

Queensland



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Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER 1967

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Mr. SPEAKER (Hon. D. E. Nicholson, Murrumba) read prayers and took the chair at 11 a.m.

QUESTIONS

FREE RAIL PASSES TO PENSIONERS

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to the usual spate of articles in Queensland's provincial and country Press on the eve of a Federal election wherein Federal Parliamentarians condescend to explain the provisions of the Social Services Act as they apply to pensioners? If so, has he noticed that all make reference to rail fare concessions to pensioners, with the inference that these are granted by the Federal Government?

(2) Will he take appropriate steps to correct this gross misrepresentation, which causes confusion to pensioners who desire to avail themselves of this valuable concession?

(3) For the last twelve months for which figures are readily available, how many free rail passes were issued to pensioners and what was the total value of this concession?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) "If the Honourable Member will let me have copies of the articles, to which he refers, I shall be pleased to have them examined."

(3) "For the financial year 1966-67, it is estimated that of 26,853 free rail requisitions, which were issued by the State Department of Labour and Tourism, 26,500 were on account of pensioners. The full fare value paid by this Department to the Railway Department during that financial year, in relation to free rail passes, was \$339,815."

DIRECTORS AND SHAREHOLDERS, OASIS PTY. LTD.

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

(1) When the Company, Oasis Pty. Ltd. was formed and acquired the property known as "The Oasis", who were the directors and shareholders listed?

(2) Has there been any change in the composition of the directors and shareholders since that time? If so, at what date?

Answers:—

(1) "The company Oasis Pty. Ltd. was incorporated and registered in Queensland on February 4, 1966. The subscribers to

the Memorandum and Articles of Association were Peter Fleming, Junior, 461 Kessells Road, Sunnybank, Exporter and Grazer and Lewis John Pottinger, 'The Oasis', Station Road, Sunnybank, Tourist Garden Proprietor. The first object clause of the Memorandum of Association reads—"To acquire and take over as a going concern the business now carried on at Sunnybank Brisbane in the State of Queensland under the style of 'The Oasis' and all or any of the assets of the proprietors of that business in connection therewith." On the same day, February 4, 1966, a Notice of Cessation of the business name 'The Oasis' was lodged in the Companies Office. The proprietors of the business name were Lewis John Pottinger and Norman Harold Pottinger of 'The Oasis', Station Road, Sunnybank. A Return of Directors, Managers and Secretaries was lodged on March 4, 1966, showing that the following persons were appointed on February 7, 1966:— Directors: Lewis John Pottinger, Turton Street, Sunnybank; Kevin Stanley White, 42 Vista Avenue, Wellers Hill; Peter Fleming, 461 Kessells Road, Sunnybank; Raymond Theodore Kleinschmidt, Coronation Drive, Milton; Henry Joseph Wynn, 803 Ipswich Road Yeerongpilly. Manager: Lewis John Pottinger, Turton Street, Sunnybank. Secretary: Kevin Stanley White, 42 Vista Avenue, Wellers Hill. A Return of Allotments made on February 4, 1966, was lodged on March 4, 1966, showing the following allotments:— Lewis John Pottinger, Turton Street, Sunnybank, 19,999 shares (1 subscribers share); Kevin Stanley White, 42 Vista Avenue, Wellers Hill, 20,000 shares; Raymond Theodore Kleinschmidt, Coronation Drive, Milton, 10,000 shares; Kenneth Warren Brown, Cremorne Road, Kedron, 10,000 shares; William Sinclair Dewar, care of 18 Edinburgh Castle Road, Kedron, 10,000 shares; Tony Harold and Dorothy Holmshaw, Paradise Island, Surfers Paradise, 2,000 shares; Peter Fleming, Junior, 461 Kessells Road, Sunnybank, 9,999 shares (1 subscriber's share); Henry Joseph Wynn, 803 Ipswich Road, Yeerongpilly, 10,000 shares; H. J. Lee & Son (Holdings) Pty. Ltd., 10 Hubert Street, Woollongabba, 20,000 shares."

(2) "There has been no change in the directors, manager or secretary of the company filed since that date. A further Return of Allotment of Shares made on July 24, 1967, was lodged on August 11, 1967, recording the following particulars:— Henry Joseph Wynn, 803 Ipswich Road, Yeerongpilly, 4,000 shares; Kleinschmidt Enterprises Pty. Ltd., 4,000 shares. The Annual Return of the company made up to July 24, 1967, shows the present shareholding as follows:—Lewis John Pottinger, Turton Street, Sunnybank, 20,000 shares; Kevin Stanley White, 42 Vista Avenue,

Wellers Hill, 20,000 shares; Kleinschmidt Enterprises Pty. Ltd., Bura Street, Indooroopilly, 15,000 shares; Kenneth Warren Brown, Cremorne Road, Kedron, 10,000 shares; William Sinclair Dewar, care of 18 Edinburgh Castle Road, Kedron, 10,000 shares; Peter Fleming, 461 Kessells Road, Sunnybank, 10,000 shares; Henry Joseph Wynn, 803 Ipswich Road, Yeerongpilly, 15,000 shares; Teedee Holdings Pty. Ltd., 33-35 Herschell Street, Brisbane, 20,000 shares. This information has been obtained by me from the records of the Registrar of Companies. These records may be searched by any member of the public on payment of the prescribed fee."

STAFF, TOWNSVILLE RAILWAY GOODS
SHED

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

(1) Have certain recommendations been made in regard to the clerical and other staff at the Townsville Railway Goods Shed and does this involve the reduction of such staff?

(2) Will he make the report available to the interested unions for study before adopting any recommendations?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "The report is still being considered and as it is purely departmental will not be made public."

ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION,
TOOWOOMBA OPPORTUNITY
SCHOOL

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

When is it anticipated that funds will be made available for the new wing at the Toowoomba Opportunity School?

Answer:—

"It is anticipated that the plans and estimate of cost for this proposed additional accommodation will be available at an early date. Consideration will then be given to allocating the necessary funds to permit this work to proceed."

NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL, SOUTH
TOOWOOMBA

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

(1) What is the present position concerning the provision of a new primary school in South Toowoomba?

(2) Has a survey been made of potential enrolments in the area which would be served by a new school, and, if so, what did the survey indicate?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "The Regional Director of Education recently conducted an investigation which disclosed the need to acquire a site for a future primary school to serve residential development to the south and south-west of Rangeville. Arrangements are being made for a technical report to be submitted on the suitability for school purposes of the site suggested."

MINING REGISTRAR, GEORGETOWN

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

(1) In view of the Answer to my Question on August 31 by the Minister for Justice that it was not intended to close the Georgetown Court House, will he indicate if the Mining Registrar is to be retained there?

(2) If he is not, will he consider the importance of the work of that Mining Registrar, the size of the district served and the convenience of the district residents, and have him retained?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "Following an extensive survey and analysis by the Public Service Commissioner's Department of the throughput of work performed by the Mining Registrar at Georgetown, it has been approved on the recommendation of the Public Service Commissioner that Georgetown be discontinued as a Civil Office of a Mining Registrar and that the necessary duties be undertaken by officers of the Police Department."

BURNING OF LOG TIMBER IN MILL
YARDS

Mr. Wallis-Smith, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Local Government,—

(1) Is he aware that log timber is being burnt in mill yards due to such causes as borer infestation and over supply of species not readily marketable?

(2) Will he investigate this waste of timber and indicate the amount destroyed and the location of such timber?

(3) Is this destruction authorised and has he considered any remedy for this serious loss?

Answers:—

(1) "No."

(2 and 3) "The matter will be investigated, provided the Honourable Member furnishes me with details of the mill yards involved."

TOBACCO QUOTA APPEALS

Mr. Wallis-Smith, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Primary Industries,—

- (1) How many appeals were lodged for hearing by the Tobacco Appeal Tribunal in 1966-67?
- (2) How many appeals were dismissed?
- (3) How many growers received increased quotas?
- (4) How many received a reduction in their quota?
- (5) What was the cost of the Tribunal for the year 1966-67?

Answers:—

- (1) "345 appeals were lodged by the closing date for initial hearings on August 31, 1967.
- (2) "Fifteen appeals were withdrawn before hearing, 10 were dismissed as frivolous or vexatious and in a further 268 cases the quotas were not changed."
- (3) "Forty-seven were increased and 5 others were granted quotas for the first time."
- (4) "None."
- (5) "Accounts for the Tribunal are maintained by The Tobacco Leaf Marketing Board on a calendar year basis and costs for the financial year 1966-67 are not yet available to me."

TEACHING SERVICE

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

- (1) As university lecturers do not have to ask for permission to express views on education and other matters, why are teachers in the Queensland State Service required to do so?
- (2) Is the rule that teachers must get permission before making public statements about education in the Department enforced in other States in Australia or in any other parts of the world and, if so, will he name them?
- (3) As many teachers in order to supplement their meagre incomes are working at other jobs such as the race-course, coaching and labouring, does he intend to take any action against them for violating Public Service Regulations?
- (4) Why were there plain clothes police at Brisbane Airport on the day that a large party of school teachers left to take up positions in Canada?
- (5) Did he instruct the plain clothes police to be in attendance?

(6) Does Queensland advertise for teachers overseas as do Canada and other Australian States and, if not, why not?

(7) When did he last address a large body of teachers other than head masters?

(8) Is he prepared to address an organised meeting of teachers on their problems?

(9) Has he, during the last twelve months, refused to hear deputations from groups of teachers who wished to inform him of their grievances?

Answers:—

(1) "The Honourable Member is referred to the Answer given on August 22 to the Question asked by the Honourable Member for Maryborough."

(2) "In other Australian States, teachers, in common with other Public Servants, are required to refrain from publicly commenting upon the administration of State Departments."

(3) "I have no knowledge of teachers undertaking additional remunerative work without the approval of the Public Service Commissioner, nor do I accept the Honourable Member's assertion that teachers receive meagre incomes."

(4) "In view of Press announcements to the effect that a demonstration was to take place at the Brisbane Airport on the occasion of the recent departure of some teachers for Canada, police were posted at the Airport to ensure that the rights of ordinary citizens were not infringed as a result of such a demonstration. This is normal procedure."

(5) "No."

(6) "I refer the Honourable Member to my reply on August 23 to the Question asked by the Honourable Member for Baroona."

(7) "I addressed more than 600 teachers at an inservice course on Friday, December 16 last."

(8 and 9) "The Queensland Teachers' Union brings teachers' problems to me in deputations from time to time. I consider the duly-elected officers of the union to be the official spokesmen for teachers throughout the State. No request for a deputation from the union to meet me has ever been refused."

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL

Mr. Davies for **Mr. Bennett**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Health,—

- (1) What results have been achieved by the Director of the State Air Pollution Council since his appointment?

(2) Has the smog menace in Brisbane increased or decreased since his appointment?

(3) What reports, if any, have been obtained from the Director?

(4) What staff has been added to the Director's office since his appointment?

(5) Does the Director consider his staff and equipment adequate for the task?

(6) What immediate action does he intend to take to curb the ever-increasing smog nuisance in Brisbane?

Answers:—

(1) "The first step in air pollution control is to assess the problems associated with this. The activities of the Director have been to familiarise himself with these, both present and anticipated in the future. He has acted as consultant to industry on air pollution control methods and the best means to be adopted to achieve control. Regulations under the Clean Air Act have been drafted and are now with the Solicitor-General. The Director has also been occupied in organising the Division of Air Pollution Control. He has met groups aggrieved by air pollution and the position has been explained to them. Visits have been made to country towns to advise industry on air pollution prevention. He has also given lectures to interested groups in the community on the Clean Air Act and its implications."

(2) "I am advised by the Director that a clear Answer cannot be given to this Question as a two year period is much too short a time in which to draw definite conclusions."

(3) "The Director has reported on a number of occasions to the Air Pollution Council. Special reference may be made to the 'Memorandum on the Siting of Scheduled Industry in relation to Air Pollution Control'. This has been circulated in an abridged form to local authorities with secondary industries."

(4) "A clerk-typist and an engineer have been appointed but the latter because of personal reasons, has not taken up duty. He is expected to arrive in Queensland in the near future."

(5) "No, not at the present time. The arrival of the engineer and the appointment of scientific staff following the completion of the premises at the corner of Adelaide and Macrossan Street will go far, however, to amend the situation. The conversion of these premises is well advanced although no firm date for completion has been received by the Division."

(6) "I am advised that smog problems do not lend themselves to anything which could be reasonably described as 'immediate action'. Improvement will only be

secured after thorough preparation and the introduction of sound measures (such as the Clean Air Regulations) setting standards which industry will be expected gradually to attain. It should be remembered that scheduled industries which operated prior to the proclamation of the Act have a period of seven years in which to convert existing plant. Considerable sums of money are often involved, and ill-conceived action could injure industrial growth in Queensland."

COMMISSIONER OF POLICE

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

(1) Did the Commissioner of Police recently castigate a large number of the top commissioned officers of the Queensland Police Force? If so, what was the purpose and for what reason was this action taken?

(2) Has this resulted in unrest and dissatisfaction within the Queensland Police Force?

(3) At this gathering did the Commissioner refer to himself as "Mr. Big"?

(4) Did three squad cars recently rush out to the Commissioner's home following a bomb scare and, if so, what were the full circumstances and why was the public not informed?

(5) At this "pep talk" given by the Commissioner was Inspector Raetz, Chief of the C.I.B., taken to task and, if so, for what reason?

(6) Was Inspector Holliday, Valley Police Station, also challenged and accused at the "pep talk" and, if so, for what reason?

Answers:—

(1) "No."

(2) "See Answer to (1)."

(3) "No."

(4) "Two patrol cars went to the Commissioner's home just prior to midnight on March 25, 1967, following receipt at the Criminal Investigation Branch, Brisbane, of an anonymous telephone call to the effect that a bomb would be placed under the Commissioner's home at midnight that night. Inquiries indicated that the matter was quite obviously a hoax, and consequently it was classified as such and wireless patrols resumed normal activities. In line with the action taken in relation to many other anonymous calls received by the Police Department, the matter was dismissed without recourse to any publicity, and police proceeded to carry out their normal functions of patrolling and investigating genuine complaints."

(5 and 6) "See Answer to (1)."

BURDEKIN RIVER IRRIGATION, HYDRO-ELECTRIC AND FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECT

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

In view of the resolution carried unanimously at a meeting of representatives of numerous public bodies from Proserpine in the south to Ingham in the north and west to Charters Towers, held in Ayr and submitted to him by the Ayr Shire Council, is it his intention to approach the Prime Minister with a request that he make available to the State appropriate officers of the Snowy Mountains Authority and the Federal Bureau of Agricultural Economics to make a complete reappraisal of the Burdekin River Irrigation, Hydro-electric and Flood Mitigation Project and, if not, why not?

Answer:—

"I am considering an approach to the Right Honourable the Prime Minister seeking a reappraisal of the Burdekin River Project by the Commonwealth."

RELIEF OF PERSONAL DISTRESS,
BRISBANE FLOODS

Mr. Davies for Mr. Lloyd, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

(1) With reference to relief of personal distress and hardship as a result of floods in Brisbane in June last, what is the present estimated cost of relief and how is this cost to be apportioned on a Commonwealth/State level?

(2) Are inner-spring and rubber mattresses, carpeting, electric frypans, television and wireless sets classified as luxury items and thus not allowable?

(3) Are damage to items which are part of rented accommodation and damage to rented houses and their fences not allowable?

(4) When assessing non-allowable items, was any consideration given to hardship which might be caused by the financial position or general circumstances of the property owner or the existence of hire-purchase or mortgage agreements on the items?

Answers:—

(1) "The present estimated cost is \$30,000, and the apportionment is on a \$ for \$ basis."

(2) "Yes."

(3) "Yes."

(4) "No—not where the items were non-essential ones."

EXPENDITURE ON GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

Mr. Davies for Mr. Lloyd, pursuant to notice, asked The Treasurer,—

What was the expenditure from (a) the Loan Fund and (b) the Trust and Special Funds for the years 1962-63, 1963-64, 1964-65, 1965-66 and 1966-67 on account of (i) State school buildings (including technical colleges, State high and post primary schools), (ii) court house and police buildings, (iii) Government hospital buildings and (iv) other buildings?

Answer:—

"I table a statement showing the information which the Honourable Member seeks. The information under heading (iii) does not include expenditure by Hospital Boards under the approved debenture programme. The information under heading (iv) is Loan Fund expenditure by the Department of Works under the votes Children's Services Homes, Primary Industries, Prisons, Universities and other buildings.

(i) State School Buildings (including Technical Colleges, State High and Post-primary schools)

—	Loan Fund	Trust and Special Funds	Total
	\$	\$	\$
1962-63 ..	9,994,352	..	9,994,352
1963-64 ..	11,557,652	..	11,557,652
1964-65 ..	9,752,696	662,970	10,415,666
1965-66 ..	8,178,533	5,138,958	13,317,491
1966-67 ..	8,987,967	3,841,534	12,829,501

(ii) Court Houses and Police Buildings

1962-63 ..	1,218,033	..	1,218,033
1963-64 ..	1,409,723	..	1,409,723
1964-65 ..	1,406,744	..	1,406,744
1965-66 ..	1,214,024	..	1,214,024
1966-67 ..	1,457,383	..	1,457,383

(iii) Government Hospital Buildings

1962-63 ..	1,643,996	..	1,643,996
1963-64 ..	1,150,908	..	1,150,908
1964-65 ..	1,116,414	..	1,116,414
1965-66 ..	1,327,854	..	1,327,854
1966-67 ..	1,229,441	..	1,229,441

(iv) Other Government Buildings

1962-63 ..	3,912,662	..	3,912,662
1963-64 ..	3,829,508	..	3,829,508
1964-65 ..	4,448,107	..	4,448,107
1965-66 ..	4,652,809	..	4,652,809
1966-67 ..	4,488,245	..	4,488,245

RESIGNATION FROM CABINET OF
HONOURABLE MEMBER FOR
WAVELL

Mr. Davies for Mr. Lloyd, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

(1) With reference to the resignation from Cabinet of the Honourable Member for Wavell, will he explain the apparent seriousness of the charge that the Honourable Member when Minister for Industrial Development committed "certain other acts" in relation to female employees of the State Public Service?

(2) Did these "certain other acts" constitute assault in any degree?

Answer:—

"The 'certain other acts' referred to in the Honourable Member's Question concerning allegations made against the Honourable Member for Wavell were of a nature akin to and associated with the kissing alleged against the Honourable Member for Wavell. Out of respect for the natural desire of the other persons concerned in these allegations to avoid publicity, I do not propose to detail these 'certain other acts', nor to presume to make any judgment as to whether or not these acts constituted, in law, an assault."

USE OF HORSEMEAT IN MANUFACTURE OF SMALLGOODS

Mr. W. D. Hewitt, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Health,—

(1) Has he seen a report in the Melbourne *Sun News Pictorial* of August 31, alleging that horsemeat and similar meat sold for pet food is being used for the manufacture of smallgoods?

(2) Has he received complaints that this is being done in Queensland?

(3) If so, what are the risks to health of a person buying such food, with or without his knowledge, storing it in a refrigerator with other food and subsequently eating it?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2 and 3) "The question of the control of pet foods was discussed at the Health Ministers Conference held in Perth in April. The method of processing pet foods is such that they should be bacteriologically free. It must be remembered, however, that pet food is often kept in the household refrigerator in close proximity to meat and other foodstuffs for human consumption. Should it be contaminated, it in turn could contaminate any other food in the refrigerator thus causing a danger to the health of the members of the household. These pet foods are sent interstate and so that uniformity will be achieved Ministers resolved that the problem be referred to the National Health and Medical Research Council to determine standards of purity. I have been advised that pets which have eaten kangaroo flesh contaminated with salmonella organisms have produced a bowel infection which was responsible for infection of children handling the pet. The differentiation of horsemeat from meat used for human consumption cannot be detected by chemical methods while the differentiation by histological methods is not usually practised because of the difficulty in doing this with minced meat. There is no risk to health in eating kangaroo meat if it is properly prepared but its sale for human consumption is not allowed in this State."

FALSE LABELLING OF DAIRY PRODUCTS

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

(1) What is the exact definition of the word "Butter" as enunciated under the Pure Foods Acts and Regulations?

(2) Is he aware of false advertising and labelling in the community at the present time surrounding the word "Butter"?

(3) Have any approaches been made to him from dairying and allied organisations pointing out this false labelling? If so, as false labelling of dairy products constitutes an erosion of the dairying industry and negatives a large sales-promotion drive of industry products, what line of action has he taken to correct the anomaly?

Answers:—

(1) "The definition of butter in Regulation 31 of the Food and Drug Regulations is—'Butter is the clean, non-rancid, fatty substance obtained by churning milk or cream. Butter shall contain—(a) Not less than eighty parts per centum of milk fat; (b) Not more than sixteen parts per centum of water; (c) Not more than two and five-tenths parts per centum of salt (sodium chloride); and (d) Not more than two parts per centum of milk solids not fat; (e) No foreign substance except salt'."

(2 and 3) "The advertisements to which the Honourable Member refers have not breached the regulations. Concern has however been expressed regarding their form and the whole matter is presently under review by the Government."

TOURIST VENTURE BY AMERICAN INVESTOR

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

(1) What is the name of the American investor referred to by him when introducing the Queensland Marine Acts Amendment Bill on October 28, 1966, as having experienced difficulties in obtaining a Certificate of Competency or Master's Certificate?

(2) As the law is now amended, did the American mentioned proceed with his tourist venture?

(3) Was the man involved acting on his own behalf or on behalf of a syndicate or company and, if so, what is the name of the company?

Answers:—

(1) "M. J. Hergatt."

(2) "I am informed that the Queensland Government Tourist Bureau received advice in June last that the vessel concerned had been withdrawn from service."

(3) "I do not know."

SECONDARY-SCHOOL TEACHERS HOLDING
UNIVERSITY DEGREES

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

(1) How many secondary-school teachers are there in State secondary schools teaching (a) general subjects, (b) manual training subjects, (c) home science subjects and (d) commercial subjects?

(2) How many of those teaching general subjects have (a) one or more university degrees and (b) no university units?

Answers:—

(1) "(a) 2,347, (b) 370, (c) 379, (d) 298."

(2) "(a) 750. (b) I refer the Honourable Member to my Answer to him on the same Question on August 29."

NEW MAIN ROADS BUILDING, CAIRNS

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

(1) Has consideration been given to a proposal to replace the present dilapidated ex-Army accommodation with a new administrative block for the Main Roads Department, Cairns?

(2) If so, have design plans and an estimate of costs been prepared and accepted and authority given for tenders to be called?

(3) If so, will the present site be retained and when will work commence?

Answers:—

(1) "It is proposed to erect a new Main Roads building in Cairns as soon as practicable. The Department is currently attempting to find a suitable site."

(2) "No; design will depend upon the site used."

(3) "It is not desired to use the present site for a new building."

SMOKING IN CHERMSIDE HOSPITAL

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

(1) Did he recently state, as reported in the Press, that the Cherm-side Hospital was the only hospital where a no-smoking policy was enforced?

(2) If not, and if smoking is discouraged rather than banned, is it possible to segregate smokers from non-smokers who request this and who may be more than ordinarily inconvenienced by smokers at such a hospital?

Answers:—

(1) "The statement I gave to the *Courier-Mail* was that 'there was a no-smoking policy at the Cherm-side Chest Hospital in Brisbane for obvious reasons'. Cherm-side Hospital consists of the Cherm-side Chest Hospital together with a number of other wards where patients other than those suffering from chest conditions are accommodated. There is no prohibition of smoking in these areas. Although it is the policy at the Cherm-side Chest Hospital that there be no smoking there is no absolute ban on this except during visiting hours when patients and visitors are not allowed to smoke. Every effort is made, however, to try to persuade patients to give up smoking because of the effect it has on their medical condition."

(2) "The question of having smokers and non-smokers in different wards is difficult to enforce administratively because there is not an equal division between smokers and non-smokers, and the numbers would vary from day to day. Steps are, of course, taken to see that no patient's well being is adversely affected by these practices."

HAM AND BACON PRICES

Mr. Hanlon, pursuant to notice, asked
The Minister for Labour and Tourism,—

(1) As no reason was given by a manufacturers' spokesman for announced increases in the price of ham, bacon, sausages and smallgoods, this being the third price rise since last October, and in view of assurances that a watch is kept on price rises so that control may be applied if necessary, were these increases examined by his Department?

(2) If so, were the rises considered reasonable in the circumstances and on what grounds?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "The prices of all groceries, foodstuffs, meat and so forth are being kept under surveillance. If the Honourable Member can furnish me with details of any specific instances, including the name and address of the shop or store concerned, in which it is considered the prices being charged for the foodstuffs mentioned by him are excessive, I shall arrange to have such details investigated."

SALE OF MACKAY DISTRICT ABATTOIR

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

In view of the strong public reaction that is evident throughout the Mackay District against the proposal to dispose of the Mackay District Abattoir either by leasing or by sale, will he give a detailed statement setting out the reason why this decision was made?

Answer:—

"The decision to call tenders for the lease or sale of the Mackay District Abattoir was taken by the Government on the grounds of its clear responsibility for public funds. Operations at this works during the past two years have resulted in losses of the order of \$250,000. These losses were related in the main to a lack of cattle for slaughter, but also to the variability of supply. In this regard, a service abattoir can be severely handicapped by its dependence on operators for the supply of cattle. I feel the Honourable Member would agree that the Government would be open to strong criticism if it took no action which could lead to a reduction of these losses. Experience has tended to show that the most effective means, and probably the best prospect, of retaining this abattoir as a going concern in the Mackay district was to make it available to a single operator who would be in a position to relate his supply of cattle to his labour and other operational costs. In other words, this would be the best means of providing a steady volume of slaughterings which is the key to profitability of meatworks operations. The Honourable Member, however, may be assured that the Government's first intention is to secure the continued future operation of these works."

ROAD TAX ON PETROL TRUCKS IN COUNTRY AREAS

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

Is road tax applicable to vehicles transporting fuel supplies to primary producers from bulk fuel depots which are established in many of the smaller townships throughout the State? If so, what is the rate of tax?

Answer:—

"Yes, where liable under 'The State Transport Acts' the fee payable is 3 cents per ton per mile on the registered load capacity of the vehicle used."

REGISTRATION FEES ON PRIMARY PRODUCERS' VEHICLES

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

(1) What is the basis of registration of vehicles which are used solely in primary industry and which are entitled to concessional registration because they are so used?

(2) What rate is applicable to vehicles of three, four and five tons capacity and what method is determined in assessing their tonnage?

Answers:—

(1) "A motor vehicle or trailer, the load capacity of which is more than four tons, owned by a primary producer and used by him solely in connection with his business as a primary producer, has an annual registration fee of \$2. There are some concessions not solely dependent on the use of a vehicle by a primary producer. These concessions are set out in a schedule of three pages. I will be happy to make a copy of the schedule available to the Honourable Member if he requests it."

(2) "Fees payable for motor trucks are—(a) Tare less than two tons, \$0.65 per power weight (P.W.) unit; (b) Tare of two tons or more but less than three tons, \$0.95 per power weight (P.W.) unit; (c) Tare of three tons or more, \$1.30 per power weight (P.W.) unit: Provided that where the tare is three tons or more and the load capacity is four tons or less the fees shall be \$0.95 per power weight (P.W.) unit. Under the Regulations, the load capacity of a truck when registered is determined as not less than the maker's capacity or more than 25 per cent. above this figure, provided that the load plus tare does not exceed the total of the maximum permissible axle loads."

NEGLECT AND ILL-TREATMENT OF INFANTS

Mr. Dean, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Labour and Tourism,—

(1) Has his attention been drawn to a report in *The Sunday Mail* of September 3 concerning a neglected female infant of twenty months, and his statement that only seven cases of neglect or ill-treatment had been referred to his Department in the last twelve months?

(2) Were prosecutions instituted in each of these instances, what were the names of the offenders and, if no court actions were taken, why were proceedings not instituted?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "The report in *The Sunday Mail* of September 3, concerning the neglect of a female infant of 20 months has come under my notice, and as the Department of Children's Services is unable to specifically identify the case, the Director is endeavouring to contact the Secretary of the Royal Queensland Society for the Prevention of Cruelty. The Director, however, cannot find any case of cruelty, neglect or ill-treatment of children reported to the Department which has not received immediate attention, and this would include the seven cases of cruelty to which reference has been made. Prosecutions are instituted through the police, when there is sufficient evidence to proceed, but I am

not prepared, in the interests of the children, to name any parent or other person who may have been involved in any such complaints. Press publicity is usually given to cases in which prosecutions are instituted at the time of the proceedings. Prosecution of parents or other persons is not always possible, and Welfare Officers of the Department keep in contact with any cases, in which they feel the welfare of a child could be endangered. The Honourable Member can be assured that the Department is always vigilant to help children whose welfare may be in jeopardy, and to take steps to protect them when it is necessary."

CONVICTION OF G. E. COPAS ON
DANGEROUS DRIVING CHARGE

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to the conviction of Gerard Edward Copas by Mr. Nolan, Stipendiary Magistrate, Brisbane, on a charge of dangerous driving, as reported in the *Telegraph* of August 28?

(2) Why was the offender treated so leniently?

Answers:—

(1) "I have had inquiries made as to this matter."

(2) "On August 28, 1967, Gerard Edward Copas was charged under section 328A of *The Criminal Code* that he drove a motor vehicle dangerously. The maximum penalty which may be imposed on summary conviction for such an offence, is a fine of two hundred dollars or imprisonment with hard labour for six months or both such fine and imprisonment. The defendant was convicted and fined the sum of one hundred and seventy-five dollars, and in default of the payment of the fine, ordered to be imprisoned for one month. In addition, he was disqualified from holding or obtaining a drivers' license for a period of twelve months from that date. My inquiries reveal that this was the defendant's first offence of dangerous driving and that the fine, of only twenty-five dollars less than the maximum which may be imposed, was considered sufficient under the circumstances of the case and is greater than that which is generally imposed on first offenders for this offence."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. DEWAR (Wavell) (11.40 a.m.), by leave: I thank the House for its indulgence. At the outset, Mr. Speaker, I assure you that I was unaware that notice of a question concerning me had been given yesterday—I was out of the Chamber during question time—neither did I notice it on the Business Paper until just now.

Yesterday the Minister for Labour and Tourism made a statement in which he alleged that the reason behind the request for my resignation was the commission by me of "immoral or illegal acts".

I desire to give the House my absolute denial that I have at any time, either during the term of my ministerial office or prior to it, been knowingly guilty of any act that could be called immoral or illegal, nor have I conducted myself in a manner not befitting a Minister of the Crown, as was alleged by the Premier on Monday last.

I owe it to my wife, who has suffered much, my young family, my friends, and to this House, to clear the air over the phrase "certain other actions". On 24 May, Mr. Chalk said that one of the girls had told him of being kissed disgustingly and of her breasts being handled. This is not true and I denied it at the time. This was not the girl who had slapped me and whose father had seen Mr. Chalk. The following day, 25 May, Mr. Chalk said, "I agree that this matter has been magnified out of all proportion."

Nothing in this entire episode could justify a request for a Minister's resignation, but it is indicative of the forces which were operating.

TRAFFIC ACTS AMENDMENT BILL

INITIATION

Hon. R. E. CAMM (Whitsunday—Minister for Mines and Main Roads): I move—

"That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill to amend the Traffic Acts, 1949 to 1965, in certain particulars."

Motion agreed to.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE

Debate resumed from 5 September (see p. 389) on Mr. Armstrong's motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Hon. J. C. A. PIZZEY (Isis—Minister for Education) (11.42 a.m.): I intend to deal with important matters of government, and perhaps there are none so important as education. I feel it is time, in the interests of the people of Queensland, that some of the misconceptions and misleading statements that have been made about education recently were corrected.

My colleagues on this side of the House have answered many of the general accusations made by the Opposition—and they were very general—and they have given a truer picture of the situation throughout the State than we could expect from hon. members opposite.

The current public debate on education has three main sources, and I believe it is time that the Queensland public was told a few facts so that it can judge for itself the merits of the various arguments put forward.

One of the sources is, of course, the Australian Labour Party, whose goal is to discredit the Government and the Government's policies in preparation for the 1969 election. It has launched a purely political attack, backed by very few facts. The people of Queensland should see this for what it is, and judge it accordingly.

The second source is the Queensland Teachers' Union, which is seeking higher salaries and improved working conditions for its members. The union's campaign is an industrial and professional campaign. For this, I offer no blame or criticism. I have said that repeatedly. Just as any other union is, the Queensland Teachers' Union is entitled to press for the best for its members. I merely point out the union's aims—and the public should know the union's aims.

With regard to teachers' salaries, I feel I must also point out that the Government believes that salaries and related matters should be determined by the Industrial Commission. It asks other industrial organisations to go to the Commission, and it asks the Queensland Teachers' Union also to go to the Commission. Surely hon. members opposite are not going to say that the Teachers' Union should be privileged in this regard and that although other unions are forced to go to the Commission the Teachers' Union should be exempt. That is the inference one must read in many of their suggestions. There is no restriction on the number of times the union can go to the Commission in any period. If it is dissatisfied with any aspect of an award it can ask the Commission to hear its case, as it did recently on the question of equal pay.

Mr. R. Jones: The Teachers' Union has not been stressing salaries.

Mr. PIZZEY: That is the sort of criticism we get from the Opposition. The hon. member suggests that there has been no stressing of salaries by teachers. In other words, he is telling me that the teachers in his area are satisfied with their salaries.

Opposition Members: No.

Mr. PIZZEY: I am entitled to read that into it.

The third source from which much of the current debate has come is less easy to define than the other two. It consists of some teachers who are impatient with their constitutionally elected union officers, or who have some personal axes to grind. A few of these individuals have political axes to grind; a few have something personal against the department.

Mr. Walsh: It could be subversive, too.

Mr. PIZZEY: Odd ones are subversive.

These people are supported by others who are not teachers and who know very little about education, but who court publicity and like to be regarded as controversial figures. With the advent of television they have a greater opportunity to become public controversial figures than they had in years gone by.

The public therefore should be aware that not all the placard-wavers are teachers. It is unfortunate that the public cannot be told the full story behind some of the banner-wavers. But common decency demands restraint. Let me say this, though: there is a growing feeling that if a member of the Department of Education speaks up in criticism of the Government, he or she is immune from any transfer because the cry "Punitive transfer!" immediately goes out. The first to use that cry would be the Opposition.

I want to give the lie to any suggestion that there have been punitive transfers during the term of this Government. Transfers are made on promotion, or to suit the needs of the department, or because of special circumstances brought to the department's notice by the teacher or his or her relatives.

Mr. Walsh: Sometimes medical reasons.

Mr. PIZZEY: Compassionate grounds. Hon. members opposite know that it has been done on compassionate grounds.

Transfers will continue to be effected for these reasons.

Mr. Melloy: And for other reasons.

Mr. PIZZEY: He is talking about pre-1957.

It should also be made clear to hon. members that the Government's so-called ban on teachers' speaking publicly is no ban, but is something which has always been in the Public Service Regulations. It requires Government employees to obtain the permission of the Minister before taking part in public discussions on matters affecting their departments. This is no more than any employer would ask, and no more than the A.L.P. asked when it was the Government.

The Cabinet directive was no more directed at school-teachers than it was at a railway engine-driver, a nurse, a clerk, an engineer or anyone else in the employ of the Government.

I have readily given permission for members of my department to take part in public discussions, and I have no wish to inhibit professional activities or lawful industrial activities by teachers.

Let me turn now to the political aspect of the public debate on education.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! Hon. members on my left have apparently set themselves out to interrupt the Minister as much as

possible. I draw their attention to Standing Order 114. Opposition members have had an opportunity to debate this subject. In the interests of the education system I think the Minister should be heard without undue interruption.

Mr. PIZZEY: Let me turn now to the political aspect of the public debate on education. If the public, on reading the first edition of the "Telegraph" of 22 August, was expecting some fireworks on education from the Leader of the Opposition, it was certainly let down very badly.

We were given a preview in the "Telegraph", almost before Parliament met, of what the Leader of the Opposition would say in his Address-in-Reply speech, but unfortunately he did not manage to get it all out. At the end of the day, instead of a blast on education being featured, the highlight of his speech was recorded in the "Telegraph" as the advocacy of a new administrative block for members of Parliament. So much for his attack on education and the impression it made on the "Telegraph" reporter. He did not touch to any great extent on the problems of education.

I should like to refer to the speech made by the hon. member for Barcoo, a former school-teacher. He had very little criticism to offer. He said, "I have only one complaint to make. I suppose that is because of my good representation." Hon. members, of course, can draw the inference that the representation by other A.L.P. members may not be very good.

The Leader of the Opposition seemed to be critically obsessed with the fact that I recently had a trip overseas. In this attack he is out of step with one of the most highly respected former Labour Ministers, Mr. Arthur Jones, who publicly commented that if he had had his way every Labour Minister would have gone overseas while holding office. It is typical of the A.L.P. that when any move is made that differs just a little from the A.L.P.'s staid, Edwardian approach, it must be decried or, to use the Australian term "knocked". I suggest to the Leader of the Opposition that he take a trip overseas—that is, if he can get permission from the Trades Hall.

Mr. Houston: Don't be silly!

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I suggest to hon. members on my left that they read Standing Order 114. If they do, they will realise that interrupting a speaker without his consent is not permissible.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I rise to a point of order. I take strong exception to the implication contained in the last statement by the Minister for Education. If he has some advice to offer on education, we will listen to it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! If the hon. member wishes to rise to a point of order he should do so. He should not interject in loud tones across the Chamber.

Mr. PIZZEY: One of the first things the Leader of the Opposition would learn is that Queensland is the best place in the world in which to live, from any viewpoint. The second thing he would find is that overseas countries are facing the same problems as Queensland, and in some cases they are facing more problems. Probably the third thing he would find would be that the hon. member for Barcoona had replaced him while he was away.

For the most part, the Opposition's so-called attack on education in this debate has consisted of the same statements and the same figures as the A.L.P. has been using for more than two years. The A.L.P. went to the people at the last election with education as its major plank. It offered the people of Queensland a catalogue of unrealistic promises. It told the people time and time again that this Government had fallen down on education. I consider that there is no greater test of a Government's policies than a general election. What did the people do? They looked around them and they saw their own high schools in their own towns where none had existed before 1957; they saw secondary departments where none had existed before; they saw their children interested in the new approach to subjects; they saw a new primary school and a new opportunity school; they listened to the new School of the Air; they saw new transport services; they saw new university colleges—

Mr. Graham interjected.

Mr. PIZZEY: They saw two new high schools in Mackay where an old, dilapidated one existed previously; they saw a new institute of technology. Almost wherever they looked they could see evidence of this Government's policy on education.

Nothing the A.L.P. could say last year could convince the people that they should withdraw their support from the Government, and nothing the A.L.P. can say now will overcome the fact that Queenslanders have only to look around them to see whether this Government has served them well in the field of education. The Government has been accused of creating a smoke-screen and "ballyhoo" about its achievements in education. The people judged in 1966 whether this was a smoke-screen and their judgment is recorded in the membership of this House.

The hon. member for Barcoona spoke of burning buildings. The only fire, I suggest, burns around the A.L.P.'s hopes of ever reaching the Treasury benches, and that fire started long before 1957.

The hon. member for Toowoomba East read me a lesson on ministerial responsibility. He made no point. Ten years as a Minister, I believe, have served very well to acquaint me with my responsibilities. I can assure him of that. I think he is also well aware that I have never shrunk from my responsibilities as a Minister, particularly those towards members of my department.

Perhaps the hon. member feels some sense of frustration, or he has an inferiority complex, because as a teacher-trainee under Labour he received only one year of training and would not be as acceptable overseas as a teacher who has had two years' training. He later said that the Government had lifted the standard of training by instituting a two-year course. I cannot understand some of his statements. He said "I had every intention of coming back to the Education Department, but I was unable to fulfil the conditions."

Mr. P. WOOD: I rise to a point of order. I did not make that statement. It appeared in the proof of my speech but I corrected it. Evidently the Minister did not see the correction.

Mr. PIZZEY: I accept the hon. member's statement and withdraw my remarks. They were not particularly relevant, anyhow. It surprised me that he should say he was unable to fulfil the conditions.

It is an old political trick, when on the defensive, to try to turn on someone else. The hon. member is on the defensive and in an effort to embarrass the department he asked a question relative to accommodation. The answer was that there was ample accommodation, including classrooms, by using vacant classrooms when classes were in the science room or the music room. With very few exceptions, no country can afford to have a room for every class and all the extra specialist rooms as well. I inform the hon. member that the person he referred to is a great friend of mine; he is one of our best principals, and is one of the best friends the Department of Education has.

The hon. member gave this House to understand that he was finding serious fault with the education situation in Queensland at present. Then, and "Hansard" records this, he proceeded to point out that the pupil-teacher ratio in Queensland was being reduced and that the proportion of over-large classes had declined. He did prove to the House that education in Queensland has improved and is improving. This was not reported in the Press, probably because Pressmen could hardly believe their ears when they heard such a statement. It is obvious that education is improving. We have approximately the same primary-school population, and it is being taught by 1,000 more teachers. If there is a state of crisis now, there was a state of disaster 10 years ago.

I believe that in order to set the record straight I should present to the House a balance sheet of education so that the people of this State can judge for themselves the education record of this Government. I do not expect hon. members opposite to be comfortable while I read it, and I invite them to disprove it if they can.

On the debit side of the sheet we should put the year 1957, and, on the credit side, 1967. It then reads as follows:—

KINDERGARTENS

1957—23 Kindergartens

1967—95 Kindergartens

(There are not now four times as many children of that age group in the community.)

1957—

Government assistance to kindergartens	to	\$13,600
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1967—

Government assistance to kindergartens	to	\$135,000
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Progressive increases in grants, including special grant of \$100,000 as half the cost of a modern kindergarten training college.

(The present kindergarten teachers' training college has been used for 50 years and no effort was previously made to give any assistance to the Kindergarten Association to allow it to have a modern training college for kindergarten teachers.)

PRIMARY EDUCATION

(If there is a state of chaos now, what was it like in 1957?)

1957—

Senior assistants (non-teaching duties)	Nil
Clerical staff	Nil

1967—

Senior assistants	83
Clerical staff	3

(Policy introduced this year; more to be appointed.)

(Within 12 months we will have several score of clerical assistants.)

1957—

Schools of the Air	Nil
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1967—

Schools of the Air	3
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New Maths and Science syllabuses

Revised English and Social Studies

Science telecasts for teachers

Greatly increased in-service training for teachers

Provision of Cuisenaire material to all pupils

Provision of "Background to Mathematics" to all teachers, which is more than other States provide.

Abolition of Scholarship examination.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

1957—
High schools 36

1967—
High schools 96
(Nearly all high schools in each member's electorate have been built by this Government.)

Mr. Houston: Don't you expect any progress in 10 years?

Mr. PIZZEY: The children in the hon. member's electorate did not have the same opportunities prior to 1957. They had to travel long distances to high schools.

The balance sheet continues—

1957—
Secondary departments 33
Enrolments 14,300

1967—
Secondary departments 68
Enrolments 73,000

Mr. Houston: You are not claiming credit for that, are you?

Mr. PIZZEY: I do not claim credit for the birth-rate; I leave that to the Opposition.

The balance sheet continues—

1957—
Course 4 years
Laboratory assistants Nil
High-school clerical staff 13

1967—
Course: Revised and modernised to five-year course
Laboratory assistants 23
High-school clerical staff 102

TERTIARY EDUCATION

1957—
Universities 1

1967—
Universities 1
(Which is about three times as large as it was in 1957.)

1957—
University colleges Nil

1967—
University colleges 1
(To be autonomous in 1970.)

(I ask hon. members representing northern electorates whether or not the people in the North are satisfied with what we have provided in the way of a university college. Hon. members opposite had 30 or 40 years in which to do that.)

1957—
Enrolments: 5,600
State expenditure \$2.1 million

1967—

Enrolments 15,200
State expenditure \$7.5 million

TEACHERS

1957—

Colleges 1
Home science colleges Nil
Teachers in training 1,178
Training period 1 year

1967—

Colleges 2
(two more planned)
Home science colleges 1
Teachers in training 2,776
Training period 2 years

If we had been satisfied with a one-year period of training, as it was in the days of a Labour Government, we would have had 1,000 more teachers in the field today. But do hon. members opposite suggest that we go back to what they thought was a desirable period of training? This Government was prepared to put up with some disabilities so that it could give teachers better training, and it will be prepared to do that in the future when the period of training is extended to three years.

Mr. Houston: How long was it before you changed from a one-year course to a two-year course?

Mr. PIZZEY: What about conditions? One hon. member opposite said that teachers in the North are not complaining about salaries, but about conditions. What amenities were there for teachers who were transferred to country areas and areas in western Queensland? They had no alternative but to stay in a room on the top floor of a rather smelly hotel.

Mr. Houston: Is that what the hotels are like in the country?

Mr. PIZZEY: Yes, some of them are. Apparently the hon. member for Bulimba has not served outside Brisbane and does not know what some of the hotels in country areas are like.

This is what the balance sheet shows relative to accommodation—

TEACHERS

1957—Housing units for unmarried staff teachers Nil
1967—Housing units for unmarried staff teachers 53

Those 53 units are scattered throughout the country areas of Queensland. Surely their provision has effected a considerable improvement in conditions. Teachers who occupy these twin flatettes are very appreciative of what is available to them.

The next item is—

SCHOOL TRANSPORT	
1957—	
Primary services	369
Secondary services	Nil
1967—	
Primary services	737
Secondary services	228

The people of Queensland have not forgotten that Labour Governments refused to allow secondary students to travel in primary-school buses. Today they travel in primary-school buses and have 228 services of their own. The services cater for both country and city children, because services are provided in the metropolitan area where there are sufficient children living more than 3 miles from a high school.

The balance sheet then shows—

SCHOOL TRANSPORT	
1957—	
Pupils conveyed daily	9,832
Expenditure (1956-57)	\$545,822
Conveyance allowance to parents	Nil
1967—	
Pupils conveyed daily	35,084
Expenditure (1966-67)	\$2,900,000
Conveyance allowance to parents	\$90,000

TECHNICAL	
1957—	
Technical colleges as individual institutions	1
1967—	
Technical colleges as individual institutions	10
(Decentralisation in Brisbane through construction of three new perimeter colleges now under way.)	

One is already well under way at Eagle Farm, one is under way at Yeronga, and plans are in course of preparation for two others. Other than at the Teachers' College, there was no alternative source of tertiary education under Labour.

Mr. Houston: Don't be silly. What about the diploma courses?

Mr. PIZZEY: They were attached to the old Technical College. The next item is—

TECHNOLOGICAL	
1957—Institutes of Technology	Nil
1967—Institutes of Technology	3
(There is already a staff of about 500 for those institutes.)	

Mr. Houston: The result will not be any different. They had the diploma well before the Country-Liberal Government came to power.

Mr. PIZZEY: The hon. member should go to Rockhampton or Toowoomba and ask parents whether they are satisfied with the diploma tertiary courses that are now available to their children on a full-time basis.

Mr. Houston: No-one is objecting to what you have done; but you have not done enough. That is the point. This is only window-dressing.

Mr. PIZZEY: The next item in the balance sheet is—

AGRICULTURAL	
1957—	
Agricultural Junior Courses	6
Rural Training Schools	Nil
1967—	
Agricultural Junior Courses	20
Rural Training Schools	1
(Two more planned)	

I remind hon. members that there is planned redevelopment of the Queensland Agricultural College at Gatton. For too long the students had to live in Army huts. There is now a \$4,000,000 programme of redevelopment, and in a few years there will not be a better agricultural college anywhere.

Mr. Houston: When did you first start to think about altering Gatton?

Mr. PIZZEY: It is more than half-way to completion.

Mr. Houston: But you started it only a year or two ago.

Mr. PIZZEY: The Government could not overcome in three or four years all the problems that Labour left us. It will take a long time to do that. All the old buildings have to be replaced.

To proceed with the balance sheet—

SPECIAL EDUCATION	
1957—	
Places for slow-learners	500
Guidance officers	13
Regional guidance officers	Nil
Speech correction teachers	9
Speech therapists	Nil
1967—	
Places for slow-learners	1,850
Guidance officers	24
Regional guidance officers	3
Speech correction teachers	20
Speech therapists	5

(Separate schools for deaf and for blind children. Pre-school education for deaf children.)

Now let us look at some general observations relative to 1957 and 1967—

GENERAL

1957—

17-year-olds at school, 11.6 per cent.

1967—

17-year-olds at school, 19.3 per cent.

(The hon. member for Sandgate will be interested in the next item.)

1957—

Students receiving alcohol education	Nil
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1967—

Students receiving alcohol education	90,000
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1957—

Textbook allowance	Nil
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1967—

Textbook allowance—

Grade 8	\$4
Grade 9	\$4
Grade 10	\$6
Grade 11	\$20

We hear hon. members opposite making all sorts of claims about the high cost of textbooks. What did Labour ever do about a textbook allowance for secondary-school children? It would not have cost very much because there was only a handful of students; but even then Labour was not prepared to do anything in the matter. Labour was not prepared to do it for 14,000 students, whereas we are prepared to do it for 74,000.

To return to the balance sheet—

1957—

Remote area allowance	Nil
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1967—

Remote area allowance—

Junior	\$160 p.a.
Senior	\$200 p.a.

In what way did Labour assist secondary pupils at independent schools? Let us see what the balance sheet discloses—

AID TO INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

1957—

Grant to schools per secondary pupil	Nil
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1967—

Grant to schools per secondary pupil	\$15 p.a.
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(This has been a tremendous assistance in enabling these schools to maintain their staffs and their standards.)

Subsidy of up to 6 per cent. per annum on interest payments on loans for essential classroom and residential accommodation.

Increased allowances towards tuition fees. (Now \$42 p.a. for grades 8, 9, and 10; \$46 p.a. for grades 11 and 12.)

For the benefit of hon. members, I should now like to deal briefly with some other aspects of education. In doing so, I wish to point out that the Government is by no means satisfied that it has a perfect education system in Queensland. I have been quoted as saying that we have a perfect system—the best in the world—but that is only because it suits some people to put those words into my mouth. That has never been said. However, I will say that our system compares favourably with systems overseas, and in many respects it is as good, if not better. We probably will never have a perfect system, but at the present time there are areas where we can, and will, improve things. Once we think we have perfection we find new methods and new ideas demanding further expenditure and further changes in educational thinking.

We have, in the past few years, recruited every student who qualified for a teacher scholarship or fellowship. I challenge any hon. member to come to me and tell me of anyone who qualified to the standard and who was not able to get such a scholarship. We have doubled the period of training, and when we doubled that period we knew we would be put back a year in school staffing; we could not retain thousands of students for an extra year without having some impact on staffing. But despite all that we have 1,000 more teachers than Labour had for roughly the same number of students.

We have improved and extended the Kelvin Grove College. This extension should be ready next year. New colleges at Mt. Gravatt and Townsville will be ready in 1971. The Leader of the Opposition repeated one of my statements on this subject in which I gave the dates, but he said they would not be ready until 1971 and would not turn out teachers until 1973. I want to correct him on that point. The students will come out in 1971 as trained teachers and they will not be the first of the intake in that year.

These new colleges, and the Kelvin Grove extensions, are being provided with the generous help of the Commonwealth Government. This help is greatly appreciated.

By 1971, 3,700 teachers will be receiving training in these colleges. As part of our programme to redevelop teacher-training we have a Teacher Education Committee, and we have appointed Dr. J. Greenhalgh as Director of Teacher Education. We are conducting an active recruiting campaign. Despite the many "knockers" that exist in this State, we are getting very encouraging applications for admission as teachers. I should imagine that with equal pay for female teachers we will get even greater encouragement.

Mr. Houston: What is the relationship between males and females now coming in?

Mr. PIZZEY: The relationship is the best of any Australian State in the percentage of males.

Mr. Houston: What is it?

Mr. PIZZEY: There is difficulty in getting a sufficient number of male teachers because this Government has opened up so many more avenues for them.

An Opposition Member: Canada.

Mr. PIZZEY: They have many other opportunities. They are acceptable in Canada today. It might interest hon. members opposite to know that within the last two days I have been able to appoint five teachers from overseas. Three of them are graduates. One of them came from Rhodesia; one came from the State of Washington in the U.S.A.; one has been to Canada for two years; one came from Great Britain and another from New Zealand. In addition, there was one from Western Australia.

The Opposition has been trying to delude the people into believing that we are much more under-staffed now than at the beginning of the year—that all these teachers were leaving and that there were no replacements. We have had a steady flow of qualified teachers coming in from overseas, just as there is a steady flow going out. Hon. members opposite have said that this is not a bad thing; hon. members on this side have said that, too. It is a good thing. I feel that the 100 teachers who have come back from overseas will mean just that number of better teachers in the department.

One of the problems existing in our system at present is the shortage of qualified teachers. It should be understood why this is so. I make this point again. There is a shortage of professional people in every walk of life in every developed country in the world. Professional people today who have completed a degree would have to be approximately 22 years of age or more. In other words, all the professional people in all the countries of the world were born before 1945. Every hon. member knows what happened in the 20 years before 1945. There were the depression years, the post-depression years, and the war years, when the birth-rate in most countries was as low as it has been this century. Consequently, there were fewer students coming out of secondary school in the 1950's. In about 1952 I think there were only 800 Senior students, and this number had to serve every profession—medical, dental—

Mr. R. Jones: Now you are defeating your own argument about the number of secondary schools in 1957.

Mr. PIZZEY: I am not defeating it at all. I have a simple answer to the hon. member. They were not sitting for Senior because there were no schools for them to go to.

Mr. Houston: You must have been out in the bush.

Mr. PIZZEY: Let the hon. gentleman go out into the country areas and ask a few questions.

Students are now coming through in increasing numbers. This year over 8,000 students are sitting for Senior. That means that we will have a far greater pool from which all the professions can draw. We have been drawing teachers and other professional people from this age group since the war. With the new demands for technology and the new demands of the public services, every country has found it exceedingly difficult to get sufficient qualified people. There has been a seller's market for the wares of qualified people. They can move from one part of the world to another without experiencing any great difficulty in getting positions, because vacancies exist virtually everywhere. There is scarcely a professional man who could not go overseas, without even making prior arrangements, and find it easy to fall into a position.

We have had this small pool of students of Senior standard from which to draw to supply the needs of what was commonly known as the "bulge in the birthrate" and the great migration programme in Queensland. While tens of thousands of migrant children have been coming to Queensland, very few of the older ones could be taken in as teachers. Some of them have been suitable, but not many. Every State and every country has the same problem. If things are so good in Canada, how is it that that country has to scour the world to get sufficient teachers to staff its schools? What is wrong if Canada has to go to Australia, Britain and America for teachers?

Mr. Houston: Did you go to Canada?

Mr. PIZZEY: I did not go to the part that is recruiting teachers, that is, the east coast.

A Government Member: Why doesn't the Leader of the Opposition go there?

Mr. Houston: Pay my way, and I will.

Mr. PIZZEY: We will give the hon. gentleman a free ticket early in 1969.

Conditions here are improving, and they will continue to improve. The figures show that conditions have improved. The hon. member for Toowoomba East indicated that they have improved. Instead of having a student-teacher ratio of 36 to 1, it is now down to 31 to 1. I hope that in a few years time it will be down to 28 to 1 and that not long after that, say, in the mid-70's, it will be down to 26 to 1, the figure that is accepted by all States in Australia.

(Time, on motion of Mr. Hodges, extended.)

Mr. PIZZEY: I thank the House for the opportunity to complete my speech on education, and I promise the Leader of the Opposition that I will avoid repetition other than when it is necessary for emphasis.

We now have about 16 per cent. of Senior students entering the teaching profession. Some may say that we should have 20 per cent., but if we had we would create a dangerous pressure in other fields of activity. We need more agricultural scientists; we need—

Dr. Delamothe: More barristers.

Mr. PIZZEY: We want more competent barristers.

Let me now explain the position as it relates to married women teachers. We have 1,811 married women teachers in the service. Judging by some of the Opposition's criticism around Christmas-time it would seem that we sack the whole 1,811. Over the years we have been terminating the services of a few hundred of them to give young teachers coming out of the college an opportunity to serve in their home towns in their first year of service. There is a great misunderstanding on the part of the public concerning the termination of the service of married women teachers. That is the policy we have followed. I think it is a worthy policy. It is a good idea to give these young people an opportunity to serve in their home towns.

Mr. Houston: You could still pay them holiday money.

Mr. PIZZEY: They are paid all the holiday money that the award entitles them to. I do not know whether hon. members think that teachers who are put on in mid-October and serve for six weeks should get the full six weeks' holiday. Those who work a full year normally get the full holiday. If, at the beginning of the school year, we find that we need them, we call them to come in straight away, and we pay them for the whole of the holiday time.

Mr. Houston: Just on the award.

Mr. PIZZEY: No, not under the award. That is not necessary. Married women are paid holiday pay on a pro-rata basis. Quite often a teacher does not resign until the end of the Christmas holidays and we find we have to fill a vacancy. Teachers are not free from blame in this. Suddenly, in the last two days of the August vacation, we received 17 resignations. I do not know why. Perhaps the teachers concerned came to Brisbane and suddenly found that they were in love and wanted to leave the service to marry, and sent in their resignations. We had 17 vacancies that had to be filled. We might have married women available in the suburbs so we can put them into those schools, and on Monday morning some other teacher finds that she is being transferred to Surat to fill a vacancy there. Surely no-one

suggests that we should not fill the vacancies and not transfer anybody. The department does not transfer people unless it is absolutely necessary, because every transfer costs money and we do not like wasting money. We do not transfer teachers unless it is absolutely necessary to do so in the interests of the service.

Mr. Houston: Why not make some provision to allow a girl who is getting married to continue teaching without the doubt of whether she will be re-employed?

Mr. PIZZEY: That will be considered. In most instances they are given the opportunity straight away. They are asked, "Are you prepared to come back?" Most of them do come back.

On one occasion a news agency rang an officer of the department in an outside centre and said, "You have lost a lot of teachers. They are going overseas." The officer said, "I will give you a statement if you will print every word I say. We have lost eight teachers. One is going overseas and the others are expecting babies in a very short time." That did not happen in Brisbane. In that area there was a story about a great exodus of teachers, and it is not true.

The department was recently accused of completely ignoring the welfare of young children at a suburban primary school by transferring first one teacher, and then her replacement. What the accuser did not know was that the teachers concerned had not been transferred. They were married women who had resigned to have babies. Efficient as the department is, it has no control over those things. There have been many similar cases throughout the State, and I think it is worth repeating that the department does not transfer teachers with some sort of evil idea of disrupting a class. We are still doing this, but it is forced upon us. Hon. members who were previously Education Department officers know that that is true.

The department recently adopted a change in policy on overseas service by teachers. Previously a teacher went overseas for four years and came back on the same status as when he left. Since the beginning of this year we have been giving teachers credit for their overseas service as teachers. They must produce a record showing that they have been teaching for the full time. They are credited with overseas service, less one year. In a way, I suppose that is an encouragement for more teachers to go overseas.

Mr. Houston: Does that apply to married women as well?

Mr. PIZZEY: If the married women are permanent employees, it does. We look at their service overseas and give them credit.

Mr. Houston: You do not give that credit to married women who are employed on a temporary annual basis. They do not go up in classification.

Mr. PIZZEY: Of course they do, provided they teach for a full year.

Mr. Bennett: Why do you sack them at Christmas-time?

Mr. PIZZEY: The hon. member should have been listening to me instead of reading his mail. One year is deducted in order to keep faith with those teachers who remain in the service. Surely those who stay are entitled to some consideration. The department has been criticised because when some teachers come back from overseas they are told that they must first serve in a country area. Surely it would not be fair to those who remained and did their two years' country service if they were again sent to the country to meet the wishes of a returning teacher who said, "I want to stay in Brisbane." Many teachers resign and go overseas when they receive their first transfer to a country area, and return hoping to receive Brisbane appointments. Some do, if they have had overseas service.

I want to place on record this change of policy in view of some recent inaccurate statements that teachers who go overseas to gain additional experience will find that experience wasted when they return. I heard a television interviewer once ask a teacher, "Don't you think it is dreadful that all the time you spend overseas will be wasted, and you will get no consideration for it on your return?" The teacher was a decent type who said, "You are not right there. We do get recognition."

It would perhaps be timely to place recent resignations of teachers in context. I do not deny that a number of teachers have gone to Canada recently as a result of a recruiting campaign by that country. Canada is short of teachers, particularly in the remote areas, and there is hot competition among school districts for teachers. Members should realise that there are local-authority-controlled education systems in those places.

Mr. O'Donnell: Do you recommend them?

Mr. PIZZEY: No, I do not. I think it is difficult to give country children a fair deal under such a system. It may be all right in, for example, Switzerland and similar fully developed countries, but in a land of vast areas and remote places it is not a useful system.

The United States is recruiting teachers from Canada, and Canada is also recruiting teachers from Britain. It should be understood that the academic year in Canada started this week. Their school year starts in the first week of September, so it is natural that those going to Canada would leave here at about the time of the August vacation.

The hon. member for Mt. Gravatt gave some explanation of why teachers have always gone overseas and subsequently returned. Thousands of young university-trained people in all occupations and professions do this. Since the beginning of this year about 140 teachers have resigned to go overseas. But in the same period 100 have rejoined the service after teaching overseas. In the last four or five days about nine or 10 have returned. There is always this ebb and flow of teachers.

Recently I informed the House that about 1,700 resignations had been received from teachers since December last year. Many were from married women who have since been re-admitted. The only story told to the public was that 1,600 or 1,700 had resigned, although in the very smallest of print one might have noticed that 2,000 were re-employed. Some married women resigned and were re-admitted two or three times. Opposition members make the claim that there is a crisis in education. They do not tell the public that the Department of Education has now 200 more teachers than it had at the beginning of the year.

It has been said that the Government has not looked after the teachers. I think I mentioned earlier the accommodation provided by the Government for teachers in western areas. Allowances for trainees have been increased, and the Government has revised the superannuation scheme. I ask teachers to look at the superannuation scheme that they had when Labour was in office. It gave them very little more than the old-age pension; in most instances it would have prevented them from receiving the old-age pension. They now have a far better superannuation scheme than they had previously.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. PIZZEY: Hon. members opposite should not try to convince teachers who are over 30 years of age that Labour gave them a reasonable deal on superannuation when it was in power.

Mr. Bennett: They were contented in our day.

Mr. PIZZEY: Perhaps it could be said that they were frightened into submission.

Teachers now have an opportunity to study that they did not have before. The department has recently begun to appoint laboratory assistants at the larger high schools to free science teachers from routine laboratory work and enable them to concentrate on preparation and teaching. This move is more progressive than any contemplated by Labour.

In addition, many ancillary services are being provided that were not provided under Labour. Let me deal first with school ovals. How many were provided by Labour Governments?

Mr. Graham: Provided by school committees.

Mr. PIZZEY: How many were provided by Labour? One at Cavendish Road, to try to ensure the return of Dr. Felix Dittmer.

Mr. Bennett: We had one at the high school at Musgrave Park.

Mr. PIZZEY: About half a one; many thousands of dollars have since been spent to make it a full-sized oval. Previously high schools did not even have the assistance of groundsmen. It is now Government policy to build one large oval at almost every high school, and parents and citizens' associations can then have another one built under subsidy.

The Government's policy relative to parents and citizens' associations should perhaps be explained briefly. Such associations, in one form or another, have always existed in Queensland, and they have sprung from a community desire to assist the local school. They are not in existence to the same extent overseas because to finance education there local authorities charge a local tax which in many cases returns three or four times the amount of revenue they need for ordinary local authority services. Does the Leader of the Opposition suggest that a working man in Queensland should pay three, four or five times more in rates so that the money can be diverted to education? That is the inference one could draw from his remarks.

The Government encourages assistance from parents and citizens' associations because a school essentially belongs to the community and is a much better place if the community takes an interest in it. Frequently the schools in which the greatest parental interest is shown are the best, and quite often a community develops the type of school that it wants. Hon. members should look at the Kedron High School and see what has been developed there; it is something different from most high schools. They should look at Wilston, with its library, and Sandgate, also with its library. In those instances parents have developed something by their own energy and initiative, with subsidy from the Department of Education. The Government provides all the basic teaching material needed to give school pupils a sound education; but there are other things that a community might think its school should have. There is no end to what can be provided, and the department encourages parents and citizens' associations by subsidising their efforts. I pay tribute to the thousands of people throughout the State who are endeavouring to assist actively in the education of their children.

Mr. Houston: We will join you in that.

Mr. PIZZEY: There are a number of other matters that I shall not deal with in detail. However, the Government has been attacked by the Opposition relative to the installation of sewerage systems at schools. If ever there was a neglect of sewerage in this State, it was during the period up to 1957.

Mr. Lloyd: That is ten years ago.

Mr. PIZZEY: There were very few sewered homes in any city of this State during that period.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. PIZZEY: It may be history, but it is interesting history.

I am not going to deal with class size any more because I have dealt with that subject, but I reiterate that in this "great crisis" we have 1,000 more teachers for roughly the same number of pupils as there were 10 years ago. It must have been a very tragic era for Queensland with Labour's absolute neglect of the interests of the children of this State.

As I have said before, the present Government started behind scratch when it took over the education system of Queensland from the Australian Labour Party. We are now spending on education at three times the rate that the Australian Labour Party did in 1957. The \$1 then was equivalent to about \$1.30 today, so the change in money values cannot explain away this increase. Of the total State budget for 1966-67, education received nearly 20 per cent. Of the total State budget for 1956-57 education received nearly 11 per cent. Total expenditure by the Government from Consolidated Revenue is 181.5 per cent. of what it was about 10 years ago.

Mr. Sherrington: What about temporary classrooms?

Mr. PIZZEY: Of course, Labour did not have temporary classrooms. They were satisfied to have 50 or 60 in a class.

Mr. Houston: That is not true.

Mr. PIZZEY: It is true.

Expenditure on education is 254 per cent. of what it was about 10 years ago. In other words, expenditure on education has increased at 1½ times the rate of increase in general Government expenditure from Consolidated Revenue.

These are facts of which the people of Queensland should be aware. Many are aware of them. Those who have been interested enough to take notice have seen the great steps that have been taken. They understand the problems that have faced the Government.

No-one can truthfully deny that we have made a supreme effort in education. We have not only taken up the slack that Labour left but have pushed ahead in education. I can assure hon. members that we will continue to emphasise education, because we realise its tremendous importance in the development of this State.

Mr. WALLIS-SMITH (Tablelands) (12.43 p.m.): In the short time at my disposal in this debate, I wish to deal with some of the important features that concern my electorate and Queensland generally. First of all, however, I wish to join with other hon. members in their expressions of loyalty to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and also to congratulate Sir Alan Mansfield and Lady Mansfield on the job they have done in Sir Alan's first year of office as Governor of Queensland. I hope that in the ensuing 12 months both Sir Alan and Lady Mansfield will continue to travel throughout the State and discover and draw attention to the needs of the people.

At the outset, I should like to say how disappointed I was with the speech made by the hon. member for Mulgrave, who moved the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. He spent a great deal of his time telling us about the drift of population from the Atherton Tableland. However, he made no constructive suggestion as to how this drift might be arrested, so I intend today to the best of my ability, to deal with the tobacco industry, and to show hon. members just how the position can be remedied and also to point out the risk that is inherent in its present situation.

The tobacco industry has had to overcome many obstacles. I have said this before, but it is worth repeating. Tobacco was first grown prior to the depression, but in those days it was done by dry-farming methods. Due to the foresight of the Australian Labour Party Government, water was provided in the tobacco-growing areas and today there is no lack of water for the growing of this crop.

The disease problem has been overcome by the very good services of agricultural scientists. As a new disease threatens, it is not very long before they find a means to combat it. The problem we now have to overcome relates to the methods of marketing, the return to the farmers and the security of the farmers. This is the root of the trouble. If there is any difficulty about a particular area, it is because there is no security for the people in that area.

On 17 December, 1965, the Commonwealth tobacco stabilisation scheme came into being for the three States that grow tobacco, namely, Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. Australia's quota of leaf for the manufacture of tobacco was laid down at 26,000,000 lb. At the time a lot of bartering went on over this figure. We are still of the opinion that it should have been set

at 28,000,000 lb. If it had been, we would not have had the problem that I will refer to later.

Queensland was allowed a quota of 14,000,000 lb. It then had to be decided how the individual farmers should be allotted their quotas to make up the total of 14,000,000 lb. From now on I intend to speak mainly about Queensland. The formula to be adopted had to be as fair and as near to perfect as possible. It is all very well to stand on the sidelines now and criticise what was done, but before anyone criticises he should have a better method to suggest. It is no use merely indulging in destructive criticism. At the time it was decided to consider the four previous years, and the yield of the two best years of those four years of each individual farmer was taken and averaged. The total arrived at under this formula amounted to much more than 14,000,000 lb., so it was decided to allot a basic quota of not more than 5 tons. It meant that if a farmer's average yield for those two years was 10 tons, his quota was 5 tons; if his average yield was 5 tons, his quota again was 5 tons; if his average yield was less than 5 tons, he accordingly received a quota of that amount less than 5 tons. The tonnage remaining was allocated on a 39.6 per cent. surplus basis to the bigger growers. There are some quite big growers in the industry. There are some with well over a 20-ton quota.

Mr. Tucker: Is the former member for Tablelands a big grower up there?

Mr. WALLIS-SMITH: Yes. In the "Government Gazette" of 10 November, 1966, Mr. Gilmore is shown at 48,400 lb., in other words, 24 tons 400 lb. That will give hon. members some idea that there are big growers as well as small growers.

The small grower with a 5-ton quota could not operate economically and had to seek finance to carry on. That position has prevailed for three years. There are 142 low-quota farmers who are in serious financial trouble. These are not my personal comments. They come from the Minister's chief marketing officer, Mr. Lapidge, who is chairman of the Tobacco Quota Committee. He stated at a public meeting that 142 tobacco-growers in Queensland were in serious trouble.

I should point out that there are 579 tobacco-farmers in Queensland, of whom 364, or 60 per cent., have less than a 10-ton quota. Once again the big farmer's position has been highlighted; his returns are out of all proportion to those of the small farmer. Of the 364 growers with less than 10 tons, 315 are in North Queensland. Of these 315 growers, 39 have below 5 tons, ten have exactly 5 tons, and 266 have between 5 and 10 tons. I am speaking on behalf of the majority of growers who are in financial trouble.

The other day I asked the Treasurer if he was aware of the fact that the Agricultural Bank was refusing finance to growers with small quotas, and he said that he was. It is a vicious circle. No further tobacco quotas are to be granted, and no finance is available to the low-quota growers through the Agricultural Bank. What is the result? These growers cannot transfer their quotas to other farmers, or get rid of them in any other way, and then carry on with mixed farming as the quota is attached to the land, not to the grower. This state of affairs is a by-product of the stabilisation scheme. It is a dead-end that was not originally envisaged. Now that it has come to light, I think the best way to show what is happening is to quote Mr. Adermann's statement as reported in "The Australian Tobacco Journal"—

"The Commonwealth Government can, of course, deal only with the industry on a national basis, it cannot ensure a given result for an individual grower or an equal distribution of the premiums which emerge under the auction system. It does support the stabilisation plan to the extent that it ensures a full clearance each season of the annual marketing quota of 26 million lb. Australian tobacco leaf at sale prices not less than those for each grade in the agreed official grade and minimum price schedule."

Mr. Carey: You agree with that, don't you?

Mr. WALLIS-SMITH: No, I do not agree with it. I am pointing out that many farmers are in trouble, according to the department, but Mr. Adermann is concerned only with the effect of the over-all price. We have heard how the over-all price can be obtained by the big farmers. They are on velvet, whereas the small farmers receive a mere pittance.

Let me now quote what the Minister for Primary Industries, Mr. Row, said on 22 August, 1967—

"If it had not been for the operation of the industry stabilisation scheme a far greater number of growers would be in serious difficulty."

That is an entirely negative attitude. I want some scheme by which, at the present time, we can overcome the difficulties experienced by those farmers who are in financial trouble.

The tobacco industry achieved international fame as a result of an article which appeared in "Queensland Country Life" of 20 July, 1967.

The Deputy Prime Minister said—

"Australia has little early hope of getting the U.S. wool tariff cut.

"Tobacco-growers here will be under strong pressure from the wool industry."

And later—

"Mr. McEwen said the terms of the wool deal would have destroyed the Australian tobacco industry.

"The effect of 'this incredible request' would have been to reduce the local leaf price by several shillings per lb., Mr. McEwen added."

No words of mine can elaborate on those statements by the Federal Leader of the Country Party, the Federal Minister for Primary Industry, and the State Minister for Primary Industries, all of whom can do something to correct this terrible situation. I know that it is all very well to stand here and say that these are the things that are happening.

The average price for leaf grown under the tobacco-quota system and stabilisation plan is 10·2c. Unfortunately it is not realised that that is for the minority. For instance, if 30 per cent. get well over that price and 70 per cent. get well below it, that figure is still maintained and once again the unequal allocation of quotas is ringing the death-knell of the stabilisation scheme.

A 1c rise in the price of 1 lb. of tobacco is equal to \$2 a bale, and this can amount to big money when we consider the number of bales put onto the auction floor. How was the price arrived at? This is most important, because I shall now show how the manufacturer can control the price. A price is arrived at by the appraisers who put the leaf into grades and then, using the schedule, put a price on it. To overcome an anomaly, the Tobacco Marketing Board decided to put in a checker. If a bale was not bid for at a sale he had the authority to withdraw it from sale and instruct the owner to have a look at it and re-submit it. Previously it was left there and buyers could come along later and negotiate a much lower price, or the arbitrator could down-grade it one grade, and that could mean as much as 10 or 15c a lb. to the grower.

The buyers said that they did not want a checker at all. To get rid of him they refused to compete for two days. I was at the sale when that happened. I think that was the occasion that the hon. member for Cook referred to. The buyers did not stop the sale; they simply did not compete. During one lunch-hour there was a discussion and the checker was withdrawn. The buyers now know that they have a pattern to follow. They do not bid, the arbitrator looks at the leaf and often down-grades it, and instead of the appraisal price being the minimum price it becomes the maximum price, and the buyer knows that he will never have to pay more than that price.

I hope this is clear to all hon. members. Many buyers were once appraisers. They know their job and the frailties of the farmer whose leaf is not selling and who will go to any lengths to dispose of it.

(Leave to continue speech tomorrow granted.)

The House adjourned at 1.1 p.m.