of Queensland in such a way that it is an inspiring example to many of us. His understanding of the problems of the primary producers in their troubled times is reflected in that record.

Frank Nicklin was a man of such calibre that anyone who approached him was put at ease immediately—one of the criteria of a great man. He was an outstanding Queensland and Australian.

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

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES

APPOINTMENT OF MR. W. D. HEWITT

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

“That William Douglas Hewitt be appointed Chairman of Committees of the Whole House.”

Motion agreed to.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

SESSIONAL ORDER

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

“That during this session, unless otherwise ordered, and notwithstanding the provision of Standing Order No. 68, questions may be asked by members without notice being given. The period allowed each day for the asking of questions upon notice and without notice and for the answering of questions shall not exceed one hour: Provided that this period shall terminate at 12 o'clock noon on the days allotted for the discussion of matters of public interest.”

Motion agreed to.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

CONTROL OF AURUKUN AND MORNINGTON ISLAND SETTLEMENTS

Mr. BURNS: I have just read the article appearing in today's "Telegraph", and I ask the Premier: In view of the breakdown in yesterday's talks concerning Aurukun and Mornington Island and the unfortunate deadlock that has developed at all levels, why is it necessary for the proposed State Government take-over to proceed this week-end?

I understand that the Premier has now offered to defer it. Has the Prime Minister agreed to his proposals on that? Further, why were police placed on stand-by in North Queensland ready to fly if necessary to the two church missions? Finally, even if the Prime Minister does not agree to his proposals, will he and the Government, as a sign of good faith, defer the take-over plans and enter into meaningful talks with representatives of the Aboriginal communities, the Uniting Church and the Commonwealth Government to give the people concerned a satisfactory opportunity to express their views?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: The Leader of the Opposition has asked a very long question and I have tried to memorise it. First of all, as for the report in yesterday's "Australian" concerning 100 policemen and a Fokker Friendship being placed on stand-by—that is utter rubbish, complete nonsense and untrue. For a start, a Fokker Friendship could not get into Aurukun. I have been there many times. The airstrip is only a small one. Secondly, we intend to send in only one man and we certainly would not need 100 policemen to protect him. That report indicates how unfair and how unjust some reports have been. In this morning's newspaper, too, I was reported as referring to Federal back-benchers as Communists, socialists and radicals. That also is completely untrue. That report is a figment of someone's imagination. Perhaps the reporter had a nightmare last night, just as the reporter who wrote the other article about the police must have had one the night before.

Mr. Burns: Are you going to defer any move into Aurukun this week-end?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: Yes. I have already had a conference this morning with representatives of the media and indicated this to them.

Mr. Houston: Why didn't you tell Parliament?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I will tell the honourable member right now, if he will be patient. I cannot tell everyone at the same time.

Naturally, we were very disappointed to learn that during the night the Federal Government in Canberra decided it would break off the negotiations. It has reneged on the arrangement arrived at yesterday after hours of discussion between senior Federal Ministers and our Minister, Mr. Porter, on the pretext that some, like me, had been too critical of it. Obviously it has reneged on the agreement because of the turmoil within its own organisation and Senator Bonner's threat to resign. As anybody who watched T.V. would know, these are some of the things that have blown up.

The point is that we are disappointed. We are still prepared to proceed on the same basis as yesterday. What I have suggested

to the media this morning is that we are prepared to withhold the movement of the person or persons to these places for a few weeks to let the dust settle and to let the Commonwealth have a rethink on the matter. The Commonwealth is, after all, in a very difficult position. It has moved into an area that is not its responsibility. It was in that difficult position yesterday and I believe it very ably got out of it. But it is up to Canberra to rethink the matter. I understand that the Prime Minister will take it to his Cabinet next week. That is up to him, but the indications are that that is what he will do. On the understanding that the Commonwealth will do nothing in the meantime, we will let the whole matter be reviewed. But we are prepared to go ahead on the same basis as before, and on the basis agreed to yesterday. It is up to Canberra now to agree to let everything stand for a number of weeks.

Mr. BURNS: Have you had any answer from Canberra on that suggestion?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: Naturally the Prime Minister would have to consider this suggestion and perhaps discuss it with his Cabinet colleagues. It is up to him to make a statement on that.

IWASAKI TOURIST PROJECT

Mr. BURNS: I direct another question without notice to the Premier, this time about Mr. Iwasaki: As the Government has a responsibility to be alert to ensure that our lands are not taken over by foreign interests, and are not misused or taken over in large areas, can he advise if the Government has refused to sell any freehold land near the Rockhampton area to certain interests?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: The Iwasaki project, which will come before this House very shortly, will be set out in full detail. It is a lengthy document setting out many conditions and requirements and it outlines the whole project. It is one that I cannot go into in detail in answer to a question. I can only say that the Government, through the Co-ordinator-General and many members of various departments, has been engaged in working out a franchise in the interests of the State. I am sure that it will benefit Queensland very greatly from the tourist point of view. I can say that we are very fortunate to have a man like Mr. Iwasaki, with his organisation and capacity, wanting to build what will obviously be the greatest international tourist terminal in Australia. We are indeed fortunate to have him. I am sorry that the honourable member is attempting, or appearing to attempt, to downgrade this project. I remind him that we have here hundreds of thousands of Italians, Germans, Dutchmen and people of other nations with whom we have been at war and that many of their organisations have spent millions of dollars here. I hope that the

honourable member, in his interest and concern for Red China and his interests there, will realise that Japan is our main market source. Queensland and Australia owe more to Japan than to any other country or nation. Japan is our greatest customer with its 110 million people right on our doorstep. But for Japan we would be in a very serious situation; we depend very heavily on Japan. On that basis alone, I, and this Government, support very strongly the Iwasaki project, which will come before the House very shortly. The honourable member will then have a full opportunity to debate the project and go into all the details of the proposed franchise agreement.

HOUSTON OIL AND MINERALS AND CAPRICORN COAL

Mr. BURNS: I direct a question to the Minister for Mines, Energy and Police. I refer to the deal between the Government and Houston Oil and Minerals last year without undertaking normal tendering procedures, and ask: Were Houston Oil and Minerals and Capricorn Coal both offered extensions of their authorities to prospect this week? Did these extensions cover what is called a "buffer zone" between their two authorities to prospect in this rich coal area? Is it normal for the Government to offer further areas of rich Queensland coal to companies without calling tenders and advertising them to the public and the mining industry?

Mr. CAMM: Yes. There was a buffer zone reserved between these two large authorities to prospect. In this zone there was not sufficient coal to mount an independent operation. Our Geological Survey drilling team proved certain amounts of open-cut coal and underground coal. To avoid any confusion in the original issuing of authorities to prospect, this section was reserved. It was made known to the companies that if they both proved they were sincere in their expenditure and exploration programmes, consideration would be given to allocating portion of this reserve. Only the week before last it was decided that this reserve be split in two and that they be offered the area.

Yes, it is the custom of the Queensland Government to grant areas additional to authorities to prospect without advertising. I have said so on many occasions. Nearly every major coal-mining operation in the Bowen Basin has received additional areas. I might remind the Leader of the Opposition that it was this Government, and only this Government, which placed this huge area of coal in reserve. Prior to my becoming Minister anyone could apply for an authority to prospect anywhere in the Bowen Basin and obtain it, without having to go to tender. We introduced the system of reserve. This particular system is mapped now in degrees, minutes and seconds, and we

know precisely the boundaries of the authorities to prospect. This additional area of a small amount of coal—by “small”, I mean it was too small to mount an individual operation—has been split up between Capricorn Coal and Houston Oil and Minerals.

PREMIER'S VISIT TO JAPAN; LIVE CATTLE EXPORT AND IWASAKI TOURIST PROJECT

Mr. HARTWIG: I ask the Premier: As he has just returned to Queensland from a very important visit to Japan as Premier of this State, can he inform this Parliament of the result of discussions on the two major factors that occasioned his visit, namely, the prospects of increased export of live cattle to Japan to assist the depressed beef industry and the result of discussions and his impressions of the great tourist complex at Ibusuki owned by Mr. Iwasaki, who is awaiting Queensland Government approval for his large tourist complex at Yeppoon?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: The main objective of my visit related to the export of live cattle to Japan. I had a series of deputations and interviews with the Agriculture Minister, the new Prime Minister, the Foreign Affairs Minister and the livestock corporation, which deals with cattle. I have had very little publicity on this matter because a very ticklish political problem exists in Japan. However, we have been able to initiate the first move in this area. I hope—and believe—that it will continue. We are starting with a first order of some 2,000 head. When details are finalised in Japan for payment, distribution and yarding facilities, shipment will commence. It is not known whether they will go by aircraft or ship; that matter has still to be determined. We were very successful in reaching an understanding, and I can give the honourable member the full details if he wishes.

In relation to Mr. Iwasaki's project, I have already indicated that we are very lucky to have this man, who I say without fear of contradiction is the greatest conservationist in this world. One only has to see the 37 parks he has created in Japan and the millions of trees he has planted in various places. He has contributed a great deal. One has only to study the plans that he has for the area near Yeppoon to appreciate what the project will mean. It will surprise honourable members when the plan comes to fruition over the next few years. If they are spared, they will wonder why they questioned the whole operation. It is something of which Queensland will be proud. It will put us right on the map in the tourist world.

DR. EVERINGHAM'S ATTITUDE TO ABORIGINES

Mr. HARTWIG: In directing a question to the Premier, I remind him that during a recent debate in the Federal Parliament the new member for Capricornia pleaded with the Fraser Government to take control of the Aborigines at Aurukun and Mornington Island, thus stopping the Queensland Premier “from getting his filthy hands on the proposed take-over”. I now ask: Can the Premier reconcile such a statement by Dr Doug Everingham with the statement he made a few years ago in “The Morning Bulletin” openly advocating the castration of all male Aborigines at Mt. Morgan?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I remember that article very well. I do not think I will ever forget it. I am afraid that Dr. Everingham demonstrates, by making a statement like that, that he does not have much of an understanding or appreciation of what this Government and the Labor Government before us have done for the Aboriginal people at Aurukun, and what we are presently doing for them. It also indicates clearly, and should be recognised by the people at the next election, that Dr. Everingham, like Senator Bonner, is obviously a great centralist. They want to take everything away from the State that elects them. This is something that we ought to remember.

I am not very concerned about what Dr. Everingham says. He has been in and out of Parliament, and he will be out again after the next election.

HALF-WAY HOUSE FOR ABORIGINES, TOWNVILLE

Mr. M. D. HOOPER: I ask the Minister for Mines, Energy and Police: Has he been made aware that the Federal Department of Aboriginal Affairs is negotiating to purchase a freehold property in Townsville for use as a half-way house whose sole purpose will be to accommodate drunken Aborigines picked up by police officers? What powers do Queensland police officers have to collect drunks in public places and escort them to private institutions instead of the watch-house, as is the present practice?

Mr. CAMM: I am not aware that the Commonwealth is to purchase such a house in Townsville. However, I can tell the honourable member the responsibilities of Queensland police.

Queensland police officers, if they arrest anyone for any crime, including drunkenness, must take that person to the watch-house before he can be charged. Consideration can then be given to whether he will be released on bail, locked up or go before a magistrate. The correct place to charge anyone arrested is the watch-house. That is the only place to which policemen can take anyone who is arrested. They cannot take them to a half-way house so that alcoholics

can be dried out; they must go to the watch-house. That is the law governing the Queensland Police Force.

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

ALLEGED CONTRIBUTIONS BY PREMIER TO
"STOP" AND "CARE" PUBLICATIONS

Mr. WRIGHT: I preface a question to the Premier by referring to the denial published on page 26 of "The Courier-Mail" of yesterday's date to the effect that the claim that the Premier has become a columnist for Rona Joyner's monthly "STOP" and "CARE" publications is, in his quoted words, "a complete fabrication of lies." I now ask the Premier if he stands by that denial.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I do not necessarily have to deny anything to the honourable member. What he asks is a little beyond what one would expect in a parliamentary question. All I will say is that it is correct that I do not write for Rona Joyner's column, nor does my wife.

Mr. WRIGHT: I direct a supplementary question to the Premier. In view of what he has just said, will he advise the Assembly on whose authority there has now appeared in the "STOP" and "CARE" publications a column entitled, "Personally Speaking—Joh Bjelke-Petersen", which purports to print the Premier's views on education in Queensland? Will the Premier also advise if he stands by the views reported?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: "Personally Speaking" goes out from my office to all the media throughout Australia. I am not sure that it does not end up even in the honourable member's paper.

HOME CONSUMPTION PRICE OF SUGAR

Mr. CASEY: I ask the Minister for Primary Industries: In view of the Federal Government's failure to take any action on the application placed before it several months ago for an increase in the home consumption price for sugar, and as the Queensland Government is the owner of all sugar that is produced through the Queensland Sugar Board, what action has his Government taken to furnish the Commonwealth with full details of costs, efficiency, funds employed and profitability of the various sections of the sugar industry—that is, growers, millers, refiners, distributors and retailers—in order to justify the price increase application? What efforts has the Minister made to force the Commonwealth to make a speedy decision in this matter?

Mr. SULLIVAN: The Queensland Government has approved the submissions put to it for an increase in the price of sugar, and these have been submitted to the Commonwealth Government. Some weeks ago I introduced a deputation consisting of representatives of all sections of the industry to the Commonwealth Minister for Primary

Industry to discuss the submission. Mr. Sinclair required further information to assist him in putting the case to his Federal Cabinet. This necessitated officers of my department and officers of the various sectors of the sugar industry and of the Sugar Board meeting and collating this information and then having discussions with officers of Mr. Sinclair's department. This has been done, and it was stated in the Press this morning—

Mr. Casey interjected.

Mr. SULLIVAN: I have talked to Mr. Sinclair about it on a number of occasions. The industry people are very satisfied with my Government's performance, and my performance, and it was indicated in the Press this morning—

Mr. Casey: You put pressure on them on Aurukun. Why can't you put pressure on them about this?

Mr. SULLIVAN: I am answering the question the honourable member asked. He did not ask me anything about Aurukun.

Mr. Casey: No; I asked what action did you take. Why can't you take similar action to push this along?

Mr. SULLIVAN: I was courteous enough to listen to the honourable member's question. Will he please be courteous enough to listen to the answer? It was indicated in the paper this morning that the Commonwealth Cabinet has this request for an increase in the home consumption price of sugar under consideration, and it is anticipated that an early announcement will be made.

BEEF CARCASS CLASSIFICATION SCHEME

Mr. CASEY: I ask the Minister for Primary Industries: As meetings of the Australian Agricultural Council since 1976 have been saying that a carcass classification scheme will be implemented and the most recent in Adelaide in January asked for a report to be available within one month, why cannot the Queensland Government immediately implement a price scheme based on manual grading, as such will still be required for smaller works and local killing even after a fully automated system becomes available?

Mr. SULLIVAN: The Queensland Government would not introduce manual grading based on a minimum price—

Mr. Casey interjected.

Mr. SULLIVAN: I don't want the honourable member to answer the question for me. Let me answer it in my way.

I am glad the honourable member asked the question. He referred to 1976. That was two years ago. I was the Minister who

took it to the Agricultural Council and two years later the Labor Government in New South Wales has seen the validity of it and has introduced legislation similar to that introduced here last year. It has set up a Meat Authority and given it wider powers.

The manual classification, for which I have been an advocate, can function. We have put it into Kilcoy and Murgon Meatworks. Mr. Bob Carrail of the Victorian Department of Agriculture, who has been given the task of assessing the situation in all States and recommending a paper for the Agricultural Council—a special meeting has been called for the 14th of next month—had final discussions with the A.M.L.C. on Thursday of last week, and that report will be ready.

To implement something in one State would only react against the producers in that State. What the honourable member is suggesting would work against the price of cattle in Queensland and, after all, this is my interest. The meatworks would just go over the border and buy down there, leaving the cattle on the properties up here. It is elementary. It surprises me that the honourable member would ask the question. Apparently I have given him credit for having more intelligence than he has.

BEEF AND SUGAR EXPORTS TO IRAN

Mr. CASEY: In asking the Premier a question without notice, I draw attention to the fact that when he returned from his trip to the Middle East about this time last year he promised a huge increase in sales of Queensland beef and sugar to Iran. As Iran recently announced the purchase of 150 000 tonnes of sugar from Brazil, and as it is currently buying record quantities of meat from Western Australia, I ask the Premier: Can he tell the House what went wrong with Queensland's proposed sales?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I haven't the facts and figures before me at the present time as to what sales may or may not have taken place. I know that initially it did start with sugar, and 300 000 tonnes was the basis we were speaking about at the time. One of the shipping companies went ahead and bought the equipment for rebagging it over there. Mutton sales have increased very considerably. The unions in Adelaide, where a lot of it is shipped from, are holding it up at the present time.

Mr. Casey: Western Australia is selling record quantities.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: Mutton is the main one we found they were interested in. They also spoke in terms of meat. But again there has to be a starting point. We made the contacts. Naturally, together with the Australian Embassy officials, we will continue those contacts so that it will all ultimately build up to something—

Mr. Casey: When you came back you said that there would be great announcements—

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: Yes. Things do not always go with the honourable member the way he thinks they are going to go. He was kicked out of his party for a while. He is back among the socialists now.

TRIP BY LABOR PARTY MEMBERS TO RED CHINA

Mr. FRAWLEY: I ask the Premier: Is he aware that in June 1976 the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Rockhampton, the member for Archerfield and other members of the Labor Party had their fares and accommodation expenses paid by the Government of Red China during a trip through China? Does he know the purpose of that trip and what promises were made by the Leader of the Opposition to the Red Chinese Government? Finally, is he aware that the member for Rockhampton was severely reprimanded by the Queensland Central Executive of the Labor Party for divulging in this Chamber on 8 August 1977 the information that the Red Chinese Government had paid the fares and accommodation expenses of members of the Labor Party during their trip across China in 1976?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: We all know of the trip to which the honourable member refers. It irks me very much that Japan, which is our greatest market, receives from some people criticism, rather than concern, interest, support and goodwill. On the other hand, they give tremendous support and goodwill to Red China, a country to which we do not owe a great deal, although we help it when its people are starving or when they cannot provide their own wheat.

We all know that the honourable member had his fare paid at that time. We also know that he sought to reciprocate in a small way by presenting a little red bull, which was not any good, anyway. Quite an important matter that we ought to remember always is that there is very strong support by honourable members opposite for Red China, which, of course, has a philosophy that is much in keeping with their own. They like to visit that nation. It is about time that they woke up to the facts about which nations are worth while to Queensland and Australia.

FACILITIES, MORNINGTON ISLAND AND AURUKUN RESERVES

Mr. BERTONI: I preface my question to the Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs by referring him to various adverse reports in the media that things will be different for the Aboriginal people if the

State Government assumes control of Mornington Island and Aurukun. Will the Minister outline what these so-called differences will be and what is planned for these areas by the State Government, and are the fears the product of fact, fiction or journalistic imagination?

Mr. PORTER: The people at Aurukun and Mornington Island—I include Mornington Island because the honourable member referred to them—will be definitely better off. At Mornington Island a programme is proceeding apace at the moment. Some 44 houses are well under way. Eventually 122 houses will be built, complete with all the infrastructure that goes with a modern township, such as stores, a supermarket, refrigeration, butcher shops, community centres and all that is required to make a thriving, progressive, stable and happy township. This is well under way. The overall programme will cost about \$7,000,000.

This work would have been under way earlier, as the honourable member should know, but for the fact that the funds available from the Commonwealth, although promised soon after cyclone "Ted", were in fact not made available until after the Budget session last August. We immediately moved to investigate the matter and then called for tenders. Tenderers went up to speak with the people to get their ideas on what was wanted for suitable houses. When that was ascertained, we found a suitable tenderer. He then proceeded to make the components that could be assembled off site. We stored at the place gravel and all the other requirements. The moment the wet season allowed it—at the end of January—we were barging the components from Normanton to Mornington Island. As I say, this work is well under way.

We provide the type of management, assistance and care for the Aboriginal people that is properly done by a Government really concerned about their welfare.

Mining on Aboriginal Reserves; Queensland and Federal Attitudes

Mr. BERTONI: I ask the Minister for Mines, Energy and Police: Would he advise the House of the conditions relating to the discovery and extraction of minerals under the various Queensland Mining Acts compared with the proposed Federal conditions for mining in areas inhabited by Aborigines? Is there any danger of segregation and discrimination—a black versus white effect—if Federal control is allowed?

Mr. CAMM: I can tell the honourable member what the conditions are under the Queensland Mining Acts. All mineral in Queensland is the property of the Crown and benefits in the form of royalty and rent resulting from its extraction flow to the Crown for the benefit of all residents of Queensland whether Aborigines or not. The

people in charge of Aboriginal reserves, whether trustees or Government departments such as Forestry or Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement, have a say on whether mining will take place on those reserves.

I understand that under the proposed Federal legislation royalties will be paid to the Aborigines living on the reserves. I do not have that yet in writing. I do not know whether the Act has ever been put into force. However, it is contrary to the laws in Queensland. If the Federal Government thinks it can take control of Crown land or reserve land in Queensland and direct the royalties paid on minerals solely for the use of the people within that area—that is gross discrimination between the people inhabiting those reserves and the ordinary people of Queensland occupying freehold land or Crown land, who receive no benefit from minerals mined. If mining is conducted with the permission of the trustees of a reserve, the only beneficiary is the Queensland Government, which disburses those amounts right throughout the State for the benefit of all people who live here.

Iwasaki Tourist Project

Mr. BLAKE: I ask the Minister for Lands, Forestry and Water Resources: With reference to the disclosure that a road has been constructed by the Iwasaki organisation or its agents on vacant Crown land known as Sandy Point, near Yeppoon, and in view of his statement in Yeppoon recently to a local deputation that he did not know that such a road existed, will he advise the House who gave the approval for the road to be built and when approval was given?

Mr. N. T. E. HEWITT: I think that some points should be made fairly clear in relation to both the Iwasaki land deal and Yeppoon. The only thing to do in a case such as this is to put the facts fairly and squarely before the House. I have the facts here as they are at present. In dealing with that matter I shall also refer to the road concerned.

An Honourable Member: It is by coincidence that he has this with him.

Mr. N. T. E. HEWITT: It does not happen to be a Dorothy Dixier. Any Minister worth his salt would know that a question such as this would be asked in the House. Naturally, when I know that I will be asked such a question, I come prepared. I have always tried to be honest and that is exactly what I am trying to be now in answering this question.

A newspaper report in "The Courier-Mail" of 30 March 1978 mentions a road having been dozed on the Sandy Point area. The location or extent of the dozing is not known. However, arrangements have been made for the Land Commissioner to have a look at the situation.

I might also mention that my attention has been drawn to this road by the honourable member for Callide, who represents that area. He tells me that it is an old road that has been put through there and virtually all that is being done is updating it.

Negotiations provide for the company to construct and dedicate a road to Landing Reserve R.11 on Fishing Creek and the closure of any unrequired roads within the resort area will be in terms of the provisions of the Land Act.

So that "Hansard" will contain all the details, I table them and ask that they be included in "Hansard". (Leave granted.)

Whereupon the honourable gentleman laid on the table the following document:—

"Lands Department involvement includes:—

(a) Leasehold Lands within the proposed resort area;

(b) Issue of Special Leases over the Sandy Cape area and of an area to be surrendered from S.L. 32847;

(c) Closure of unrequired roads;

Particulars are:—

(a) Leasehold Lands.—Those include:—

G.F. 9805, Rockhampton District; Lessee: Albert Thomasson; Area: 396.39 ha (979 acres 2 roods).

G.F. 9806, Rockhampton District; Lessee: Albert Thomasson; Area: 1 679.749 ha (4,450 acres 3 roods).

P.L.S. 8666, Rockhampton District; Lessee: F. J. J. Miller; Area: 341 acres.

Special Lease No. 32847; Lessee: Tropico Syndicate Pty. Ltd. (Transfer to Iwasaki Sangyo Co. (Aust.) Pty. Ltd. in progress); Area: 890 acres.

Special Lease No. 33250; Lessee: N. V. Thomasson; Area: 1 650 acres.

Offers of freeholding have been made to the respective lessees of G.F.'s 9805 and 9806, P.L.S. 8666 and Special Lease No. 33250 and it is understood that the Solicitor acting for those lessees is about to accept those offers. The values are based on current values in the locality.

Special Lease No. 32847 is in course of transfer to Iwasaki Sangyo Co. (Aust.) Pty. Ltd. and following registration the matter of freeholding and surrender of an area for fish nursery purposes will be initiated;

(b) Special Leases on Sandy Point Area:—

In conjunction with the resort proposal a Special Lease with appropriate conditions is being considered over the Sandy Point area exclusive of necessary esplanades.

A newspaper report (Courier-Mail, March 30th, 1978) mentions a road having been dozed on the Sandy Point area. The location or extent of the dozing is not known. However, arrangements have been made for the Land Commissioner to have a look at the situation.

(c) Closure of Unrequired Roads:—

Negotiations provide for the Company to construct and dedicate a road to Landing Reserve R.11 (on Fishing Creek) and the closure of any unrequired roads within the resort area will be in terms of the provisions of the Land Act;

(d) It is understood that lands held by or Under Contract to the Iwasaki Sangyo Co. (Aust.) Pty. Ltd. as at March 30th, 1978 are:—

—	Acres	Roods	Perches	Hectares
Freehold Held in Name of Company	8224	2	12·6	(3328·441)
Freehold Land Under Contract to Company	3525	1	31·6	(1426·728)
Leasehold In process of being Acquired by Company	8001	1	0	(3242·1)
Vacant Crown Land To be Granted To Company as Special Lease	664	2	31	(269)
Livingstone Shire Council Land To Be Acquired By Company	262	0	0	(106·01)
TOTAL:	20687	3	35·2	(8372·289)"

Mr. BLAKE: I ask the Minister for Lands, Forestry and Water Resources a further question: Can he give an assurance that no impropriety has occurred in land transactions in relation to the proposed Iwasaki project under his ministry or that of his predecessor?

Mr. N. T. E. HEWITT: All I can say is that I have been in this House for a long while—22 years—and I feel that I have always been frank and honest. I have given full details concerning all transactions. They are there for all to see. I made it known to the secretary to the Leader of the Opposition that I was prepared to talk to him, in company with his leader, at any time he wished, but so far he has not taken me up on that offer. I have nothing whatever to hide in relation to the Iwasaki deal and, knowing the previous Minister as I do and having acted for him on many occasions, I feel sure that that would also be the case with him.

GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to report that His Excellency the Governor, on Wednesday, 29 March, delivered to Parliament an Opening Speech of which, for greater accuracy, I have obtained a copy. I presume honourable members will take the Speech as read?

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Mr. WHITE (Southport) (2.55 p.m.), who was received with Government "Hear, hears!", said: I move—

"That the following Address be presented to the Governor in reply to the Speech delivered by His Excellency in opening this, the first session of the Forty-second Parliament of Queensland—

'May it please Your Excellency:—

We, Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the members of the Legislature of Queensland, in Parliament assembled, desire to assure Your Excellency of our continued loyalty and affection towards the Throne and Person of our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to tender our thanks to Your Excellency for the Speech with which you have been pleased to open the present session.

'The various measures to which Your Excellency has referred, and all other matters that may be brought before us, will receive our most careful consideration, and it shall be our earnest endeavour so to deal with them that our labours may tend to the advancement and prosperity of the State.'

Before turning to reply to the Governor's address, I would like to take this opportunity to briefly introduce myself to this House. Firstly, let me say that I am very conscious of the privilege of moving this motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. I am a Queenslander born and bred, and four generations of my family have preceded me here, having originally come from Ireland. I understand my great-great-grandfather's emigration was entirely voluntary. Although I am a staunch Queenslander I am also a staunch Australian and I hope that none of us are ever placed in a position where we have to make a decision between the two.

My family has been associated with the land, with business and with the professions in this State for many years. I myself spent some of my early boyhood on the land. I mention this only to make the point that through my own experience, and the experiences of many friends and relatives, I am familiar with the rural industries of this State and the massive problems that they have faced over recent years. The Governor

in his Address made mention of his admiration for the stoicism of the people of the country areas.

I should also like to say that I share his admiration, as do thousands of people in my electorate, many of whom come from the country. It would be a mistake to think that urban dwellers have no understanding of rural problems. Most people realise the great debt this State and this country owe the men and women on the land and they realise the problems of rising costs, drought and depressed markets that country people face now.

Most of my own working life to date, after schooling in Southport, has been spent as a professional Army officer in the Infantry Corps. With this background, I would be the last to claim any expertise in politics, but like everything else, it is a process of learning.

Last week I learnt something about politics and about politicians in relation to right of appeal concerning street march permits.

Many ex-servicemen have contributed and are contributing significantly to the various Governments of this country. Some honourable members are probably aware that the first Speaker of this House was an ex-serviceman, a former artillery officer of the British Army, Mr. Gilbert Elliott, the member for Wide Bay. He served in this House for 10 years, which I find an encouraging precedent.

For some 4½ months I have been the unsworn member for Southport, and as such I have had sufficient time to ascertain the general views of my electorate. It is those views which I present here today. That, as I see it, is the job of a member of Parliament. It is not a member's job to force personal or minority views upon his electorate or the State in general.

I turn now to the Governor's Address. May I at the outset offer my congratulations and those of my electorate to the Governor and Lady Ramsay on the way in which they carry out their duties and the prestige they bring to the highest office in this State.

The Governor has outlined the achievements of the Government and its plans for the future. There is no doubt from the November election results that the people of Queensland have again re-affirmed their confidence in this coalition Government, which has been so successful in conducting the affairs of this State since 1957.

It is a vast State with a relatively small population, particularly in those areas west of the coastal strip. The infrastructure and services required to maintain and develop such a large area could well support a population many times our present one. Of course,

a larger population would generate more revenue, but, as it is, a small population has to bear the enormous cost of services and development over a very large area. This point should not be forgotten.

As the Governor has pointed out, the Government takes pride in the fact that Queenslanders pay the lowest per capita taxes of any people in Australia. The Government is rightly proud of its record in the abolition of succession and gift duties, extension of its national parks, the reduction in pay-roll tax, the encouragement given to manufacturing industry through its industrial estates, and the abolition of road permit fees. The list is not endless, but it is substantial and satisfactory.

Some decisions made by the Government in recent months have been controversial to say the least. I refer to such issues as the recent redistribution, street march legislation, franchise agreements with Mr. Iwasaki, the dismissal of the Gold Coast City Council, the Tarong Power Station issue and, most recently, the decision to take over the Uniting Church missions at Mornington Island and Aurukun. There is no doubt that these matters will be well and truly debated in this House during the coming session.

It is up to the Government to show by evidence and argument that the decisions that it has made have been in the best interests of Queenslanders in general. I am sure this is a responsibility the Government fully accepts, as was indicated by several Ministers during the last couple of days. On the matter of these controversial decisions made while Parliament was not sitting, the Government should take note of the rising disquiet in my electorate and, from all reports, from other areas of Queensland as well, that Parliament is being bypassed.

It should be a matter of concern to all members of the coalition parties that many Government supporters are getting tired of the politics of confrontation, arbitrary decision-making, and ridicule of anyone who dares to voice dissent. I hope that Ministers of the Government are aware of this call for moderation by the people of Queensland.

Turning to the future, there is some good news and some which could be better. There is no doubt that the beef industry remains in a depressed state, owing to high costs, drought, over-supply of cattle and depressed markets. Thankfully our other primary industries are in a somewhat better position—surviving if not flourishing—but they still require all the assistance they can get.

Our mining industries have their problems also, with depressed prices for silver, copper, lead and beach-sand minerals. It is hoped that these problems are temporary only.

The decision of the Federal Government with respect to Fraser Island continues to affect investment confidence in the mining industry. I hope that this decision will one day be reversed, and the sooner the better. There is no doubt that we do not have the capital and in some cases, the will, to develop this State, and the confidence of overseas investors is crucial to our development, provided we do not lose control of our own natural resources.

Recently I visited Mt. Isa. It is worth pointing out that Mount Isa Mines, a company employing directly some 6,000 people at the mine site alone, and a company which generates hundreds of millions of dollars in the economy, would not have survived had it not been for the injection of American capital.

High-risk ventures deserve the opportunity of high gain. That is the free-enterprise philosophy which I believe must prevail.

There is no doubt that the brightest star in the future is the coal industry, despite the threat of reduced imports by Japan. Work continues on Gregory and Norwich Park; investigations continue at German Creek and Oaky Creek, and the long-term future looks good for Millmerran coal as being suitable for oil conversion.

Our annual State production of coal has reached a value of some \$650,000,000, five times the value of 10 years ago. In 1960, Queensland produced some 36,000 tonnes of coal. Today the figures is 26,000,000 tonnes.

There is an increasing number of countries interested in taking our coal, both coke and steaming, and the future for the coal industry looks secure, particularly in view of the ever-rising price of oil.

During the coming session, as has been indicated by the Governor and by other announcements, the Government intends to initiate discussion and possibly legislation in a number of areas. The most important of these will be concerning trading hours, right-to-work legislation, amendments to the Local Government Act, retirement at 60 for public servants, and anti-noise and anti-litter laws. I have no doubt that this session will not be dull, whatever else it may be.

Before I turn to say something about my own electorate I would like to mention a few matters of concern which have come to my attention in the months since my election. The first is that it seems to me that the siting of public institutions such as schools and hospitals is carried out in many cases without much thought being given to parking areas, vehicle accessibility or traffic flow. There must be improvements in this area, particularly in the matter of closer

co-ordination between Government departments and between individual departments and local authorities. I have seen examples in my own area where major problems have arisen owing to lack of co-ordination and common sense. The difficulties so needlessly created can easily result in loss of life. An example of this poor planning is the siting of two State schools opposite each other, separated by a busy main road, with almost no provision whatever for off-street parking for staff vehicles and buses or for pick-up areas for parents. Another example is the extension to the Southport Hospital, now nearly completed. This will create a hospital of over 400 beds with an extra 300 staff, but again no provision is made for parking. It is madness to ignore the fact that these days most people own and use a car, and it is incompetent planning not to take this into account.

Another point I would like to make is the lack of interest shown by planners in Government departments and local authorities in the provision of bikeways for movement of people to work and for recreation. Bikeways are proving successful and popular in other areas of Australia and overseas, and I hope that more attention will be given to them in this State. Not only do they reduce traffic congestion but they also make for a healthier community.

There is another matter which I believe is cause for serious concern and that is the lack of equipment and training available to the police to counter increasingly violent crime, drug running and distribution, and white-collar crime. It is evident that the Police Force will become badly handicapped in its fight if its equipment and training is not updated as a matter of urgency. The lack of in-service training in the Police Force should, I believe, be closely investigated, as should the promotion system within the force.

The final point I would like to make is that it must be clear to members of any Government that if they make their decisions without involving members of the back bench they run the risk of not getting back-bench support. No back-bencher likes to feel isolated or in conflict with his own party, and maximum involvement in the decision-making processes through the use of the committee system will ensure that this does not happen.

In the last part of this address I would like to devote some remarks to the electorate of Southport.

I am the 28th member of this House to represent the Southport area. The last liberal to represent the area was the late Bill Heatley, who moved the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply in July 1970. The Southport area has been in several different electorates over the years, and between

1950 and 1960 there was indeed a previous electorate named Southport, which was represented by Eric Gaven.

In representing Southport, I follow Sir Bruce Small, the former member for Surfers Paradise. Although we disagree on many issues, I would like to pay tribute to his energy and promotion of the Gold Coast. Sir Bruce and I have at least one thing in common—that is a desire to see the Gold Coast area prosper and progress.

Southport is one of the older areas of our State, having been settled in the 1840s by timber cutters seeking cedar and pine along the Nerang River. Farmers followed, and the area then developed as a holiday resort.

Today Southport is a growing commercial and industrial centre, the base for an important fishing and prawning industry, and a popular holiday and recreational boating area.

The electorate contains some 25,000 people with some 16,000 astute voters. Between 1971 and 1976 the population increased from 19,000 to over 25,000—an increase of 6,000 or some 30 per cent.

This increase is being maintained by people moving to the area rather than by residents showing excessive zeal for large families. The inflow of people to the area often gives rise to the comment that the Gold Coast is becoming the geriatric centre of Australia. As far as Southport is concerned, this is just not so, as the number of people over 65 years of age in the electorate totals only some 3,000, or approximately 11 per cent of the population.

The Southport area has many advantages and assets. It has beaches, rivers, mountains and a good climate. It has a strong commercial, industrial and tourist base. It has most facilities people want, including a new hospital, but not a casino. I trust this will not be long in coming. Southport has a great future. I believe that the future lies in several directions, all of which to some degree complement one another.

The expansion of light industry will prove important. Already there are over 200 manufacturing industries in Southport and many hundreds of service industries. The land for further expansion is available through a far-sighted Department of Industrial Development and through private-enterprise developments. The skilled labour, transport and service industries already exist. It is a ready-made area for industrial expansion away from the problem of big city living. Any industrialist who wishes to investigate the Southport area will receive every encouragement.

One of Southport's greatest assets is the magnificent stretch of protected water known as The Broadwater. It provides a base for

some 5,000 registered recreational boats, as well as some 145 master fishermen and 32 prawning boats, valued at over \$2,500,000. With the declaration of the 200-mile economic zone, one would expect to see Southport continue to develop as a major fishing and prawning port.

As satisfactory as the present situation is, the potential of The Broadwater has not really yet been touched. The problem area is the unstable and dangerous Southport bar, a fact with which an intrepid boating colleague, my party leader, will agree. In the interests of Southport, the Gold Coast and the State, the Southport bar should be stabilized as soon as possible. A safe bar will draw investment to this area of Queensland on the same scale as has the development of canal estates and the abolition of succession and gift duties. I have every confidence from talks that have been held so far that the State Government recognises the importance of this project and will play its part. As for the future development of The Broadwater, I would hope and expect that private enterprise will recognise the possibilities and make their plans accordingly.

Southport is a pleasant and popular place to live, but that does not mean that the area does not have its problems. It depends to a large degree on the commercial and industrial activity generated by the tourist industry. This industry is battling on in the face of considerable and, in my view, unnecessary difficulties. The resolution of these difficulties lies in both State and Federal spheres, but they must be tackled if this vital industry is to progress. Some of these difficulties are the lack of an investment allowance, lack of a depreciation allowance on income-generating buildings, high internal air fares, and a substandard airport at Coolangatta. These are mostly Federal issues and I trust that they will receive urgent attention. They have been mentioned often enough.

In the State sphere, we must look very closely at the provision of adequate roads and parking, the electrification of the railways, and the adjustment of penalty wage rates in a tourist area. All of these are proving a serious deterrent to the tourist industry on the Gold Coast. The insistence by the unions in enforcing penalty rates in a seven-day-a-week industry is crippling that industry and costing thousands of jobs. I hope that in this matter reason will prevail amongst the unions concerned. A tourist area which is forced to levy surcharges on week-ends and public holidays because of penalty wage rates is labouring under the severest of difficulties. Such is the case on the Gold Coast, as honourable members who visited that area over Easter will have noticed.

The Governor mentioned in his Opening Speech that the Government was to undertake new tourist and promotional activities.

These are badly and urgently needed. All honourable members know that a proposed freeway, planned to carry through-traffic to the west of the existing coastal highway, has been abandoned. This is a great pity. The existing road system cannot cope with traffic at peak holiday times. A tourist area which cannot provide easy road entrances and exits as well as ease of movement within the area itself, is doing nothing but committing suicide.

The traffic situation on the Coast is a major problem which is receiving attention but which needs an urgent solution. The introduction of an electrified railway between Brisbane and the Coast must be considered in any solution to the traffic problems of the area.

The Coast has another major problem in that it lacks technical or tertiary education facilities to any significant degree. The present College of Technical and Further Education is shortly to be expanded, and this is good news. What we must ensure is that courses are provided at this college which are relevant to the area. These courses should be in support of local industry and commerce—in particular, the building, fishing, boating and hospitality industries. One can be excused for wondering why the existing hospitality training is carried out at the Gatton Agricultural College, in an area where tourists are non-existent. Professional local training for members of this important industry is a necessity.

Despite this new College of Technical and Further Education, and the emphasis rightly being placed on technical training, the Gold Coast will still have no tertiary institution capable of taking students up to degree level. This is a sad gap in a community of some 200,000 people, when other areas with less than half that population have their own colleges of advanced education or even their own universities. It is true that some parts of the Gold Coast are relatively nearer to the tertiary education facilities of Brisbane than other towns, but there is little difference between travelling from Coolangatta to Brisbane and travelling from Toowoomba to Brisbane. In any case, the difficulties and expense of constant travelling are preventing many students from undertaking part-time and full-time courses. No large community is complete without an easily accessible tertiary education facility and I hope that this deficiency receives urgent attention from both the Federal and State education authorities. One avenue which should be thoroughly explored is the expansion of the new College of Technical and Further Education into a community college capable of handling students in technical and academic disciplines at all levels. This would remove the need for a separate college of advanced education.

In common with the rest of Australia, Southport has its unemployment problem. As at February 1978, in excess of 1,700 people were registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service. Even allowing for those who do not wish to work and who are holidaying on the coast at Government expense, the figures are too high for any comfort or complacency. The answer lies in the expansion and development of industry, commerce and tourism, a course of action which I have already advocated. We are all looking towards a release of capital funds from the Commonwealth Government to the States to assist in this expansion and development. The release of \$35,000,000 by the State Government through the Queensland Housing Commission in 1977 was a most successful and enterprising operation. I must say, however, that the high unemployment figures in Southport were not helped by the invitation the former mayor of the Gold Coast gave to the unemployed to come to the Gold Coast and spend their unemployed days there. This encouragement is highly irresponsible and works to the great disadvantage of local residents, who are subjected to increased competition for the limited number of jobs available.

The final point I would like to mention concerning my electorate is the recent dismissal of the Gold Coast City Council. I hope during this session the Minister for Local Government will explain more fully the reasons for the dismissal of the council. He has said already that no aldermen were being accused of any impropriety. To this I should like to add that, in my view, most of the aldermen were responsible, hard-working and capable. Despite the excellent job the appointed administrators are doing on the Gold Coast, this interim solution should be terminated as soon as possible and new council elections held.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasise that it is my belief that we have a great future in this State despite current and, no doubt, future difficulties. None of these should prove insurmountable, provided we actively encourage free enterprise and make sure that individuals have everything to gain by hard work and initiative. Conversely, there should be no encouragement to anyone to accept unemployment benefits if work is available. Such is not the case at the moment. We all know of too many cases where people have every intention of continuing to seek unemployment benefits for as long as possible and making every attempt to avoid work.

This State was not built by people looking for hand-outs from Governments, and this recent tendency should be strongly resisted. On the other hand, no-one is underestimating the seriousness of the genuine unemployment situation, and this Government will be doing all in its power to provide jobs for those seeking them.

The most important thing that any Government can do in this regard is provide for a secure and stable environment in which free enterprise can flourish and in which new ideas and personal freedom are encouraged. I would hope and expect that this Government would provide such an environment.

Mr. BOOTH (Warwick) (3.21 p.m.): It is my privilege to second the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply that was moved so capably by the honourable member for Southport.

I congratulate His Excellency on the energy he has displayed in visiting various parts of Queensland to try to become au fait with the problems of Queensland and Queenslanders. The fact that His Excellency has seen fit to visit so many centres in Queensland during the short time that he has been in office augurs well for a successful term as Governor of Queensland.

I should like to thank the Premier and the Government for the invitation to second this motion. I consider it to be an honour and I shall certainly do so to the best of my ability.

Before I proceed further, I should like to thank my friend and your colleague, Mr. David Cory, who represented the electorate of Warwick, for the amount of dedication and application that he displayed during the time that he represented that electorate. Wherever David went, he always exhibited the hallmarks of a gentleman. I extend to him and his wife my very good wishes.

To the electors of Warwick I say that I am fully conscious of my responsibilities. I have lived a lifetime in the Warwick district with the exception—if it can be called an exception—of four years spent with the A.I.F. I consider it a privilege to represent Warwick. Since my election I have been given the utmost co-operation by everyone concerned. I certainly will be endeavouring to represent all sections in that electorate.

Like many other districts, Warwick is a wonderful place to live. A person who traversed the full length and breadth of this fair State would find it difficult to select a more pleasant place to live. It is a city with all modern amenities and facilities for sport and recreation. It is a splendid city to live in. I will even go so far as to say it has wonderful climatic conditions.

However, we do have some problems. One of our main problems is that, like many other country electorates, Warwick is dependent on primary industry to give it the necessary thrust to generate prosperity.

It is my intention to refer to and comment on the Governor's Opening Speech, make some references to country electorates with problems similar to those in my own electorate, try to explain some of those difficulties, endeavour to highlight some local issues, ask for support in some areas and endeavour to make some general comments which I think might be of benefit to Queensland.

Throughout my speech, I shall try to develop a theme to highlight what I think is the major difficulty in most of our country electorates. It is the lack of a proper margin in many sections of primary industry. At the moment many sections—I do not say all—are without a necessary profit margin and are finding themselves in a very difficult situation. This is causing untold hardship in country areas and I believe it is adversely affecting the economy of this State and nation.

I return now to the Governor's Opening Speech. It was pleasing to note that he referred to drought, which I believe has to a great extent aggravated the difficulties in country areas. However, there are difficulties in such areas even without drought. It would perhaps be safe to say that in some areas that have been badly hit by continuing drought—mine is one of them—morale is down to zero. But country people are resilient and if they get help and support they will come back.

I shall touch on one or two matters mentioned by the honourable member for Southport, although I shall not transgress by indulging in repetition of his speech. I want to refer first to the Government's performance in maintaining the lowest taxation of all Australian States. I, too, stress what the honourable member for Southport said about the abolition of succession and gift duties. This was real progress. It has helped many families, and will help many more in the future, to maintain family properties and businesses that would have been lost if the amount of tax formerly levied had to be paid.

I should like to make special mention of road permit fees because I am going to ask for greater help for decentralisation. I believe that the elimination of road permit fees was one of the most positive moves made by the Government during the last session.

I also wish to refer to that part of His Excellency's Opening Speech in which he referred to the use of coal to manufacture synthetic fuels as well as to generate electric power. I, like several other members, was bitterly disappointed when the Millmerran deposits were overlooked when the site of the new powerhouse was decided, and one plea I make is that, if there is a possibility of producing synthetic fuel from the coal at Millmerran, the Government give all possible support to attempts to get such a scheme off the ground.

It was also pleasing to note that expansion of the generation of electricity throughout the State was to be maintained. Queensland must have an increasing ability to generate electric power if expansion and development are to continue. The Government is fully aware of this necessity if Queensland is to continue to develop.

I turn now to apprenticeship, which was another matter mentioned by His Excellency. If there are to be sufficient skilled tradesmen in the future, it is necessary to improve apprenticeship facilities. The setting up of an industrial training commission to promote and improve apprenticeship education and the restructuring of the whole situation will certainly be in the best interests of Queensland and possibly of this fair nation.

I should like to comment, too, on the State Emergency Service. This service is a bit like a fire hose—it is not wanted until the day there is a fire. But we need a State Emergency Service and the setting up of such an organisation, with the ability to cope with disastrous situations, irrespective of their cause, will be of great benefit to Queensland. The service will have the benefit of past experience and all in all this will be a great step forward.

I should now like to refer to tourism. I think the honourable member for Southport spoke of it from the point of view of coastal areas. I propose to speak about tourism in inland areas. The inland areas of Queensland have in the past been able to contribute greatly to tourism. Much capital has been spent on tourist facilities in inland areas and they have the ability to cope with many more visitors. Tourist resorts in inland areas are, I believe, operating quite satisfactorily at the present time but they do need greater support. I was therefore pleased to note that reference was made to the establishment of greater liaison between the private and public sectors.

I should now like to say something about the reintroduced national water resources programme. It is to be introduced, I understand, in 1978-79 and phased in over the next five years. In my electorate we are looking forward to the second stage of the Leslie Dam project. We feel that something may be accomplished with this new Federal policy. I now turn to water allocation rights in that area. In the past some people situated close to the Leslie Dam in the Rosenthal Shire have missed out on water allocations, but we have heard that great store is being placed on the idea that the second stage of the Leslie Dam is going to be used to recharge the aquifer in a certain area.

I say to the responsible Minister that if the water level in the aquifer in any area is going down, there is only one reason for it, and that is that it is being over-used. If this is happening it is up to the Minister's officers to see that it does not happen. I see no reason why people without a water allocation should be denied that right simply to give a greater and grander allocation to those who already have one. I certainly hope that if we proceed to the second stage of the Leslie Dam in the coming years we will get water for those people who missed out in the first instance, and I repeat that many of these people are very close to the dam.

I would like to make an appeal for a feasibility study into the damming of some other streams in my electorate such as Swan Creek and Emu Creek in the Glengallan Shire and Thanos Creek and Canal Creek in the Rosenthal Shire. If it is possible to dam these streams, not a great deal of arable land will be spoilt. I believe that it is in the interests of this State to impound every gallon of water that we can if we are going to build it into a greater and grander State in the years to come.

I would now like to turn to an entirely different subject, and that is the Queensland Cultural Centre. It is good to see that planning is proceeding in accordance with Government policy, which I believe is in line with what most Queenslanders want. They believe that they should be given the opportunity to take part in and enjoy the arts. I think the centre will be a great success and I am looking forward to seeing many of our young people enjoy it.

Perhaps if I had had my priorities right I should have started with the subject upon which I am about to embark, and that is road safety. If we are going to get greater safety on the roads, we have to update our training and upgrade our drivers. The suggestion that we will upgrade driving standards by starting with the further training of professional drivers and instructors is, I think, a step in the right direction. If this is done we will certainly arrive at the stage where we will have a better standard of driving, which should result in fewer road casualties.

During the course of this session Parliament is to be asked to consider the appointment of a select committee on education. As has been said, it will be the first major review in years and will also enable those armchair critics, who seem to be able to cut down the Government every time it makes a move on education, to make submissions or otherwise buy into the debate. I believe the decision to appoint such a committee is a wise one. It will allow people to put forward suggestions which have not been made before. I look forward to the sittings of this committee because I believe it will make a definite contribution to education in this State in years to come.

I am interested, too, in legal aid, because in the short time since my election to this House I have found that many people are confused about it. People have difficulty in ascertaining exactly where they can get legal aid, and I think the setting up of an independent legal aid commission, which will try to bring all the legal aid agencies under the control of a single agency, will be of great benefit in the future.

Having dealt with the Governor's Speech, I would now like to take a critical look at the country areas. Many primary industries are now facing declining incomes. Some of them have reached the crisis stage. This

has been brought about by quite a few things, some of which are perhaps outside our control, but the escalation of costs has had by far the greatest effect. Whilst we probably cannot escape this escalation, we should at least endeavour to have it considered when we are trying to help primary industries. It has eroded profit margins and caused many problems in country towns and cities and will, I am afraid, continue to cause problems in my electorate. It has been the cause of diminishing populations in country cities and shires, and through a chain reaction causes increases in local government service charges. It is something that we might find even more difficult to control in the future.

The chain reaction carries right through to metropolitan areas and, as is happening now, with primary industries in the doldrums, confidence declines in the metropolitan area and in country cities and towns, secondary industry feels the stress and unemployment increases. Like the honourable member for Southport, I am concerned about the unemployment situation. We must do all in our power to alleviate this.

To try to build a little on what I am endeavouring to put forward in respect of the drop in the margin of profit in primary industry, I say that I support the Government completely in the field of orderly marketing. I believe that the Government's policies on orderly marketing have been correct. I believe orderly marketing has made a contribution to Queensland, and perhaps a contribution to Australia, too, because many of those schemes have been copied. I also believe that we have to go much further in the field of orderly marketing. Wherever possible we have to urge for a system of floor pricing. Somebody is going to say that I am advocating subsidies for primary industries in trouble. They would be quite right. I see nothing wrong with subsidising a primary industry in trouble if we believe Queensland needs it as a viable industry.

Building on that a little further, I would say that many of our primary industries—and I suppose this would apply to some of our secondary industries, too—got off the ground under what is known as the law of supply and demand. It is difficult to be so sure that primary industry or, indeed, secondary industry, can live entirely on the law of supply and demand. Most wages and salaries are either set or at least influenced by court determinations. I am not contesting the common sense of that. I am prepared to accept that court determinations probably provide the best way to assess wages and salaries. I am prepared to go along with that. All I am suggesting is that we must endeavour to bring primary industry within the same ambit so that primary industry prices are set in such a manner that the return to the man on the land comes under much the same system.

I do not think anyone would suggest that professional men, particularly those in the medical profession, set their fees according to the law of supply and demand. Most professional men have a method or system of getting their fees set. I think the State should advocate that we go along with floor pricing wherever possible. After all, secondary industry is protected by tariff barriers. I am not urging that tariff barriers be torn down. All I am advocating is that we try to establish a system that will allow primary industry a return based on the Australian economy—a return based on the average wage of an Australian—to give those engaged in primary industry virtually the same crack of the whip.

I know that funding for floor pricing will have to be a Federal matter. At least we should urge for it on all occasions. I am going right back into history now. I know that history is not infallible but I do not believe that history can be ignored. Most successful nations over the years have endeavoured to look after all sections of society, including the farming and grazing communities. Unless we can do something like this to try to mount a rescue operation for the farming and grazing communities, or the primary-producing community, I can see difficulties ahead. We must not allow those sections to remain depressed.

We must try to change the course this country is taking and retain some of our young people in the rural sector. The only way to do this is to ensure that rewards for the work-force in the rural sector are in line with those for the work-force in other sectors. If we can do this, we will get increasing demand that will help both rural and urban society.

The media often play off city against country. They make hysterical statements against support for primary industry. These statements are very often made by uninformed people. However, nations have proved it possible to look after all sections of society—rural and urban. The rural and urban dweller can prosper together. In short, I suggest that we need each other.

Having made general comments I would now like to turn to the electorate I am proud to represent. The population in my electorate is spread equally between city and country towns. It has light industries and service industries. It is reasonably successful, but it is not generating enough development to employ our young people. If I were asked to give priority to the chief problem we have in my electorate, I would turn to the lack of job opportunities. Efforts have been made to overcome this problem. The setting up of an industrial estate is probably one of the major steps that have been taken to try to get some new pioneer industries into the area. The industrial estate has been set up largely

by Government funding and this is appreciated by the people of Warwick. In addition the Government has lent to it all the expertise and know-how at its disposal to try to get it off the ground. It has progressed reasonably well, but if it is to be got going properly and maintained as a viable industrial estate, it will need all the support it can get.

Most people support decentralisation in principle. But we must do more than merely pay it lip-service. We require greater incentives, and those that I am looking to are incentives in freights and the tailoring of rents over the developing years. The Commonwealth, too, should be involved. We would achieve decentralisation if the Commonwealth became really involved. The involvement that we want lies in the area of taxation incentives at least in the initial years. If we are to achieve true decentralisation and if we are to make country industrial estates work, we need to make positive commitments.

I can assure anyone who is interested in setting up an industry in Warwick that the city offers excellent facilities. I can guarantee full co-operation from the Warwick City Council. I think it has been the experience of most businesses that have been set up on the industrial estate that they can recruit a stable labour force. The city promises a suitable site and venue as well as freedom from the rate race. It can offer all the facilities of a modern city and at the same time a pleasant society.

I want to go back to the primary-industry side of my electorate. Primary industry is of major importance. Over a number of years I have been associated with the dairying industry in Queensland and particularly in my own electorate. Although it has contracted to some extent, it is still a good industry with excellent prospects. I believe it will continue to prosper.

I want to comment now on the new milk Act. In the near future a Queensland Milk Board will be set up. The motivation behind the establishment of the board is the spreading across all producers of the benefits flowing from market milk. I commend the Minister for Primary Industries for trying to do that. I would, however, sound a note of warning. If the price of negotiability is too high, we might find it difficult to get the scheme off the ground. The Minister should maintain a reasonable figure. If he does so, the scheme will proceed.

I turn now to the beef industry, which is the most troubled one in the State. Following the beef crash of four years ago, we expected a return to normal trading within a reasonable time. I am sure most people expected that; I certainly did. However, prices have remained very unstable. They are far too low to keep the beef producers

in business and the industry has had a series of ups and downs, which certainly are not in the best interests of the industry or anyone engaged in it. It is in this type of situation that the Federal Government could help with a floor-price scheme. With such a scheme the industry might be able to make some headway.

Turning to grain, which is also produced in the electorate—it has been claimed by some people that the grain industry is the most buoyant industry in Queensland. It, however, is the one that has been hit most severely by inflation. A comparison between the present-day cost of a combine harvester or tractor and the cost five years ago would show an increase in cost of approximately 300 per cent. That increase simply cannot be tied to the slender increases in the price of the product.

Severe increases have also occurred in the cost of fuel and fertiliser. The costs have escalated rapidly and this has imposed great stress on the grain industry. My electorate can produce wheat, barley, sorghum, maize and oil seed. The electorate is diversified to a very great extent in that it also has dairying and wool production. Although the electorate faces some difficulties, at least it has the advantage of being able to diversify.

I have spoken on the problems facing primary industry and I now turn to interest rates. They are far too high. I have never been able to understand the logic behind the reasoning that high interest rates keep inflation in check or combat it. I can see nothing to suggest that that is right. When an enterprise is set up by an individual or a company, one of the major import costs is the servicing of the capital; one of the major import costs is interest, which must be added to the end cost of the product. I suggest that we in Queensland should be advocating at all times a reduction in interest rates as soon as possible. I do not believe that a minor reduction will accomplish much. We want a major reduction in interest rates at the earliest possible date. If we can get a reduction in interest rates, it will stimulate business in both the primary and secondary sectors, and benefit all sections of the community.

Drought is part of Queensland's weather pattern. The only way to combat drought is to have a margin of profit in the rural industries that allows the buildup of sufficient reserves to overcome a drought situation. It is imperative that we try to achieve this goal. I shall not take anything from the Government's efforts to alleviate problems and distress among farmers who were particularly hard hit. The Government did the right thing and moved to the best of its ability. I should like the appropriate Minister to make some effort to set up a standing committee or some such body to monitor drought situations to let the Government move more quickly when a drought starts

to develop. It is one thing to help somebody who is destitute because of drought—if he has to go elsewhere to work, that helps him—but it would be grand if we could help people before they become destitute and thus keep them as viable producers. That would benefit Queensland and all concerned.

Perhaps if I had my priorities right I would have started my speech with the subject of soil conservation. This is a long-term problem. Soil conservation will help Queensland when we are long gone. If we can get something done about it, posterity will be helped. The allowance of \$1,500 in declared hazard areas has helped and I am not trying to knock it; but it is a long way from being sufficient.

One area in which more help must be provided relates to works of general benefit. It is a little difficult to explain what I mean by "works of general benefit", but if a farmer is called on to do something about a waterway on his property he may have to service a waterway that goes through nine, 10 or a dozen farms before reaching him. It is extremely unfair that he should have to set up this waterway in the first instance with his own capital and maintain it, perhaps at considerable cost. I commend to the Minister the provision of much more help for works of general benefit. If we do not take action, soil conservation work could well bog down. The programme is well under way, but additional officers are needed to keep it working to full capacity. Nothing is more frustrating to a farmer who decides to attend to the banks of a waterway than having to wait many months for an officer of the department to survey the area. If we can afford it we should be trying to get additional officers in the hazard areas to give service to the farmers at the earliest opportunity. The future of agriculture in this State, particularly in the hard-hit areas—and my electorate is one of them—relies largely on what we can do in the soil conservation field. If we are successful, posterity will bless us.

The Hermitage Research Station in my electorate has an excellent reputation. It has been engaged on varietal grain development and in some other avenues. It is an excellent performer but it has been deficient in one area, that is, in the search for a dry-land pasture. While I have been critical in the past of the fact that we have not been able to do something about a dry-land pasture in the inland areas, the position is much more desperate now. It is essential that we do something in this field. It has become a pressing problem. The reason for this is that since the arrival of the lucerne aphid, the areas west of the range could be left with no dry-land pasture and lucerne being non-existent there. Up till now, with the help of officers of the D.P.I. and by farmers consciously doing their best, we have been able to keep the lucerne aphid somewhat in check. But it is quite a menace

and one that could cause us a great deal of trouble in the future. Millions of dollars of damage would be done in Queensland if the lucerne plant were wiped out. I believe that the Hermitage Research Station should be moving in two directions. It should try to develop a dry-land pasture and increase research into the lucerne aphid.

I have nothing but admiration for people who try to solve problems by starting something new. Consequently, I am not trying to knock the Minister who is attempting to set up a single pest authority. However, I do say this: let us not set up a single pest authority by pulling down something we already have. In my area we have an excellently controlled rabbit board. I know that it is not suggested that it be taken under the wing of a single pest authority, but one never knows. I say to the Minister here and now, "Hands off the rabbit board." The fences under its control are in excellent condition. The board has done a magnificent job for Queensland. I have lived in the Warwick electorate for 40 years and I have yet to see a live rabbit. That is how effective the fence is.

One bit of help we would like with that fence is for it to be topped with 2 ft. of netting to keep out the dogs, which presently come in from New South Wales. I am talking about the dingo menace. The Dalveen Dingo Association has been able to put a topping of 2 ft. of netting on 15 or 16 miles of fence. That was purely self-help. They did it themselves. However, 18 miles of fence-topping still has to be accomplished. The amount involved is substantial but not out of all proportion. About \$33,000 is wanted, and that expenditure would result in immense benefit to the people of my area. It would bring under protection at least 100,000 sheep.

I mention New South Wales because it has outlawed the use of "1080" in its national park areas. "1080" has done a wonderful job and can continue to do so; but if the dogs breed in New South Wales the only way to keep them out is with a fence. Therefore, I urge the Minister to endeavour to put this 2 ft. of topping on the remaining part of the fence. If he inspected the fence he would realise that the rabbit board maintains it well. It is patrolled each day. If we put 2 ft. of topping on it, we will ensure that it will remain as an excellent fence.

There is one other point I wish to raise, and I want to tie it in with what I said about the profit margin in primary industry. One of the greatest problems faced by primary industry today is the inability of the young person who wants to get on the land to secure adequate finance. Young people have to get long-term loans. In the past the trading banks have probably done an excellent job, but at the present time they are inclined to offer loans with a tenure of either five years or seven years. It is completely impossible for people in primary production

to get off the ground with a loan of that tenure. The Agricultural Bank, too, has been involved in long-term finance. However, it appears to be bogged down through lack of funding. In an effort to protect itself because of that lack of funding, it has brought in what I term substantial and inflexible rules. It is not particularly interested in new clients. It may occasionally take a new client, but it is not particularly interested. It has endeavoured to make rules fairly inflexible to keep away the young person who is seeking finance.

Therefore, if we are to be in the position of offering long-term loans, this Government should be giving the matter some thought and carrying out feasibility studies into the setting up of a State bank. I see no reason why we should not have in Queensland a State bank that is able to tailor its loans so that they are granted over a longer term—tailor loans to suit the requirements of the Queensland environment. After all, some banks are only places to lock money up in. That is not good enough. We want to get it working. I believe that the chief way to get it working is to give some thought to the establishment of a State bank with full banking facilities—not one that can lend only in certain avenues. Give it full banking facilities and it will be able to help primary producers and small businessmen with long-term loans. I commend the idea of a State bank.

Before I conclude, I make one more plea for a better deal for those primary producers who are now in trouble. The Rural Reconstruction Board has been used to carry out rescue operations. I believe that it has been used wisely, but it is unable to carry out a rescue operation that I think will be able to stand up to the problems that will come to us in the next 12 months or two years. I believe that we will have the greatest financial problems that primary industry has every faced in this State. I believe that the Rural Reconstruction Board will help where it can but it has its limitations. This Government will have to be tolerant and will have to continually monitor the situation. I believe that we should do just that. I might be wrong. We might not have financial trouble among the primary industry people in the coming year. I find myself in the invidious position of believing that we will have that trouble. I think I will be right. I hope I am wrong.

Debate, on motion of Mr. Burns, adjourned.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

Hon. T. G. NEWBERY (Mirani—Leader of the House): I move—

"That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 11 a.m. on Tuesday, 4 April 1978."

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 3.58 p.m.