

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 27 AUGUST 1968

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

QUESTIONS**OPERATIONS OF FISHERIES INSPECTORS**

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

(1) On what date and at which centres of the State did the Boating Patrol Service commence operations?

(2) Since that date, how many persons have been (a) questioned and/or (b) convicted for offences in relation to under-sized fish?

(3) How many of these convictions have arisen from fishing in Moreton Bay?

(4) Do the patrol boats carry any equipment to (a) measure the fish and/or (b) mark the fish for production in court, if necessary?

Answers:—

(1) "Existing Inspectors of Fisheries were appointed Patrol Officers on December 8, 1967. Twelve officers were appointed in January, 1968, and after completing a 12 weeks' training course took up duty at various points on the Queensland coast by May 20, 1968. Officers are stationed at the following centres—Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Bundaberg, Maryborough, Maryborough (Hervey Bay), Tewantin, Brisbane, Brisbane (Moreton Bay), Southport."

(2 and 3) "The information is being obtained, and I will make it available to the Honourable Member as soon as it is available."

(4) "(a) All patrol boats are equipped with measuring boards certified by the Weights and Measures Department. (b) Fish seized as evidence are measured and placed in a bag. All bags are labelled, secured and placed in a refrigerated security locker at the Brisbane Fish Board pending Court proceedings."

BREATH TESTING EQUIPMENT

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

(1) How many (a) alco-test devices and (b) breathalyser instruments have now been purchased and from where and at what total and individual cost?

(2) What additional purchases are anticipated during the present financial year?

Answers:—

(1) "(a) 'Alco-test'—Number purchased, 3,200 packs at \$4.94 per pack, \$15,808; Supplier—Lubeck Company, 329 Venner Road, Yeronga, Brisbane, Agents for Dragerwerk Lubeck, Lubeck, Germany. (b) 'Breathalyser'—Number purchased—23 at \$663 each, \$15,249; Equipment and spare parts, \$13,555.08; Supplier—H. B. Selby and Co. Pty. Ltd., 2 Kilroe Street, Milton, Brisbane, Agents for Stephenson Corporation, Redbank, New Jersey, U.S.A."

(2) "Alco-test devices. Additional purchases during the current financial year cannot be anticipated at this stage but will be made as and when required. Breathalyser instruments. The purchase of additional instruments is presently under consideration.

POINTS SYSTEM FOR TRAFFIC BREACHES

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

Under the "nine points" system since December 1, 1967, relating to driving licences—

(1) How many drivers have been called on to "show cause"?

(2) How many licences have been suspended?

(3) What was (a) the longest period of suspension and (b) the average period of suspension?

(4) What significant change has been noted in the road traffic accident statistics since December 1, 1967?

Answers:—

As at July 31, 1968—

(1) "3,671."

(2) "2,604."

(3) "(a) Nine months. However, in August, 1968, there was a suspension for three years which is at present the subject of an appeal. (b) One month."

(4) "Details of the accident figures for the quarters ended December, 1967 and March, 1968, are:—

—	Total Accidents Reported	Accidents Involving Serious Casualty	Persons Killed	Persons Seriously Injured
Quarter ended December, 1967	7,815	1,828	125	2,580
Quarter ended March, 1968	7,557	1,632	119	2,256

Having in mind the context of the Question, I would stress that no claim is made that the points system may have

contributed to a change in the accident figures. There could well be other factors at work."

DOCTORS' FEES, BLOOD AND BREATHALYSER TESTS

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

(1) Prior to August 1, 1968, what was the average time spent on a blood test by a private doctor and what fee was paid for this test?

(2) Since August 1, 1968, what is the current fee paid to private doctors for (a) a breathalyser test and/or (b) a blood test, and what is the average time spent on each test?

Answers:—

(1) "Approximately twenty minutes. Between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., the fee was \$3.15 and between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m., \$4.20."

(2) "Twenty dollars and approximately forty-five minutes."

BOHLE INDUSTRIAL AREA, TOWNSVILLE

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

(1) What stage has been reached in the development of the industrial area at the Bohle, Townsville, and when will the area be ready for occupation?

(2) Has the Government received any applications for the lease or purchase of sites and, if so, from whom, for what types of industries, and on what terms will these be granted?

Answers:—

(1) "Approximately 40 acres of the Bohle Industrial Estate, Townsville, have been developed to the stage where they are available for immediate occupation. Services provided include bitumen roads, kerbing and channelling, drainage and water reticulation."

(2) "One application has been received and is currently being processed. Until negotiations are finalised the matter is, of course, confidential and must be treated as such. However, the conditions will follow the usual pattern. The tenure of lease will be thirty years and the rental will be assessed on the basis of 3 per cent. of the capital valuation of the land."

CYCLISTS AND ROAD ACCIDENTS

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

(1) What is the number of (a) fatal accidents involving cyclists during the year ended December 31, 1967, and (b) accidents causing damage to motor cars involving cyclists during the same period?

(2) What is the average age of cyclists involved in the accidents?

Answers:—

(1) "(a) Motor cyclists, 14; Pedal cyclists, 20. (b) Motor cyclists versus motor vehicle, 506; Pedal cyclists versus motor vehicle, 480. The Bureau of Census and Statistics does not tabulate information on the basis of motor cars only. Motor vehicle also includes trucks and semi-trailers. Accidents referred to are those involving serious injury or where the damage involved exceeded \$50. These accidents are reportable."

(2) "The Bureau of Census and Statistics does not work on the basis of average age. The principal age groups of cyclists involved in all types of accidents were as follows:—Motor cyclists—17-20 years, 364; 21-23 years, 96. Pedal cyclists. 7-16 years, 407; 17-20 years, 40."

RAILWAY AWARD INTERPRETATIONS

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

(1) What was the number of Railway industrial determinations heard by the Industrial Commission during the year ended June 30, 1968?

(2) How many times did determinations agree with (a) the Railway Interpreter and (b) the Railway Unions?

Answers:—

(1) "64."

(2) "The number of decisions in favour of the Railway Department was 57, and the number in favour of the Union was 7. It is of interest that only one appeal, concerning these decisions, has been lodged, and that has been by the Commissioner for Railways."

SUMMONSES AGAINST JOINT OWNERS OF MOTOR VEHICLES

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to a Press report of a complaint by Mr. B. Anderson, Praed Street, Red Hill, of summonses being issued against both his wife and himself as joint owners of a motor vehicle, when he neglected to make payment by the due date on a parking ticket for an alleged offence by him in the parking of his car in Upper Roma Street?

(2) As this procedure individually against joint owners for a single offence of this nature appears to be required in the terms of the relevant legislation, will he consider amendments to obviate a multiple penalty in these circumstances by the pure chance of a vehicle being registered in joint ownership?

Answers:—

(1) "No. Enquiries reveal that the subject prosecution was taken by the Brisbane City Council."

(2) "I am further advised that in prosecutions against joint owners for an offence of this nature, the law requires that summonses be issued and served against each joint owner. However, where such prosecutions are undertaken by the Police Department and a conviction obtained against one owner the practice followed is to withdraw the prosecution against the other owner or owners."

METAL CRUSHING PLANT AT MOSMAN HALL RESERVE, CHARTERS TOWERS

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

Is a metal crushing plant operating on part of Mosman Hall Reserve, Charters Towers, and, if so, with whose permission and under what terms?

Answer:—

"A metal crushing plant is presently operating on land at Charters Towers. As the matter is *sub judice* it would be improper for me to comment further."

PLANS FOR NEW SCHOOL BUILDING, PETRIE TERRACE

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

What is the progress to date on plans for a new, modern school at Petrie Terrace to replace the old school destroyed by fire in May, 1968?

Answer:—

"Plans for the new school are being developed."

S.G.I.O. THIRD PARTY INSURANCE

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

As (a) the annual report of the State Government Insurance Office provides details of overall premium income and claims and an average claims ratio for the Fire, General and Marine Departments but does not give a breakdown of these relative to the various forms of risk activity underwritten and in particular compulsory third party motor vehicle insurance, (b) the State Office handles almost forty per centum of third party insurance business retained within the State and (c) experience of our State Office in this field would be of value to Honourable Members in consideration of recent increases approved by the Government in third party premiums:—

(1) What was the amount of claims paid on compulsory third party insurance by the State Government Insurance Office for the

year ended June 30, 1967, in relation to the third party premiums recorded of \$4.6 million in the annual report?

(2) What were the amounts of premiums received and claims paid by the State Office relative to third party insurance for the year ended June 30, 1968?

Answers:—

I will answer the Honourable Member's Question as asked, although I should point out to him that the Answer might well give a wrong impression to anyone not familiar with the provisions of the relevant laws touching upon this subject—

(1) "\$2,335,906."

(2) "Gross premiums (less return premiums), \$4,655,742; Claims, \$2,548,909."

COMPULSORY UNIONISM IN PUBLIC SERVICE

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

(1) Further to his Answer to my Question on August 22 that it is required that employees of the Crown must become members of a registered industrial union, is it not a fact that (a) this requirement is a matter of preference at point of engagement only and (b) the former Premier stated also in May, 1968, that the question of maintaining financial membership of a union is considered to be a matter for attention by the union concerned?

(2) Will he ensure that any records kept by his Department concerning union membership of employees are now destroyed or set aside as having no further significance?

Answers:—

(1) "(a) Yes. (b) Yes."

(2) "Advice that an employee of the Crown has become a member of a registered Industrial Union on engagement must be noted as evidence of compliance with that requirement."

CHARGES BY STUDENT NURSES OF HOSPITAL TREATMENT DEFICIENCIES

(a) **Mr. Melloy**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Health,—

(1) Have all hospitals received the memorandum issued by him to hospital superintendents in July, in reference to charges of treatment deficiencies made by student nurses?

(2) What were the details of the memorandum?

(3) By whom will the student nurses be questioned?

(4) Will the confidence of the nurses be respected and preserved?

(5) Will he ensure that no discrimination or retribution will be exacted upon the nurses?

(6) Will the administrative and senior medical and nursing staff also be questioned? If so, who will conduct the enquiry at this level?

(7) Will the results of these enquiries be made public or at least made available to Honourable Members?

Answer:—

(1 to 7) "Upon reading a statement in the *Sunday Mail* on July 14, 1968, by a student nurse of the Royal Brisbane Hospital, alleging that hospital records were being falsified by nurses, I asked the Director-General of Health and Medical Services, Dr. D. W. Johnson, to inquire into this allegation. On July 15, 1968, the Director-General of Health and Medical Services issued the undermentioned memorandum to medical superintendents of those hospitals which are registered training schools for general nurses. This memorandum read as follows:—

'Department of Health,
Administration Building,
Brisbane. 4000.

15th July, 1968.

MEMORANDUM TO MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENTS:

ALLEGED FALSIFICATION OF HOSPITAL RECORDS.

Following a Conference of the Student Nurse Unit of the Royal Australian Nursing Federation held in Brisbane last week, a student nurse at the Royal Brisbane Hospital (Miss Bronwyn Gibson) stated in the *Sunday Mail* of 14th July, 1968:—

'Most nurses had admitted to the conference that they had made the appropriate entry on observation sheets, for example, on a half-hourly basis, although they only saw patients hourly, because they were frightened of getting into trouble for not having done the work.'

The Minister is concerned at this statement and has requested that detailed enquiries be made regarding the accuracy or otherwise of this charge.

It is noted that Miss Gibson also stated that she was not speaking from her own hospital, but from 'information given to me from students all over the State'. She, however, refused to indicate precisely which other hospitals were involved.

I also would be most concerned and surprised to learn that a nurse for any reason whatsoever would falsify a document relating to the treatment and welfare of a patient. This statement has, however, been made. With respect to your hospital, I would, therefore, ask you to confer urgently with your Matron and report to me on the above allegation.

Copies of this letter are enclosed for the information of the Secretary and the Matron.

D. W. JOHNSON,
Director-General of Health
and Medical Services."

The memorandum was forwarded by the Director-General to the fifty Training Hospitals, and the replies from the Medical Superintendents of those hospitals have been summarised by the Director-General as follows:—"50 hospitals were circulated and replies have been received from the Medical Superintendents of all these hospitals. Most hospitals said that there is no evidence of falsification. Advice from four country hospitals indicated that in each case there has been one instance of such falsification. Three of the persons responsible had been dismissed and the fourth had left the hospital. All these incidents occurred some time before the student nurse raised this issue. One of the major metropolitan hospitals reported that on very rare occasions the hospital had discovered that a nurse had recorded an item on an observation or similar sheet falsely. One nurse was dismissed by the Board for a flagrant example of this."

(b) **Mr. Bromley**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Health,—

(1) Has he investigated newspaper allegations of improper patient care by student nurses? If so, (a) what is the result of the investigations and (b) what is intended to be done to prevent a repetition of this?

(2) As he stated in his letter to *The Courier-Mail* of August 2, 1968, that he did not give assurance that all is well with the present system of nursing education in Queensland, will he state what the problems are and what measures he has in hand to solve these?

(3) To keep faith with the public, will he accede to the request of the Student Nurse Unit and arrange for a full scale enquiry by independent persons into Queensland State hospitals?

Answers:—

(1) "The Honourable Member appears to be referring to a statement attributed in the *Sunday Mail* of July 14 to a student

nurse, who is reported as saying that 15 per cent. of patients in Queensland suffered some kind of unnecessary setback owing to inadequacies in the nursing system. This statement was made in the most general terms without offering any supporting evidence nor any indication whether, in making such a precise statement, the student was speaking from personal observation or from a close study and analysis of medical records, or whether she was just making a guess. She has since steadfastly refused to assist with any concrete or positive facts upon which an investigation could be based, and in the circumstances no investigation of this allegation seems warranted. I am fortified in this opinion by statements made recently in a TV interview by Miss I. B. Schultz, Executive Secretary of the Royal Australian Nursing Federation and Miss M. Dickenson, Assistant Secretary, who while complaining that there are small facets in nursing care which are missing, both agreed that basic nursing needs are met. Miss Schultz's words were, 'the necessary things are done,' and Miss Dickenson said, 'the patient is being given all the essential care.' When it is remembered that these two ladies have for some years been constant and unremitting critics of the Department, their testimony in respect of basic nursing care in Queensland is particularly welcome. It is necessary, however, to repeat that in a hospital system where there are between seven and eight thousand patients each day, it is inevitable that there will be occasional deficiencies and carelessnesses, but to suggest that this is the general condition of our hospitals is a gross—indeed, a malicious—distortion of the truth. Some errors must and do occur from time to time, but, when brought to notice, the attendant circumstances are always examined with a view to correction and prevention of any repetition."

(2) "In response to earlier comments by a university don, which contained a number of inaccuracies, I wrote to *The Courier-Mail* on August 2 last, and said—I quote—"First, I did not 'give an assurance that all is well with the present system' and it is very careless indeed of Dr. Goodman to say that I did. What I said was 'we all share Dr. Goodman's concern regarding nurse training, and the Government has taken and is continuing to take fresh initiatives in this matter.'" I am sure the Honourable Member's powers of perception are sufficiently acute to realise that, in this context, my statement was in no way a positive comment about nursing education. It was a counter to a rather crude attempt to misrepresent me as having little interest in, and little understanding of, the problem—a constantly recurring theme of Dr. Goodman's several sallies into this field. This does not mean, however, that the Government holds the

view that our health services, hospital and nursing services have reached the peak of perfection and that they are not susceptible of further improvement and development. I repeat that the Government has taken, and will continue, as and when our resources permit, to take fresh initiatives in these fields."

(3) "No question of keeping faith with the public is involved in making a decision on this request. The Answer is No!"

DECENTRALISATION OF INDUSTRY

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to the statement of Mr. L. S. Dunn, President of the Rockhampton Chamber of Commerce, in the *Telegraph* of July 3, 1968, that Government favouritism towards metropolitan manufacturers was killing small industries and that until this pattern ended, particularly in the field of freight rates, there was little chance for small provincial manufacturers to consolidate?

(2) If so, will he immediately consider the views expressed by Mr. Dunn and to the representations made by the Honourable Member for Rockhampton North in this Assembly and ensure that more emphasis is given to the decentralization of industry in Queensland?

Answers:—

(1) "Government policy is designed to protect the interests of the State as a whole. There is no question of favouritism between one area and another."

(2) "The action taken by the Government in developing Crown land for industrial purposes in various provincial centres, including Rockhampton, together with the added incentives announced by me on July 17 last, are striking evidence of the positive steps being taken by the Government to encourage the further decentralisation of manufacturing activity in what is already the most decentralised State in Australia."

EXPORT OF GRAIN SORGHUM TO JAPAN

Mr. N. T. E. Hewitt, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

In view of the late Premier's statement concerning the value of possible export of grain sorghum to Japan, will he now assure the House that this possibility will not be lost sight of, especially where it could be assisted by a reduction in rail freights?

Answer:—

"The Honourable Member is assured that the matter is still under active consideration."

ELECTRICITY SWITCHBOARD, MONTO HOSPITAL

Mr. N. T. E. Hewitt, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Health,—

(1) Further to my Question of April 9, 1968, concerning the electricity switchboard at Monto Hospital, has the work been carried out?

(2) Who was the successful tenderer in this case and what was the price submitted?

(3) Is it the policy of the Government to allow a percentage margin to local contractors?

Answers:—

(1) "I am advised that the installation of increased electrical mains at the Monto Hospital was completed by the contractor on August 19, 1968. Minor work required on external mains is expected to be completed by the Capricornia Regional Electricity Board on August 23, 1968."

(2) "As indicated in my letter of April 29, 1968, to the Honourable Member the tender of Gilbarco Australia Ltd. Brisbane at \$1,771 was accepted for this work."

(3) "No."

ANTI-LITTER LEGISLATION

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

Has he read the Victorian Act to Amend the Litter Act of 1964, No. 7608? If so, will he consider introducing similar legislation to deal with any person who throws down, drops, or otherwise deposits and leaves any litter or unwanted material in or on any public place?

Answer:—

"Yes. Under Queensland law, control over the depositing of litter on public places is a function of local government, Local Authorities being empowered by the Local Government Acts to make by-laws dealing therewith and such by-laws may impose a penalty not exceeding \$100 for a breach thereof. The majority of Local Authorities have already made by-laws dealing with this matter."

PORTABLE STEPS FOR LOW-LEVEL RAILWAY PLATFORMS

Mr. O'Donnell, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Transport,—

As mobile stairways were provided for V.I.P. passengers on air-conditioned trains to the opening ceremonies at Moura and Blackwater mines, will this amenity be provided for elderly and incapacitated passengers on similar trains at rural centres where low-level platforms now exist and, if not, why not?

Answer:—

"The steps provided for trains at opening ceremonies at Moura and Blackwater were not mobile. Following the repeated and

insistent representations of the Honourable Member for Gregory, a set of portable steps is being provided for Cheepie station. This set will be tested at that station. The use of this type of steps at other stations will depend on the result of the experiment at Cheepie."

BROILER CHICKEN INDUSTRY

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

What is the extent to which Federal agreement has been reached in negotiations to provide for the broiler chicken industry a system of negotiating contracts between growers and poultry processing combines?

Answer:—

"Chicken meat processors and growers met with the State Ministers of Agriculture for Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia and Queensland, together with senior officers of their four Departments at Sydney on Friday, August 16, 1968. At this meeting, which was convened and chaired by the Minister of Agriculture of Victoria, the Honourable G. L. Chandler, M.L.C., the principles of contracts between processors and growers were discussed, and it was agreed that further discussions would be held between processors and growers in each State on details of contracts."

LOCAL AUTHORITY LOAN ALLOCATIONS

Mrs. Jordan, pursuant to notice, asked The Treasurer,—

What were the respective Loan Allocations for the 1967-68 and 1968-69 financial years for the Local Authorities of the following cities: Townsville, Toowoomba, Ipswich, Rockhampton, Gold Coast, Bundaberg, Maryborough, Gladstone, Mackay and Cairns?

Answer:—

"Loan Allocations—

—	1967-68 Total	1968-69 Total
	\$	\$
Townsville City Council ..	1,843,535	1,962,813
Toowoomba City Council	1,394,273	1,527,970
Ipswich City Council ..	1,030,200	1,241,924
Rockhampton City Council	1,470,560	1,634,733
Gold Coast City Council ..	2,702,912	2,679,958
Bundaberg City Council ..	299,884	374,000
Maryborough City Council	350,716	753,420
Gladstone Town Council	979,864	1,017,680
Mackay City Council ..	652,298	674,151
Cairns City Council ..	614,694	692,143

Mrs. JORDAN (Ipswich West): Will that information be included in "Hansard"?

Mr. SPEAKER: Depending on its length and style.

**DELAYS IN OUTPATIENTS' DEPARTMENT,
IPSWICH GENERAL HOSPITAL**

Mrs. Jordan, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Health,—

(1) Is he aware that there has been a further deterioration in the length of waiting time at the outpatients' department at Ipswich General Hospital since I asked him in the last Session of Parliament to endeavour to alleviate the position?

(2) Is he also aware that there is very often a long waiting time, even for urgent cases by ambulance at the casualty department there, and that all patients attending some clinics have to wait quite long periods for the late arrival of the specialist after the clinic commencement time?

(3) Will he endeavour to have the situation improved and, if found necessary, provide extra doctors?

Answers:—

(1) "I am advised that the medical superintendent of the Ipswich General Hospital is of the opinion that the waiting time for attention in the outpatients' department has decreased since the Honourable Member previously raised the matter."

(2) "The medical superintendent has advised that all urgent ambulance cases are seen promptly on arrival at the casualty department. He further advises that a medical officer is on duty for 24 hours in this department. In respect of specialists attending at clinics it must be realised by the very nature of their work where emergencies can arise at any hour of the day or night, that it is not always possible for such specialists to be in attendance at the precise time of the commencement of their clinics. The medical superintendent states, however, that the occasions on which specialists have been late in attending their clinics is small in number."

(3) "Approval was given on August 5, 1968, for the appointment of an additional resident medical officer at the Ipswich General Hospital. I am advised that at present there is a vacancy for a resident medical officer and this position when filled together with that of the new position will, it is anticipated, reduce further the waiting time in the outpatients' department."

**DELAYS AT EYE CLINIC, PRINCESS
ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL**

Mrs. Jordan, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Health,—

(1) Is he aware that at Princess Alexandra Hospital there is a time lapse of three months between being given an appointment at the eye clinic and the actual date of examination and that should such patients be required by the examining

doctor to see an optometrist at the hospital there is a further lapse of another three months' waiting time between appointment and interview, making a total waiting time of six months?

(2) As this creates a prolongation of the inconveniences suffered by old people particularly in relation to eye complaints and/or spectacles, will he investigate the matter with a view to hastening the examination of patients after appointments are made?

Answers:—

(1) "I am advised that the waiting time to see an optometrist is nine to ten weeks and to see the ophthalmologist eight weeks. Patients over the age of 60 years are referred to the ophthalmologist in the first instance to ensure that there is no local disease in the eye. There is no delay in treating any eye condition or prescribing spectacles where the medical staff or the optometrist consider the need to be urgent."

(2) "Consideration is at present being given to an application by the South Brisbane Hospitals Board for additional medical staff and for a re-organisation in the function of the eye department at the Princess Alexandra Hospital."

MEDICAL UNFITNESS OF YOUTHS BALLOTTED FOR NATIONAL SERVICE

Mr. Mann for Mr. Hanson, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

(1) Has his attention been drawn to a report in *The Courier-Mail* of August 9, 1968, that forty-four per centum of all Australian 20-year-olds balloted for National Service were rejected because they were medically unfit?

(2) Does the Federal Labour and National Service Minister supply to any State Department the individual State figures and, if so, could such information be made available to this House?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "No. I understand the figures are available only on a Commonwealth basis."

GLADSTONE-MOURA RAILWAY

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

(1) What was the final cost of the Gladstone-Moura short railway?

(2) Was the final cost in excess of or below the original estimate?

(3) On what firm date did the Railway Department actually take over the railway and did the Department on doing so release all contractors from further obligation?

(4) Was any retention money held at any time from any contractor and were certificates issued on satisfactory completion of work done?

(5) Since the Railway Department has assumed full responsibility for the railway line, what amounts have been expended by the Department on such matters as line buckling, landslides, washouts, strengthening of bridge piers and foundations and all other appropriate matters?

(6) Have any legal claims been made or can they be made under the agreement against any contractor or contracting firm for faulty and inferior workmanship?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) "The final cost is not yet available. It is expected that the amount spent will equal the original estimated cost of \$27,500,000, but not exceed that amount."

(3) "February 12, 1968. This did not release contractors from their responsibilities under the terms of the contracts."

(4) "Yes."

(5) "Nil."

(6) "No legal claims have been made against any contractor. The contract documents entered into by contractors provide that the making and acceptance of the final payment shall constitute a waiver of all claims by the Commissioner other than those arising from faulty work, from requirements of the specification, or from manufacturer's guarantees. Under the contract for track construction, the faulty work must appear within three months of final payment."

HOUSING COMMISSION HOUSES, BILOELA

Mr. E. G. W. Wood for Mr. V. E. Jones, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Works,—

How many Queensland Housing Commission houses in Biloela for which the Capricornia Regional Electricity Board is paying rent are unoccupied?

Answer:—

"Of six houses which were vacant four were occupied last week. Of the remaining two houses, one will be occupied within two weeks and the other by November."

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS IN STATE SCHOOLS

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

In view of the recent disastrous fire which engulfed Petrie Terrace State School and the statement in *The Courier-Mail*

of July 26, 1968, that expert opinion indicated many old timber schools in Queensland could go up in flames in a matter of minutes, will he further consider installing fire extinguishers in all State schools under the control of his Department and, if not, why not?

Answer:—

"It was agreed in discussions with technical officers that the installation of fire extinguishers in schools could produce additional hazards. As indicated in the July 1968 issue of the *Education Office Gazette* the total responsibility of teachers in the case of fire is to get the children out of the building to a safe position as quickly as possible and to maintain supervision of them outside the building. This responsibility supersedes any consideration of using fire-fighting appliances."

HOUSING OF ABORIGINES AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS

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

(1) What was the amount of finance made available each year from 1962 to 1968 for the housing of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders?

(2) From what funds were the above amounts made available?

(3) For the same period, what was the number of new houses provided and to what settlements were they allotted on the mainland and in Torres Strait Island groups?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) "Details are not available to provide the information sought by the Honourable Member, but I can say that since the financial year 1961-62 records indicate a minimum of 527 dwellings have been erected by departmental, church and private forces on community and reserve areas on the mainland of Queensland and the islands of Torres Strait. These homes have been built using community labour, church workers and departmental forces, and facilities available within the community complexes such as sawmills, clearing and levelling equipment, etc. and the cost of maintenance of each of these aspects of administration is not reflected under housing, but rather within the overall allocation of funds for the church or State administration. Additionally, the religious organisations provide funds from within their own resources, the break-up of which and allocations are not readily available to the Department. In addition, during 1965-66 some 85 new homes were erected on Edward River and Mitchell River reserves, whilst some 62 were built at Weipa. The Mitchell and Edward River homes were erected by contract at a cost

of \$614,490, and the Weipa homes were similarly built and paid for from a special grant from Comalco of \$300,000. Of the 527 new homes referred to earlier, some 174 were erected in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula areas, the balance being on the mainland of Queensland, the principal of which was the overall re-housing programme at Yarrabah which included some 45 homes. Many of the smaller country reserve areas, including Camooweal, Birdsville, Mt. Garnet, Dajarra, Normanton, Boulia and Malanda received houses, whilst hostel accommodation was also provided at Mt. Isa and other centres. In addition, families have received assistance towards the purchase of their own homes in the metropolitan and country town areas, as well as some people on reserves who have contributed from their own funds towards home building and have participated in departmental assistance."

EGG INDUSTRY, SOUTH-EAST QUEENSLAND

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

In view of the glut crises affecting the South-east Queensland egg industry in May and June of this year, which had been anticipated for some time beforehand, what action has been taken by him or his Department to assist the producer to get a fair living and return for his eggs, at the same time making sure that eggs are not priced off the consumers table?

Answer:—

"At various times over the last two years, the Egg Marketing Board has given warnings of the dangers of overproduction in the face of unremunerative export markets. There are indications that the rate of growth of recent years is now slackening and the Board at present anticipates that 1968-69 production in Queensland will not exceed 1966-67 levels, although upward trends are still evident in some of the other major production States of the Commonwealth. As sales realisations by the Board from all sources are equalised the returns to growers will be influenced largely by the quantity of eggs and egg products exported relative to local sales. I am of the opinion that the Board is always conscious of the need to maintain reasonable prices, and invariably Board prices in Queensland have been below the levels operative in other States. Although constituted under Queensland legislation the Board does not represent the Crown for any purpose whatsoever. However, an officer of my Department is a member of the Board, and regard is always had to the interests of both producers and consumers in price determination."

REAL ESTATE AGENTS' LICENCES

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

(1) How many new real estate agents' licences were granted during 1967?

(2) How many applications for new licences have been lodged during 1968 and how many have been granted?

(3) Have all applicants for new licences this year been notified by his Department that unless they obtain the prescribed educational qualifications required in 1969 their licences will not be renewed next year?

(4) Were the amendments to the Auctioneers, Real Estate Agents and Debt Collectors and Motor Dealers Regulations advertised in Queensland newspapers and what public notification, other than that to the Real Estate Institute, was given?

(5) What is the position of a real estate agent granted a licence this year but who was not notified by the Justice Department of the amendments, which may mean that his licence will not be renewed next year?

(6) Why did his Department not inform all applicants for new licences this year of the new regulations coming into effect in 1969?

Answers:—

(1) "467."

(2) "The number of new applications lodged in 1968 is unknown, as applications are lodged from day to day at Court offices throughout Queensland. New licences granted in 1968 numbered 165."

(3) "All new licensees were not so notified as it was assumed in the Office of the Registrar of Companies and Commercial Acts that every such licensee would be sufficiently interested in the law affecting his licence to make himself knowledgeable of those requirements."

(4) "The new amendments to the Regulations were not advertised in Queensland newspapers but were published in the *Queensland Government Gazette*."

(5) "A real estate agent's licence first granted in 1968 will not be renewed in 1969 unless the applicant, prior to the date of his application for renewal, (i) has held a real estate agent's licence for at least one year in the last five years; or (ii) has held the equivalent of a real estate agent's licence in another State for at least three years in the last five years; or (iii) holds an associate diploma of the Real Estate and Stock Institute of Australia; or (iv) has passed the Real Estate Practice Course conducted by the Brisbane Technical College."

(6) "The new regulation was dated January 12, 1967 and gave applicants two years to pass a one-year course. As regards the 1968 applicants, the educational requirements had been in force for one year. Applicants for licences are unknown but any applicant who has not made himself knowledgeable of the provisions of the Act and Regulations which regulate and control his activities, supplies a reason for the making of the new regulation."

SCHOOL TEACHERS

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

(1) How many teachers, including principals and head teachers, are employed in (a) State high schools and (b) primary schools?

(2) How many in Questions (1) (a) and (1) (b) have University degrees?

(3) How many in Questions (1) (a) and (1) (b) have Class I classification, and how many have Class II, Division I classification?

Answers:—

(1) (a) 3,676, (b) 6,802. These figures do not include 290 teachers, to whom special circumstances apply, such as teachers on long service leave."

(2) "(a) 820, (b) 112."

(3) "In secondary schools there are 883 teachers with Class I classification and 368 with Class II Division 1 classification. These figures exclude 167 principals and deputy principals and 416 manual training teachers who are not classified according to the teachers' classification scale. In primary schools there are 675 Class I teachers and 1,565 Class II Division 1 teachers. These figures exclude the 766 head teachers of Class I to IV primary schools who, following the latest teachers' award, are not classified according to this scale."

SOAP DISPENSERS AND PAPER TOWELS
IN STATE SCHOOLS

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

(1) What subsidy is payable to Parents and Citizens' Associations for the installation of soap dispensers and/or paper towels in State schools?

(2) How many applications have been received for subsidy and how many applications have been approved?

(3) How many State schools have been supplied with soap dispensers by his Department?

Answers:—

(1) "Subsidy is not available on the purchase of soap dispensers or paper towels."

(2) "Any inquirer has been advised as in (1)."

(3) "My Department has not supplied soap dispensers to schools."

DEATH OF MISS MIMA MCKIM-HILL

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

Will he take steps to have a reward notice issued for information leading to the arrest of the person or persons connected with the murder of Miss Mima McKim-Hill? If not, why not?

Answer:—

"All possible police action has been and is being taken in relation to the death of Mima Joan McKim-Hill. When investigating police officers have explored all possible avenues of enquiry, a review of the investigation made in this case will be undertaken by the Commissioner of Police. Following that review, and if a solution of the crime is still obscure, the question of a reward for information leading to the apprehension of the person or persons responsible for the death of Mima Joan McKim-Hill will receive consideration."

NET-FISHING LICENCES

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

(1) How many amateur net fishermen licences were taken out at Rockhampton in the years 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967 and 1968 and what was the amount of revenue for each year?

(2) How many prosecutions have been issued against amateur net fishermen in each of the abovementioned years?

(3) How many professional net licences have been issued for the abovementioned years at Rockhampton and what was the revenue for each year?

(4) How many complaints have been made in writing by professional net fishermen against amateur net fishermen at Rockhampton?

(5) If any complaints were received, were any prosecutions made?

(6) Under what section of the Fisheries Act can a cast net be used for the catching of mullet?

Answers:—

(1) "Amateur net licences were issued in the Rockhampton district as follows—1962-63, 226; 1963-64, 217; 1964-65, 298; 1965-66, 260; 1966-67, 178; 1967-68, 159. Revenue was as follows—1962-63, \$904; 1963-64, \$868; 1964-65, \$1,196; 1965-66, \$1,040; 1966-67, \$712; 1967-68, \$636."

(2) "Prosecutions issued against amateur net fishermen were as follows—1963, 69; 1964, 94; 1965, 75; 1966, 140; 1967, 67; 1968, 66."

(3) "Professional net fishermen's licences were issued in the Rockhampton district as follows—1962-63, 131; 1963-64, 38; 1964-65, 100; 1965-66, 81; 1966-67, 79; 1967-68, 79. Revenue was as follows—1962-63, \$654; 1963-64, \$182; 1964-65, \$500; 1965-66, \$404; 1966-67, \$395; 1967-68, \$395."

(4 and 5) "My officers advise me that they cannot recollect instances of such complaints. However, I have not caused a search of records to be made, as I consider such would involve considerable unwarranted expense."

(6) "A cast net cannot legally be used for the taking of mullet."

Mr. DAVIES (Maryborough): Mr. Speaker, would you have that answer included in "Hansard"?

Mr. SPEAKER: Depending on its shape and size. It is impossible to print some of this information in "Hansard".

Mr. Mann: It is the Government's responsibility.

Mr. Chalk: It is on the table for you to read. Can't you read?

Mr. Mann: I want the public to read it.

Mr. DAVIES: It should be in "Hansard".

PIONEER CONCRETE LTD. PLANT,
NORTH ROCKHAMPTON

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

(1) Is he aware that Pioneer Concrete plant, North Rockhampton, was erected in a residential area in 1964 before a permit was issued and in spite of a petition containing sixty-three signatures which was lodged with Rockhampton City Council?

(2) Was the permit issued early in June 1964 by the Department of Local Government granted within approximately three days of his Department's receipt of the application?

(3) What lines did the investigation, if any, take before the issue of permit?

(4) Did he check, compare or consider any similar previous permit?

(5) Were any signatories of the objectors' petition interviewed by agents, officers or other informants of his Department?

(6) Did he take into consideration that Pioneer Concrete promised in their application for permit that their works would be dust-free, and that there would be no noise and no excessive traffic?

(7) In view of the attitude of the Council, and to save residents some \$2,000 in legal costs, will he consider ways of regulating this company in a gazetted residential area to specific hours of operation?

Answer:—

(1 to 7) "The Rockhampton City Council, by letter dated May 29, 1964 advised the Department of Local Government that it had granted a permit for the erection by Pioneer Ready Mixed Concrete (Qld.) Pty. Ltd. of a ready mixed concrete plant and office at Card Street, North Rockhampton. The permit was granted by the Council pursuant to an Order in Council then in existence declaring the City of Rockhampton to be a Residential District for the purposes of the Local Government Acts. The granting of the permit was advertised by the Council as required by the Acts and a number of persons objected to the granting of the permit in a letter addressed to the Council. In submitting the objection to me as required by law, the Council represented that the permit be confirmed for the following reasons:—(a) it considered the location of the proposed development was a satisfactory one; (b) modern plant was proposed to be installed to eliminate any possible nuisance; and (c) no crushing was to be carried out at the site. After fully considering the matter in accordance with the provisions of the Acts, I subsequently confirmed the permit and advice to this effect was furnished to the Council by letter dated June 5, 1964. The hours of operation of the works by the company is not a matter over which I could exercise any control."

MANUFACTURE OF SOUVENIR BOOMERANGS

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

Has he read the article in *The Courier-Mail* of August 16, headed "Beating our Boomerangs"? If so, will he take the necessary action to ensure that Aborigines manufacturing boomerangs in Queensland will receive protection in their souvenir production markets?

Answer:—

"Yes. Immediate representations were made to the appropriate Commonwealth Authorities."

QUEENSLAND NATIONAL ART GALLERY

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

(1) In view of the Government's decision in June, 1967, when confirming the appointment of the director of the Queensland National Art Gallery, that the owner of the Moreton Galleries would be given twelve months to dispose of his commercial galleries, (a) did Mr. Wieneke give a written undertaking to dispose of his galleries to a stranger in that time, (b) what action is now being contemplated by the Government in respect of these decisions, (c) are the Moreton Galleries really for sale, (d) has the director notified him that at least two credentialled potential buyers have approached him stating they were prepared to negotiate and (e) is the present set-up with regard to the chairman and trustees causing alarm and discontent among artists and art critics?

(2) What plans are in hand for a new National Art Gallery and how much money is available for the project?

(3) What are the individual duties of the chairman, director and trustees?

(4) What are the names and qualifications of the trustees and what is the length of their appointment?

(5) Has the director full power in administration and buying? If not, why not?

Answers:—

(1) "(a) Yes. (b) This matter is under review. The advice of the trustees is awaited. (c) Yes. (d) No. (e) I have no evidence to this effect."

(2) "Until a new site for the Gallery is secured, plans for a new Art Gallery cannot be made or funds appropriated for the purpose."

(3) "There is no position of 'Chairman' named in *The Queensland Art Gallery Act of 1959*." The president is elected by the trustees from amongst their number and holds office until the expiry of his term as a trustee. He presides at meetings of the trustees and, where necessary, makes announcements on behalf of the trustees. The objects and functions of the trustees are set out in section 14 of *The Queensland Art Gallery Act of 1959*." The director's duties are not specified in the Act. He performs his duties for the effectual administration of the Act in accord with the wishes of the trustees."

(4) "No specific qualifications are required under the Act, but one member must be a director of the Department of Education and, of the trustees nominated by the Minister, not fewer than four must be knowledgeable and experienced in the visual arts. Trustees are appointed for a terms of four years. The names of the trustees of the Queensland Art Gallery at present are:—Sir Leon Trout, President; Dr. B. B. Barrack; Dr. N. G. J. Behan; Mr. P. D. Connolly; Mr. E. R. Cuppaidge; Mr. E. A. Ferguson, Vice President; Mr. A. E. Guymmer, Vice President; Mr. R. A. Henderson; Sir Ellis Murphy; Mr. R. J. C. O'Loan; Mr. A. J. Stratigos."

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

TUAN FOREST RESERVE

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

(1) How many acres were planted at Maryborough's Tuan reforestation centre during each of the years 1960 to 1968?

(2) In what year were commercial thinnings available at this centre?

(3) Has any move been made to make these thinnings available for industrial use? If so, with what result and, if not, what is the reason for the delay?

(4) How many super feet of timber would be available at present from that area and what would be the anticipated quantity each year during the next decade?

(5) In what year was the Tuan Forestry established?

Answers:—

(1) "1960, 482 acres; 1961, 556 acres; 1962, 514 acres; 1963, 435 acres; 1964, 565 acres; 1965, 689 acres; 1966, 1,031 acres; 1967, 1,706 acres; 1968, 2,400 acres approximately."

(2) "Commercial case thinnings would have been available from the initial planting area by 1963."

(3) "Yes. These areas played an important part in the 45 million superficial feet per year pulpwood for which tenders were called in 1965. So far there have been a number of enquiries from firms interested in manufacture of paper or particle board. The most recent of these enquiries was about 3 months ago so there is still interest in the proposition. Other steps to dispose of thinnings have not been taken because of the desire to build up the quantities to render the project more attractive to paper-making concerns."

(4) "The Answer to this Question depends on the standard of utilization which is to apply to the area and this has not yet been determined."

(5) "Nursery was first sown in 1947. First planting was in winter 1948. 180 acres."

TEDDINGTON WEIR

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

As his Department has mentioned the possibility of pumping water from the Mary River at Tiaro into the Teddington Weir when necessity arose, what is (a) the distance between the river at Tiaro and Teddington Weir, (b) the height of each site above sea level, (c) the height of the most elevated land between both sites and (d) the estimated cost of such pumping for various quantities of water?

Answer:—

"(a) The shortest distance between the Mary River at Tiaro and the Teddington Weir on Tinana Creek is approximately 7½ miles. The length of a pipe line between the two points would probably be slightly in excess of this to utilise the most favourable route. (b) The height of the water level in the Mary River at Tiaro is normally approximately three feet above Mean Sea Level. The height of water in Teddington Weir (at full storage level) is 17.7 feet above Mean Sea Level. The Maryborough City Council proposes to increase the height of water in the Weir to 26.7 feet, under the augmentation scheme now being planned, to provide the estimated water requirements for Maryborough until the year 2000. (c) The reduced level of the highest land which a pipe line would be required to traverse is approximately 150, i.e. 150 feet above Mean Sea Level. (d) The information sought is not available to my Department."

NEW BUILDING FOR CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC

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

(1) Was a committee appointed to prepare plans for a new Conservatorium of Music and, if so, how often has the committee met since its appointment and what was the date of the last meeting?

(2) What progress has been made in the preparation of plans and has a site been selected?

(3) What are the names of the members who constitute the committee and the organisations, if any, each represents?

(4) How many students are attending the Conservatorium at present as (a) full-time students and (b) part-time students and how many teachers are employed (a) full time and (b) part time?

(5) As the present building is completely inadequate for requirements with the present enrolment, will he expedite the construction of a new Conservatorium centre?

Answers:—

(1) "No."

(2) "In the capital expenditure programme for the 1967-69 triennium for Colleges of Advanced Education an amount of \$40,000 was included for initial planning of a new building for the Conservatorium of Music. The preparation of submissions to the Commonwealth for the 1970-72 triennium is at present being undertaken and provision for a new Conservatorium is under consideration. The proposed site is within the grounds of the Queensland Institute of Technology, Brisbane."

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

(4) "In second term, 1968 there were 33 full-time and 329 part-time students enrolled at the Conservatorium. There were 7 full-time and 25 part-time teachers employed."

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

HOUSING COMMISSION HOUSES, WYNNUM ELECTORATE

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

(1) How many Housing Commission homes were completed in the Wynnum Electorate during the year 1967-68 and where are they located?

(2) How many of the homes have been allotted for rental purposes?

(3) How many homes are under construction in the Wynnum Electorate at the present time and where are they located?

(4) How much land, if any, is being held by the Department for the construction of Housing Commission homes in the Wynnum Electorate and where is it situated?

(5) Has the Department any land in view or under offer in the Wynnum Electorate to be used for Commission purposes?

Answers:—

(1) "53. At Roseneath Parade and Leadale, Katie, Samantha, Meilandt, Claymeade, Garvey, Hannam, Wilfred, Alkoomie, and Worthing Streets."

(2) "17."

(3) "5. At Roseneath Parade and Hannam and Leadale Streets."

(4) "12 sites at Roseneath Parade and in respect of which contracts for 3 houses have been let; tenders called for 5 houses; and one site selected by a home-ownership applicant. A further 48 sites off Sibley Road require development works."

(5) "No."

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES' UNIFORMS

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

(1) Has a committee been formed to investigate the possibilities of a change in style, colour and texture of material used in the manufacture of uniforms as issued to Railway employees?

(2) If the Answer to Question (1) is in the affirmative, (a) how many members have been appointed to the committee, (b) what is the name of each member and (c) what are the practical qualifications if any, of each member of the committee in relation to the manufacture of uniforms and/or textiles?

(3) If the Answer to Question (1) is in the negative, will he indicate when a committee will be formed?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "(a) (b) and (c) The firm of Stuart Adams, tailors and mercers, were engaged by the Commissioner for the purpose of designing suitable railway uniforms and advising the Department concerning the class of materials. They are being assisted by the Comptroller of Stores and the uniform clerk attached to the Comptroller of Stores' Office. The members of the firm are Edward Enoch Adams, and Walter Joseph Stephen Burton Struthers, both of whom have had extensive experience as tailors—Mr. Adams for 32 years and Mr. Struthers for 30 years. Prior to entering into partnership, they were employed by a leading firm of mens' outfitters in Brisbane. Mr. Struthers was president of the Clothing Division of the Chamber of Manufactures, and a member of the Master Tailors Division of the Chamber of Manufactures."

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

OPERATIONS OF DREDGING INDUSTRIES
PTY. LTD., WYNNUM

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

(1) Is he aware that Dredging Industries Pty. Ltd., employed in reclamation work, is using the Wynnum foreshore for repairs and prefabrication construction?

(2) Is he also aware of the extent of damage caused to the retaining wall and breakwater wall, which has already been broken in several places and is a positive danger to the unsuspecting public and boating fraternity?

(3) Has his Department any arrangements with the dredging company in relation to compensation for the repairing of this unnecessary damage to public property?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) "I understand the company is using a recreation reserve at Wynnum for this purpose, that the reserve is under the control of Brisbane City Council and that the retaining wall and groyne are council property."

(3) "The contract for the reclamation work is not one to which my Department is a party."

REMOVAL OF TAILINGS, IRVINEBANK
STATE TREATMENT WORKS

Mr. Dean for **Mr. Wallis-Smith**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Mines,—

Further to my previous Questions concerning the removal of tailings from the Loudon Dam at Irvinebank,—

(1) Has the treatment of tailings commenced? If so, what quantity has been removed?

(2) When is it anticipated that the contract will be completed?

(3) Will he consider alternative measures for storage of tailings in future?

Answers:—

(1) "No."

(2) "Within the next few years."

(3) "Provision is being made for alternative storage of tailings."

ACCOMMODATION FOR HOMECRAFT
CLASSES, ATHERTON HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Dean for **Mr. Wallis-Smith**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Education,—

Further to my previous Questions concerning accommodation for homecraft lessons at Atherton,—

(1) Has he received any adverse reports as to its suitability?

(2) Will he give priority to having accommodation provided at the Atherton High School for homecraft subjects?

Answers:—

(1) "There have been some adverse reports concerning the location of the accommodation for homecraft lessons, which are still taken at the primary school."

(2) "Funds are not available at present to enable me to give priority to the provision of this accommodation at the Atherton High School."

PRAWNING INDUSTRY, GULF OF
CARPENTARIA

Mr. Dean for **Mr. Wallis-Smith**, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

In view of the withdrawal from Karumba of the C.S.I.R.O. officer who was responsible for research in connection with the prawning industry, will he impress upon the Federal Government the need for continuous research which will assist in the planning of future development of the prawning industry in the Gulf of Carpentaria?

Answer:—

"Following on the completion of the joint Commonwealth/State survey for prawns in the Gulf of Carpentaria in August, 1965, an officer of the Department of Harbours and Marine has made periodical visits to Karumba to gather 'catch and effort' statistics from prawn trawlers. These visits were discontinued when arrangements were made by the Department with fishermen and processors operating in the area to regularly forward this information direct to the Department. I should remind the Honourable Member that for the past 12 months a full scale programme of research into our king and tiger prawn fisheries has been proceeding in rented premises at Scarborough by a joint C.S.I.R.O.—Department of Harbours and Marine team of six scientists. This research programme will be of direct benefit to the prawn fishery off the whole of the Queensland coast including the waters of the Gulf of Carpentaria."

AMALGAMATION OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS,
MAGNETIC ISLAND

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

(1) What progress has been made toward the amalgamation of the three small primary schools on Magnetic Island, Townsville, and what, is it considered, would be the cost involved?

(2) Would not the disposal of surplus buildings and land lessen these costs to some extent?

Answers:—

(1) "The position remains as stated to the Honourable Member in my Answer to his Question on this matter on March 26, 1968."

(2) "Costs for the implementation of this project have not been taken out."

FEES PAID TO JURORS

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

(1) What are the current daily fees paid to jurors empanelled for criminal or civil actions and the payment for citizens attending the court but who are not empanelled?

(2) As the last increase in such fees took effect on and from September 29, 1958, under an Order in Council dated September 25, 1958, and in view of the subsequent rises in cost of living, etc., will he now give consideration to a review of these allowances?

Answers:—

(1) "Jurors empanelled for criminal or civil trials are at present paid \$8 per day plus the maximum parity fixed by the awards of the State Industrial Commission in respect of the district where the court is held. A juror chosen and sitting on the same trial for more than three days is paid an additional daily amount of \$2 for the fourth and every subsequent day of the trial. A juror who attends the court but who is not chosen for a trial or proceeding is paid an allowance of \$4 for each day's attendance. If he satisfies the sheriff that he has been caused actual financial loss in excess of \$4 per day by reason of such attendance, he shall be paid the amount of such loss not exceeding \$8 per day plus parity as aforementioned in lieu of the amount of \$4."

(2) "Action has been already taken to review the allowances paid to jurors and witnesses in our courts and considerable work has been done in this regard."

TOWNSVILLE ABATTOIR

Mr. Tucker asked The Minister for Primary Industries,—

(1) What was the throughput for the years 1962 to 1968 for cattle, calves, sheep and pigs at the Townsville abattoir?

(2) What were the meat introductions into the Townsville abattoir area for the years 1966, 1967 and 1968?

(3) Have killing fees been lately increased for cattle, calves, sheep and pigs? If so, what was the old charge and what is the new?

(4) What are the present killing charges of these animals at the abattoirs in Bundaberg, Ipswich and Toowoomba?

(5) Did the Townsville abattoir finish the year with a surplus or a deficit? If a deficit, to what is it attributed? (*Originally asked on August 22, 1968.*)

Answers:—

(1) "Throughput of various classes of stock—

—	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65	1965-66	1966-67	1967-68
Cattle	13,256	13,738	13,212	14,172	13,976	13,527
Calves	3,942	2,691	2,702	3,162	2,458	1,630
Sheep	41,835	35,276	35,213	37,626	36,126	41,343
Pigs	7,592	6,964	6,255	7,610	8,461	10,084

(2) "Meat introduced into the Townsville District Abattoir area—

—	July, 1966- June, 1967	July, 1967- March, 1968
Beef—		
Carcasses .. .. .	.. .. .	45
Cuts (lb.)	138,596	403,434
Trims (lb.)	226,341	232,178
Fancy meats (lb.)	148,371	311,073
Head meats (lb.) .. .. .	.. .. .	4,262
Other	82 rumps	and loins
Lamb—		
Carcasses	3,397	5,522
Broken-up (lb.)	421	22,021
Mutton—		
Carcasses	309	26
Broken-up (lb.)	71,902	99,981
Fancy meats (lb.)	1,169	2,429
Trims (lb.)	1,632	24,113
Pork—		
Carcasses	4	..
Broken-up (lb.)	4,294	25,755
Trims (lb.)	47,227	25,755
Head meats (lb.) .. .. .	..	840
Veal—		
Carcasses over 80 lb. .. .. .	..	16
Carcasses under 80 lb. .. .. .	..	5
Broken-up (lb.) .. .. .	..	10,901
Trims (lb.) .. .. .	..	935
Interstate Products—		
Lamb carcasses .. .. .	..	569
Lamb broken-up (lb.) .. .. .	..	7,983
Mutton broken-up (lb.) .. .. .	..	21,542
Pork broken-up (lb.) .. .. .	..	1,727
Veal carcasses over 80 lb. .. .. .	..	8
Veal broken-up (lb.) .. .. .	..	4,526

NOTE: Departmental statistics of introductions for the April-June, 1968 quarter are not yet complete."

(3) "Yes. Details of old and new charges (from 12-8-1968) are:—

—	Old	New
	\$	\$
Cattle	5.40	6.00
Calves—		
Up to 100 lb.	1.75	1.75
100 lb. to 200 lb.	3.50	..
101 lb. to 140 lb. .. .. .	..	2.50
141 lb. to 200 lb. .. .. .	..	3.50
Sheep and Lambs	0.90	0.95
Pigs—		
Up to 100 lb. .. .. .	..	1.70
101 lb. to 140 lb. .. .. .	..	2.00
141 lb. to 200 lb. .. .. .	..	2.50
Up to 200 lb.	1.70	..
Backfatters	2.25	3.50

(4) "Present killing fees at Bundaberg, Ipswich and Toowoomba Abattoirs are—

	Bunda- berg	Ipswich	Too- woomba
Cattle	\$ 5.50	\$ 3.70	\$ 4.50
Calves—			
Up to 80 lb.	1.60	1.00	1.30
81 to 110 . . . . .	.. .. .	1.35	.. .. .
81 to 140	2.20	.. .. .	.. .. .
81 to 160 . . . . .	.. .. .	.. .. .	1.80
111 to 200 . . . . .	.. .. .	2.00	.. .. .
141 to 200	2.80	.. .. .	.. .. .
161 to 200 . . . . .	.. .. .	.. .. .	2.30
Sheep and Lambs	0.80	0.59	0.70
Pigs—			
Up to 100 lb. . . . .	.. .. .	1.00	.. .. .
Up to 140 . . . . .	.. .. .	.. .. .	1.30
Up to 200	1.65	.. .. .	.. .. .
101 to 140 . . . . .	.. .. .	1.30	.. .. .
141 to 200 . . . . .	.. .. .	2.00	1.60
Over 200 . . . . .	.. .. .	3.00	.. .. .
Backfatters	2.65	3.00	3.00

(5) "Final figures are not available. Indications are that a small deficit will be incurred due to—(a) Increased costs e.g. wages were increased three times between April and July, 1967. (b) Lower prices for tallow—prices received in 1967-68 were barely two-thirds of those in 1966-67. (c) Increased competition within the meat meal market has resulted in a drop of from \$15 to \$20 per ton in the price being received for this product."

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Orders in Council under—

The State Electricity Commission Acts, 1937 to 1965.

The Southern Electric Authority of Queensland Acts, 1952 to 1964.

The Northern Electric Authority of Queensland Acts, 1963 to 1964.

The Electric Light and Power Acts, 1896 to 1967.

The Mines Regulation Acts, 1910 to 1958.

The Gas Acts, 1965 to 1967.

The Petroleum Acts, 1923 to 1967.

The Mines Regulation Act of 1964.

The Commonwealth Aluminium Corporation Pty. Limited Agreement Act of 1957.

Regulation under the Apprenticeship Act of 1964.

MINISTERIAL EXPENSES

ORDER FOR RETURN

Mr. P. WOOD (Toowoomba East): I move—

"That there be laid upon the table of the House a return, in the usual form, of expenses of Ministers for the period 1 July, 1967, to 30 June, 1968, inclusive, showing each separately and in detail."

Motion agreed to.

FEEES PAID BY CROWN TO BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

ORDER FOR RETURN

Mr. BYRNE (Mourilyan): I move—

"That there be laid upon the table of the House a return showing all payments made by the Government to barristers and solicitors during the 1967-68 financial year, stating the names of the recipients and the amounts received, respectively."

Motion agreed to.

SUPPLY

VOTE OF CREDIT—\$190,000,000

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

Mr. SPEAKER read a message from His Excellency the Governor recommending that the following provision be made on account of the services for the year ending 30 June, 1969—

"From the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Queensland (exclusive of the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund Account), the sum of \$75,000,000;

"From the Trust and Special Funds, the sum of \$90,000,000; and

"From the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund Account, the sum of \$25,000,000."

COMMITTEE

(The Chairman of Committees, Mr. Hooper, Greenslopes, in the chair)

Hon. G. W. W. CHALK (Lockyer—Treasurer) (12.17 p.m.): I move—

"That there be granted to Her Majesty, on account, for the service of the year 1968-69, a further sum not exceeding \$190,000,000 towards defraying the expenses of the various departments and services of the State."

This is the first of two Appropriation Bills which will be presented to Parliament during the present session. Hon. members will recall that the Appropriation Act of 1967-68, No. 2, provided for the sum of \$125,000,000 to cover the services of Government for 1968-69. In reality, this sum was approved to cover anticipated expenditures in the first two months of this financial year. The \$125,000,000 was apportioned as follows:—\$55,000,000 for the Consolidated Revenue Fund; \$56,000,000 for the Trust and Special Funds; and \$14,000,000 for the Loan Fund.

The Bill now before the Committee seeks parliamentary approval for a sum of \$190,000,000 to provide supply for the activities of government administration until such time as the Budget has been presented to, and debated and approved by, Parliament. The \$190,000,000 sought covers \$75,000,000 for the Consolidated Revenue Fund, \$90,000,000 for the Trust and Special Funds, and \$25,000,000 for the Loan Fund. In total, the \$190,000,000 is \$10,000,000 above the sum of \$180,000,000 approved in the

Appropriation Act of 1967-68, No. 1, last year. Increased costs and normal escalation are the reasons for the additional sum sought.

Looking back, it seems to have become the established practice of the Treasurer of this State, when speaking on an Appropriation Bill, to give the Committee a brief review of the state of the Queensland economy, and, because I think it is tremendously important, I intend to follow this practice today.

When I introduced the Appropriation Bill in August, 1966, I referred to the seriousness of the drought, which was the major factor exerting an adverse effect upon the economy at that time. I also pointed out that the drought had recently broken over much of the State, but that it would be some years before stock numbers could be made up and rural conditions returned to normal.

On this occasion I am happy to say that seasonal conditions have continued to improve and that the only portions of the State declared drought-stricken at the present time are areas around Glenmorgan and Inglewood. Nevertheless, this Committee should not overlook the fact that many rural producers still face difficulties arising from the drought, and also that lower world sugar prices still pose a real problem to the sugar industry.

However, the important fact to which I would draw the attention of the Committee is that we have continued to recover from the drought. Perhaps the most important point in the immediate future is that the effects of industrial development and mineral development are really beginning to show up in the economy of this State and give promise of greater things to come. I would emphasise that this latter progress is not just making up ground lost during the drought; it is new development that will benefit Queenslanders for many years to come; it is something that is meaning, and will continue to mean, prosperity to Queensland and its people. It is proof positive of the fundamental correctness of our policies for the balanced development of this great State.

Dealing first with primary industry, I point out that the last year for which the Commonwealth Statistician has published figures of value of primary production for individual States is 1966-67. This group of industries includes the agricultural, pastoral and dairying industries, as well as mining and forestry. Queensland's increase in the net value of primary production that year was 16.5 per cent., which was higher than the increase of 14 per cent. for the six States as a whole, and, in fact, was higher than that of any other State except New South Wales.

If we take mining out of this group we see that in the year 1966-67 the net value of other primary production in Queensland rose by \$56,700,000, or 12 per cent.

To bring the figures more up to date, the Department of Primary Industries has compiled estimates of the gross value of production of our major primary industries, including both the agricultural industries and the livestock industries. The total value of production in all these industries increased in 1967-68 by about 4 per cent., which ignores for this comparison the financial assistance given by the Commonwealth Government to the sugar industry. This increase in our rural production in 1967-68 contrasts—and I emphasise this—with the fall of 11.7 per cent. for Australia as a whole, as shown by preliminary figures published by the Commonwealth Statistician. The fall in Australian production was, of course, due largely to the failure of the wheat crop in southern States and the extension of the drought to Victoria.

Although Queensland's hopes for a record wheat harvest in 1967-68 were not realised, our estimated production of 28,000,000 bushels represented a fall of 21.6 per cent. below the previous year's production, compared with a fall of 56.1 per cent. in New South Wales and 60.5 per cent. in Victoria. It can be seen that, from a comparative point of view, we were in a much better position than those States.

One notable increase in 1967-68 was recorded in the value of beef production. The estimated increase in the number of slaughterings was only 1 per cent. but, coupled with an increase in beef prices, the value of production increased by \$13,500,000, or 8.6 per cent., over that for the year 1966-67.

Wool was another product to record a substantial increase in value. The quantity of wool produced rose by 19 per cent. Although this was partly offset by a fall in wool prices, the over-all effect was a rise of 11.6 per cent. in wool value.

It is interesting to note that livestock numbers are increasing fairly rapidly following the improvement in seasonal conditions. Cattle numbers increased by 6.9 per cent. in the 12 months ended March 1968, while sheep numbers increased over this period by 3.7 per cent.

I turn now to mining production. The latest information available from the Commonwealth Statistician for individual States relates to the year 1966. Queensland's mineral production in that year was valued at \$138,500,000, representing an increase of 40 per cent. over the figure for the previous year. This was the highest percentage increase recorded by any State except Western Australia. To bring the information more up to date, figures have been obtained from the Department of Mines and these indicate that the trend continued into 1967-68, with an increase of 28 per cent. over the 1966-67 figures. For Australia as a whole, the Commonwealth Statistician has published an estimated value for the whole group of non-rural primary

industries, including mining, showing an increase of 11.8 per cent. in 1967-68 over the preceding year.

Moving now to secondary industry, the lag in publication of relevant statistics again makes it difficult to show the more recent trends. As for production values generally, the latest information published for all States again relates to 1966-67, in which year Queensland's value of such production rose by 9.13 per cent., compared with 9.77 per cent. for the six States as a whole. It is probable that the figure for 1966-67 reflects the effects of drought and it is interesting to note that, taking the years 1965-66 and 1966-67 into account, the increase over 1964-65 was nearly 24 per cent., compared with 17 per cent. for the six States.

Investment in secondary industry in Queensland is growing rapidly. The value of factory land and buildings in Queensland advanced by \$21,000,000 during 1966-67, or by 7.71 per cent., compared with an increase of 7.65 per cent. for the six States as a whole. Again, taking a two-year span, the increase in Queensland was 24.14 per cent., compared with 15.98 per cent. for the six States.

Statistics of employment in manufacture are more up to date than other factory statistics. These show that, over the 12 months to April, 1968, the number of males employed in manufacture in Queensland increased by 2.15 per cent., compared with 1.75 per cent. as the average for the six States. The corresponding figure for females was 3.24 per cent., compared with 1.56 per cent. for the six States, while the total employment in manufacture rose by 2.26 per cent., compared with 1.71 per cent. for the average of the six States. I believe that it is apparent that the expansion of secondary industry in this State has continued rapidly.

The improved output from both our rural and mining industries has meant a substantial increase in exports from Queensland. For the 12 months ended June, 1968, overseas exports from Queensland totalled no less than \$564,000,000 compared with \$500,000,000 in the 12 months ended June, 1967, an increase of 12.8 per cent. Our percentage increase was the highest among the States and compared with an increase of 0.7 per cent. for Australia as a whole, the latter figure being depressed by extension of the drought into Victoria and South Australia.

The building industry, I believe, is a good guide to economic activity, and here also we find a healthy situation. While housing has continued to expand at a satisfactory level, the increase in the value of work done on new houses and flats was 9.53 per cent. in the nine months to March, 1968, somewhat below the figure of 12.04 per cent. for the six States as a whole. However, construction of housing in this State has been particularly high in recent years, and it must be expected that percentage rates of increase can taper off. To show how construction of

new dwellings in Queensland has improved by leaps and bounds over the last few years, I would mention that the value of new dwellings commenced for the 12 months to March, 1968, represented an increase of 43 per cent. above the corresponding value in the 12 months to March, 1965. The corresponding Australian increase was 19 per cent.

Any reduction in the percentage rate of increase in dwellings has, however, been more than compensated in the building industry by the upsurge in commercial and industrial building. The figures for the value of work done in this segment of the building industry during the nine months to March, 1968, show a rise of no less than 9.14 per cent. over the figure for the corresponding period in the previous year. This is a higher rate than that of any State other than Western Australia and compares with 4.12 per cent. as the average for the six States. The confidence in Queensland so amply shown by the major building projects under way is, in my opinion, most gratifying. As a result of this surge in industrial and commercial building, the total value of work done on all new building combined for the nine months to March, 1968, represents an increase of 9.35 per cent. over the corresponding figure 12 months earlier. The comparable six-State percentage was only 8.32.

The effects of the improved situation in our primary, secondary and building industries flow through the whole economy. One result of the increased tempo of business activity is that between July, 1967, and July, 1968, unemployment fell by 2,062 persons, or 19.7 per cent. This was a bigger percentage improvement than in any other State, and compared with the over-all Australian reduction of 6 per cent. Similarly, vacancies registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service increased by 11.7 per cent. compared with the Australian experience, where an increase of only 3.4 per cent. was recorded.

Population as a whole increased during the year ended 31 March 1968 by 1.78 per cent., which is slightly higher than the average for the six States and considerably in excess of the rates for Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania. I believe that this shows that Queensland is now attracting its full share of migrants. Obviously there is confidence in Queensland's present achievements and her prospects for future development.

The improved economic tempo is also reflected in the well-being of the public generally. For example, savings bank deposits at the end of June 1968 showed an increase over those at the same time last year of 8.14 per cent. in Queensland, compared with a 7.89 per cent. increase for the six States.

Registrations of new motor vehicles in the 12 months to June 1968 increased by 14.3 per cent. over the corresponding number 12 months earlier. This rate was higher than the six-State increase of 13.5 per cent.

Even within this figure there was apparently a surge towards the end of the period, and it is worth noting that in the six months to June 1968 registrations in Queensland increased by 28.3 per cent. over the corresponding period 12 months earlier, compared with a six-State increase of 15.4 per cent.

I think the Government is entitled to say with some pride that things in Queensland are on the up and up. It is a matter of considerable pride that the economy generally has made such rapid strides in recovery from the serious body blows inflicted by the terrible drought through which we have come.

I have little doubt that not so many years ago a drought of the severity of the one through which we have passed would have crippled this State's economy for a long, long time. We certainly suffered some damage, but we weathered the position in a way which a few years ago would not have been possible.

It is economic folly to have all our eggs in the one basket. This State became great because of its primary production; it will always be a major primary-producing State, and Governments owe a responsibility to see that primary production is pushed ahead. But I believe that this State will rise to a peak of greatness for another cause. We are now seeing a vast expansion in the mining of our mineral wealth, and this has given a welcome shot in the arm to our economy. I believe, however, that this is an intermediate step only; I believe that before very long we will see great processing industries established in Queensland to treat our own mineral wealth and natural resources. I believe that the great alumina plant at Gladstone is only the beginning of what we can, and will, see in this behalf.

The Government is pressing ahead with a case for a major power-station in Central Queensland, and I assure hon. members that a most compelling case will be presented to the Commonwealth Government for aid to build such a station. The case that is being prepared is a most comprehensive one. We are not only recording the natural resources available; we are also setting out a planned proposal for industrial development of a specific nature to make full use of our natural resources. It will be a balanced development and one that we know will be capable of implementation.

I do not think I have to explain to any hon. member that Queensland has the raw products and minerals; it has the ports; it has the various resources necessary to process these minerals. I believe that, with cheap power sold in large blocks on a continuous-demand basis to big processing industries, Queensland can expect an industrial development of spectacular proportion. Indeed, I go further and have little doubt in saying that I believe that we can expect to see large quantities of minerals introduced into Queensland from elsewhere for treatment. We have cheap fuel and adequate

natural economic resources; and if we add cheap power, the burst of new development promises to exceed our best hopes.

I speak with certainty in these matters after my recent hurried overseas visit. I am satisfied that, given cheap power, there will be no holding the development of Central Queensland and, indeed, the whole State. What we have to gain in this behalf is no narrow gain for Queensland alone. Nationally, the whole country will benefit, for the earnings in export income can, and will, be quite spectacular. I have little doubt that, given a new major power-house in Central Queensland, Australia's balance of overseas payments position will be so alleviated and become so strong that the whole Australian economic outlook could well alter radically.

I thus want to place on record my strong feeling that this matter of cheap bulk power in Central Queensland is, perhaps, one of the most important tasks that this Government has put in hand. It is a matter in which I believe we will have the support of every thinking Queenslander. I believe also that we will command strong support on a broad national basis.

The passage of an Appropriation Bill in this Chamber gives hon. members the widest scope to discuss matters of pressing importance. I believe that I have taken advantage of that position, and I have endeavoured to place before the Committee a broad factual statement that I hope will be of assistance to hon. members. I feel strongly on this matter of industrial development in Central Queensland, and I am glad to have had the opportunity to place some broad views before the Committee. We live in exciting times and, when the history of this age is written, it might well be that utilisation of our mineral resources will be shown to have been the key that opened the door to Queensland's greatness. If this is so—and I believe it will be so—we may all consider ourselves fortunate to have had the opportunity to serve this State and its legislature in these times. Undoubtedly, a great deal depends on us.

I commend the motion to hon. members.

Mr. HOUSTON (Bulimba—Leader of the Opposition) (12.45 p.m.): I am sure that the members of this Committee were tremendously disappointed with the speech just delivered by the Treasurer.

Mr. Lickiss: Not at all.

Mr. HOUSTON: Just listen and I will explain why. The first part of the speech consisted of a statistical report of factors that any of us could have found out at any time. In fact, I should say that members of the Opposition knew those factors, but the Treasurer made these statements so that members of his own party would be aware of the statistics.

That was the first part of the Treasurer's speech, which occupied the greater portion of his time. For the last three or four

minutes he told us, as his ideas, what I and other members of the Opposition have been advocating and saying for many years. Anyone who cares to study "Hansard" from 1957 onward can verify that assertion. I am sure the same thing can be said about the years prior to that, but I can certainly say that is the case from 1957 onwards. We have been urging the Government, year after year, to get on with electrical development in this State. For the Treasurer to come out now and say that the most important need is a power-house in Central Queensland is certainly to bring up something that we have been conscious of for a long time.

The fact is that years ago we said to the Government—and I will say it again—that the two most important needs of this State were water conservation and power development. There is no doubt at all about that. But the problem has been that the Government has not gone ahead with power development until it now finds that if it does not do something about these things the position will quickly become very critical.

I inform the Treasurer that the Opposition will support him to the utmost in getting money to build this power-house in Central Queensland and other power-houses that are needed at this point of time. We will also support him to the hilt in the provision of dams for water conservation for both irrigation and flood-mitigation purposes. These are the things the Opposition has been asking for and we will support any move to get them.

I was disappointed with the Treasurer's speech because I thought he was going to tell us something about the Loan Council meeting; I thought he would tell us something about allocations of Commonwealth Government expenditure to this State.

Mr. Walsh: And the Stephens contract.

Mr. HOUSTON: We will get on to that, too, later. What I am interested in is the money made available to this State, in the first instance, and then how we can improve our trade on overseas markets in order to develop our secondary industries. It is not much use starting a secondary industry if we cannot sell the products we manufacture. One thing I found on my recent visit overseas—I am glad that the Minister for Justice is present because I am sure he will agree with me—was that there was a paucity of knowledge of Queensland. We were shocked to find that Queensland was not better known. Whenever we spoke about this State—and we did plenty of this, advocating the purchase of Queensland products—we found that far too many people in high places were not conversant with Queensland and the things we had to offer. Even as close to Australia as Indonesia we had American beef rather than Australian; we had American lamb and mutton, not Australian lamb and mutton. The commodities in the shops were not Australian-made. They were from other countries.

These were the things I was interested in. It is no good our talking about overseas trade unless we can make sure of the markets. Western Australia, of course, is in a similar position to Queensland; she has to export to develop. The people of Western Australia have to make sure that their markets are guaranteed for them, and they have established a trade commission in Japan. They have an office in that country and one of their public servants is there for the sole purpose of encouraging Japanese traders to buy Western Australian products.

I suggest to the Government that it should investigate the advisability of having in the Eastern countries a Queensland trade representative, not someone who is there representing one particular company, but someone to represent Queensland as a whole and Queensland-manufactured products. We could well do with such a representative in Indonesia. We could well do with one in Malaysia, one in Taiwan, and one in Japan. There are many other places, too, but for a start we should match Western Australia, particularly in Japan, because the Japanese want food. If a direct line is taken between America and Japan I do not think it will show a great difference in cost between goods imported into Japan from America and goods imported from Australia.

When we consider that the Indonesians are eating beef that is grown in America, it seems strange that the solvency of the Queensland meat industry depends to a large extent on its sales to America of much of its beef. On the one hand we are exporting a certain type of beef to America, and on the other hand America is exporting products to these eastern countries, which should be our natural and normal trade outlets.

I suggest to the Government that it should appoint trade commissioners in these countries. I feel that expenditure on the salary and on the setting up of an office for such a person and his staff would pay handsome dividends, because we would be ensuring our markets. Then when we do develop, as I trust we shall, we will have overseas markets, not only for our primary products—those that can be further developed—but for the finished articles manufactured by our secondary industries.

I know that there have been some sales of wheat to Hong Kong and other Eastern places in the hope that the people of those places will be converted from the consumption of rice to the consumption of wheat and flour products. But those people tell us that they are not interested in this conversion to a great extent—they tell us they will not accept wheat and flour as substitutes for rice—so we should be investigating the further growing of rice. It is their staple food, and has been so for generations, and it is very hard to change people from one type of food to another just because we want to sell the other type and just because we want to get those people to eat a certain type of food.

We should be investigating what these people will buy, what their needs are, and what our competitors are supplying, and then let us go into those fields. I believe that the setting up of trade commissions in those countries would do much towards achieving this. At least it would give us the latest and most up-to-date knowledge of what is going on in those areas.

Mr. Lee: It is a bit hard to grow rice on the Darling Downs, though, isn't it?

Mr. HOUSTON: It would be hard to grow rice on the Downs, but there are plenty of places in Queensland where rice can be successfully grown, particularly if we go ahead with irrigation projects. I have no fear at all that these things could not be done. In fact, there are many experimental centres where rice-growing is proving most successful.

Mr. W. D. Hewitt: What about the Burdekin?

Mr. HOUSTON: Well, yes, the Burdekin. I do not want to go through my time quoting statistics; I am giving the facts as I saw them overseas, and as I see them now. These are the things that I believe are important.

To refer briefly to the things that the Treasurer said in his introductory remarks were necessary, the power-house and markets, let me assure him on behalf of the Opposition that we fully support any moves relative to these things. However, we do not want to have power-houses developed completely under the control of private enterprise. We believe that the power-houses and power development of this State are necessary in the State's interests and should be under State control.

That brings me now to one other type of fuel that is coming into prominent use—natural gas. I hope that the Treasurer in his reply will give us some reasons why natural gas in Queensland is the dearest in Australia.

Mr. Dewar: It comes 280 miles.

Mr. HOUSTON: I am glad the hon. member came in. That is very helpful, but in fact he is quite wrong. It comes 269 miles, according to the statistics as given, and the base price per therm is 3.75c. It is 269 miles—I quite agree it is a long distance—but in South Australia, where an agreement was entered into with a Labour Government in power, the natural gas is carried 480 miles and the charge will be 2.03c per therm.

Mr. Dewar: What size pipe?

Mr. HOUSTON: It does not make any difference to the volume, and the charge will be on volume, not on the length or diameter of the pipe. Where gas is used there must be a fixed pressure, so that factor does not come into it. The important thing is that the point of delivery of the gas is the point of use and the same pressure

is required for its use, whether in Brisbane or Adelaide. As I say, the price in Adelaide is 2.03c a therm. Why is there this tremendous difference between the charges of the two companies? It is easy to understand of course. In South Australia a Labour Government negotiated the price to make sure that the people of the State would not be fleeced. It made sure that the people got a fair deal. I again ask why there is such a difference in the prices. The price here is 3.75c a therm.

A Government Member interjected.

Mr. HOUSTON: If the hon. member wishes to interject, let us look at Victoria. Certainly the distance from Sale to Melbourne is only 110 miles, but the pipeline also traverses some distance out to sea as well. The cost in Victoria is 3c a therm plus .33c for the additional transportation under the sea; it is still only 3.33c a therm.

Mr. Dewar: The whole basis is the quantity of gas that can be delivered in a pipe of a given size.

Mr. HOUSTON: That is right, but the pressure is not a factor to be considered. It is useless for the former Minister for Industrial Development to try to defend the Government. He left the Government and I should say that one of his reasons for doing so was that he could not understand the portfolio he held at that time. If he cares to learn the facts concerning gas and electricity he will find that the charge that is finally made is based on so many units. In this case the unit is a therm, or approximately 100 cubic feet. The price in Victoria is 3.33c a therm compared with 3.75c here.

I hope that the Treasurer will tell us why the people of Brisbane will be charged so much extra. It is a substantial amount when we are dealing with the type of units and the consumption for which our people will be charged. The expert whom we asked to investigate our natural gas supply told the Victorian people that they were being charged too much. What would he say if he were asked to comment on our charges? I trust that the Treasurer will be able to give this Chamber, and the people concerned, a detailed explanation of the reason for the difference between the two charges.

I should now like to turn to a matter about which I asked a question today, namely, the breath-analyser and the costs involved in breath and blood testing. If ever there was an occupation that I could recommend to the young people of this State it is that of a doctor, a primary qualification for which is the ability to operate a breath-analysing machine. In a normal 40-hour week a doctor's income, based on the rate being paid to carry out tests with the breath-analyser machine, could be in excess of \$1,000. The Premier said that, for 45 minutes' work, a doctor receives \$20, and, from the records, we know that

in three hours one doctor can carry out at least four tests. For twiddling knobs for three hours, he gets \$80. In my view, that is not bad pay.

Why are the doctors paid so much? They are being paid this fee to induce them to operate these machines. Surely we do not have to offer such fantastic fees to get men to do a job of work. I should like the Treasurer to explain to us why it was necessary to raise the fee from \$3.15, or even \$4.20, for a blood test, which was a 20-minute test. The doctors are still carrying out blood tests.

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

Mr. HOUSTON: Before lunch I was referring to the cost of conducting breathalyser tests and I stressed that the Government should have a clear explanation of why it was necessary to increase the fee from \$4.20 to \$20. As I said, to me a rate of payment of over \$1,000 a week seems rather excessive when, as in this case, the only skill required is the alteration of knobs and the reading of an instrument.

The main purpose of my objection to the Treasurer's introduction of this motion was his failure to tell us something about the Loan Council meeting and the Premiers' Conference. This is the place for senior Government officers, particularly members of Cabinet, to make their reports on these matters; they should be made to Parliament. For years we have heard complaints from the Treasurer, the Premier and other Cabinet Ministers of the bad treatment received by Queensland from the Commonwealth Government in the allocation of finance to this State. If my memory serves me correctly, last year the Treasurer went to great lengths to condemn the Federal Government for its attitude to the State of Queensland, and on behalf of the Opposition I supported him.

Here we have a similar situation. It can be claimed that this year we perhaps got a better deal than we did last year, but I do not think we did. The facts show that the increased allocation of loan money to this State rose by less than 5 per cent. in the main categories, whereas the increased taxation received by the Federal Government rose by more than that and the earnings of our people rose by around that figure. Yet here is the State crying out for more development and more money for State works and housing, and certainly local government bodies feel that they are entitled to more money than is being made available to them. In general, we feel that this State requires a good deal more money than has been made available.

The Treasurer said earlier, and I quite agree with him, that we must have power, and power in big quantities. Surely the Federal Government should come to the party in this regard. I am not one of those who believe that the Federal Government should do everything; nor do I believe that the Federal Government should give us money

and say that it must be used for a particular programme. I believe that this State should be allocated money to be used as it sees fit. Surely, when we need a large power-house or some form of water conservation, there is no need for us to spend thousands of dollars in presenting a case that to an ordinary person in the street is quite obvious. If the Federal members who represent this State knew what they were doing and knew their job, there would be no need for the State to present a detailed case.

Surely the Treasurer does not suggest that he and the Premier and their departmental officers, have not, at Loan Council meetings, or in discussions with Federal Ministers or with the Prime Minister himself, stressed the need for these power-houses. So what is all this delay? I believe that the Federal Government is only shelving its responsibility by asking the States to prepare detailed cases. Many years ago, when the alumina plant was established at Gladstone, it was made known that we would have got an aluminium plant had cheap power been available. I am sure that on that occasion the Opposition believed, and said, that we should have had cheap power then. I believe that Federal members of Parliament, particularly those who are Ministers, should have taken notice of Queensland's plea on that occasion. We find that this is not being done. Delaying tactics are being used to make sure that all the available money is appropriated so that the excuse can be used, "We cannot do it this year as all the money has been allocated".

I also feel that this State and the other States have to find other ways and means of presenting their cases to the Commonwealth. I know that the Prime Minister, the Federal Treasurer and other officials of the Commonwealth Government have the money, and we require it; they have the power to make loan allocations, and all we can do is make requests. It has always seemed strange to me that the first time the Premiers seem to get together with their Treasurers is on the eve of these meetings. I think we are all well aware that quite often most of the work involved in presenting cases is done not at the actual meetings but at the lead-up meetings and by arrangements made, in many cases, months before.

I should like to ask the Treasurer why it is not possible for the Premiers and the Treasurers of the various States, irrespective of their political persuasions, to meet regularly and devise formulas that could be presented to the Federal Government at the appropriate time. Nor can I see any reason why the Oppositions in the several State Parliaments cannot play a more important role in seeking finance for their States. After all, the Government of the day could be the Opposition after an election.

Mr. Davies: Next year.

Mr. HOUSTON: As my colleague suggests, that could well be the situation in Queensland.

The point is that the State Government is not fighting for financial assistance as the Liberal Party, the Country Party or the Labour Party; we fight for more money for Queensland as Queenslanders, and as members of this State House. Although I do not deny that we differ with the Government parties on many matters concerning State development, I do not think anyone could say that the Opposition objects to the development of Queensland. We may differ on the way in which development takes place, as we do with regard to, for instance, royalties and other matters in which we consider that the State is not getting the deal that it should get, but that does not say that we object to trying to get more money from the Commonwealth.

I suggest that the Premiers are leaving the preparation of their cases till far too late. I feel that if their cases were made public earlier, the publicity gained could be of assistance in obtaining the money that is so necessary. Without going into percentage relativities with other States, local authorities in Queensland have a loan allocation of \$67,490,000 compared with \$121,420,000 in the case of Victoria and \$109,950,000 in the case of New South Wales.

We boast that Queensland is the most decentralised State of the Commonwealth, and that in area it is the second-largest State. This means that local authorities in Queensland have to incur heavy expenditure to keep pace with development in their areas. But what do we find on looking at the figures? The position is that in the allocation of money Queensland comes only third, with the result that the whole progress of Queensland is being delayed because of a lack of finance. It is true that there has to be a balance between the availability of money and the spending of it, but it seems peculiar to me that whilst local-authority expenditure is restricted, expenditure by the private sector of the community is not restricted in the same places. Surely there should be some balance in these matters, and I think that the most important thing for decentralised development is ensuring that local authorities can do the things they want to do.

(Time expired.)

Mr. W. D. HEWITT (Chatsworth) (2.25 p.m.): It was Sir Francis Nicklin who said that Queensland is the brightest jewel in the Commonwealth's diadem. The speech delivered by the Treasurer today gave us every evidence that this is indeed the fact. The Treasurer was able to establish with quiet pride that our rate of unemployment is now at the lowest rate, that our export earnings are at the highest rate, and that our economy is in very robust shape indeed, and I believe that every hon. member would have appreciated the summary that he presented to the Committee.

With great respect, I suggest that the Leader of the Opposition is on occasions a rather difficult fellow to please. He complained about the detail of the statistics that the Treasurer submitted and pointed out, with a degree of truth, that these statistics are available to any hon. member who cares to look for them. But they are not available in the summarised form in which the Treasurer delivered them to hon. members, and I believe that we are indebted to him for presenting them in that form. I, for one, was pleased with the impressive story that they highlighted.

The Leader of the Opposition then said that the Treasurer did not deal with the Loan Council. On the one hand, he complains because information, which he says is available in other quarters, is supplied, and then, on the other hand, he complains because other information, which also is available in other quarters, is not supplied.

To set the record right, if we study the documents that are available, we establish that the works and housing allocation at the Loan Council increased by 4.870 per cent., the allocation to semi-governmental bodies rose by 5.503 per cent., the total works and housing and semi-governmental allocation rose by 5.141 per cent., and financial assistance grants rose by 10.244 per cent. Taking the total of all those, the percentage rise was 7.604 per cent., whereas the average State rise was 7.037 per cent. Although I do not pretend to tell by any means a complete story, they are the figures.

During the speech by the Leader of the Opposition, the hon. member for Bundaberg interjected and made reference to the Stephens contract. This also was discussed, though not in that specific term, at Loan Council level, and the comments relative to it were presented in these terms—

"Dealing with deferred payment schemes, the Chairman made it clear that he was concerned with the effect such schemes could have on general programmes if they were allowed to develop. The existing schemes were therefore not discussed, but principles to govern future schemes were laid down.

"The decision was that the States should circulate for Loan Council consideration any scheme in which payments in excess of \$250,000 are to be deferred over a period of more than three years beyond the completion of the contract, or, in the case of plant purchase, of the equipment being purchased. States should insist on tenders being called for such deferred payment schemes."

This is an attitude that has been developed with respect to the matter raised by the hon. member for Bundaberg in his interjection.

The aspect of the Treasurer's summary that was most pleasing to me personally was his reference to population increase. You will recall, Mr. Hooper, that the Treasurer pointed out that the population rise

for the State was 1.78 per cent., which was slightly higher than the Commonwealth average and was higher than the rise in Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania. Now, identifying the need for population in this State as one of the greatest problems that we face, I express the fond hope that this upward trend will continue, and that it will be accelerated. I hope that Queensland will continue to lend every possible effort to make sure that people are encouraged to come to this State.

It is true that, although Queensland has in recent years attracted a great deal of industry, many of the industries have not been high in labour content. This has been one of our basic problems. It is interesting to note that, while the alumina plant in Gladstone has absorbed, I am told, some 600 people, half of those are white-collar workers, and, therefore, even in the town of Gladstone, we do not see the high labour content that we look for. We all hope, therefore, that the Treasurer will succeed in attracting to Queensland industries that have a high labour content. I say again that I hope this upward trend, identified in our population movement, will continue.

The Treasurer, again rightly lent emphasis to mineral development and, of course, the Australian economy is now responding to the impetus from mineral exploitation. We are going through what the Prime Minister has described as the "tantalising years", and it will be the early 1970's before the Australian economy responds totally to this injection that mineral exploitation is giving it. Nevertheless, there are already responses, and the Treasurer's reference to mineral development was timely.

A mineral find in Queensland that has not been mentioned in recent times—and it is one that interests me—is something that I should like to question the Treasurer about. This refers to the finds of phosphates in the Mt. Isa district. Hon. members will recall that this announcement was made some 15 months ago, and, at the time, these fields were identified as being high-content phosphate and that the potential for the development of a good industry there was very high indeed. I fully realise that it takes some time to assess the full potential of a field and to wrestle with the many problems that are involved, but I think that we should hear something about this and we should be told where we are going.

I take a particular interest in this mineral because I was privileged to visit the field. I was privileged also to associate myself with close students of mineral development and to try to understand some of the problems met with in winning this mineral. One of the problems with phosphate is that, if it is to be marketed, it must be marketed in a very competitive field indeed. We do, in fact, import considerable quantities of phosphate and we will only win a share of markets, both domestic and foreign, if we can develop it at a very competitive cost. One estimate

that was put to me was that the phosphate would have to be carried at something like one-third of a cent per ton-mile.

When I inspected the field, I accompanied the then private Federal member for Mackellar, Mr. W. C. Wentworth, the Federal member for Lilley, Mr. Kevin Cairns, and a very distinguished Commonwealth public servant, and the issue that exercised their minds was the best way to bring the phosphate out. Three distinct theories were discussed at some length. The first was that a pipeline could be laid from the field; that the phosphate would be converted to a slurry and carried out in that way. The second theory was that the Townsville railway line could be utilised to bring the phosphate out, and the third was that there could be a new link to the Gulf and a causeway put across the Gulf to Mornington Island and the deep-water harbour facilities at Mornington used to transport the phosphate from there.

It was interesting to hear the pros and cons of these proposals. My understanding is that, all things being equal, the pipeline would undoubtedly be the cheapest method, but the stumbling block was the shortage of fresh water. This, of course, would ultimately make such a scheme impracticable.

While the Townsville railway line is already in existence, the argument against it is the fact that it is a common carrier; there are too many gradients, and, notwithstanding the fact that the line has been rehabilitated, it probably would not be strong enough to carry the heavy loads that would be required. It would appear that there is a strong argument in favour of the railway link to the Gulf, across to Mornington, and shipping it out of the deep-water facilities there.

I raise this subject now only because, while talk of minerals is very much in the air these days, we have not heard any recent mention of the phosphate fields at Mt. Isa, and I should look to the Treasurer for some explanations of this.

The Leader of the Opposition, in the closing stages of his speech, made some reference to the problems of local government. I believe that these problems should be looked at critically by each and every one of us. Today local government is faced with difficult problems, many of which result from the demands of modern society. It is very significant to look at the burden of debt at the three levels of government in this country. It is interesting to note that in the 15 years to 1965 the Commonwealth indebtedness fell from \$3,370,000,000 to \$3,134,000,000, whereas during the same period the indebtedness of the States rose from \$2,367,000,000 to \$7,090,000,000 and local-government indebtedness rose from \$189,000,000 to \$820,400,000—increases of 199 per cent. and 333 per cent. respectively. This presents an interesting picture. Over that 15-year period the Commonwealth public debt fell and the States' in-total public debt rose by 199 per cent. and the local-government public debt by 333 per cent.

It is quite obvious that ratepayers are close to saturation point, and solutions must be found at a higher level.

Applications to the Federal Government are presently being made by the cities of Sydney and Melbourne for assistance in the implementation of underground railway systems. The cost of these would be such that local government could not, and should not, absorb such a cost. I do not argue against Sydney and Melbourne making these approaches to the Federal Government. I believe that what is needed is a special commission representative of local, State and Federal bodies to think about and view the entire structure of local-government finance, because the imbalance that I have demonstrated in these figures today is evidence that the present trend cannot go on indefinitely.

In talking about local government, we should acknowledge the assistance that this State has given to its local authorities. In some 27 foolscap pages of close detail, we find that this Government has made some \$14,500,000 available as a direct gift to local-government authorities for the provision of essential local works and services in their areas. There is an acknowledgement by this Government at least of local-government problems—but of course one State Government cannot break through this tremendous burden of debt that local-government authorities in total are facing.

I rose only to make these few observations and to make some plea for a consideration of this great burden that local-government authorities are now facing.

May I say in conclusion that I appreciated the summary presented by the Treasurer today, and I look forward with keen expectation to the best Budget in years, which he has promised us on 26 September.

Mr. TUCKER (Townsville North) (2.39 p.m.): The hon. member for Chatsworth referred to the statement of the Leader of the Opposition relative to the Loan Council, and mentioned that the figures are available. Quite obviously, every one of us knows that the figures are available. But this is not what the Leader of the Opposition asks here today. On behalf of the Opposition, he asks: what went on at the Loan Council? What sort of a case was presented for Queensland at the Loan Council? He asks the Treasurer to present this case to the Committee and let it, in its wisdom, examine it and decide whether it was adequate for the State of Queensland. He asks also that the Treasurer tell us about the Commonwealth's reasons for rebutting Queensland's case. If these facts were presented to this Committee, I feel that every one of us would be in a position to speak later on whether or not Queensland was treated fairly. Most certainly, one cannot do very much with cold figures later on after they are presented. That is what the Leader of the Opposition

asked for today. I think it was a reasonable request that the Treasurer should present that information to this Chamber.

In my speech last Thursday I referred to the export of coal from Central Queensland and pointed out that the Government was coddling the exporters and exploiters of what is known as the Bowen coal seam. I highlighted the shameful fact that the State's only return from this tremendous export of coal was a royalty of 5c a ton. I also referred to the Gladstone-Moura railway line and pointed out that its construction had cost the State about \$27,500,000. I also pointed out that, with running costs and interest and redemption payments, in addition to repayments to Thiess Peabody Mitsui for the next 10 years, it was doubtful whether we could legitimately claim that we would show a profit on the line for many years to come.

I still adhere to my statements, no matter what the Treasurer said in reply on that occasion. To be truthful, I should say that the line was built purely and simply for the people who want to exploit the coal in the Central District. We should understand that it was not built for the primary producers. It was built on behalf of the company concerned; there should be no doubt in anyone's mind about it.

In his reply the Treasurer—and no doubt he had crocodile tears in his eyes at the time—said that I wanted a private line from Gladstone to Moura; that I wanted the profits to go back to the company; that I did not want any jobs for railwaymen in that area. Nothing is further from the truth. I am on record, time after time in this Chamber, as having taken the Minister for Transport to task concerning railwaymen. I have always espoused the cause of railwaymen in this Chamber, and I offer no excuse for that. It is completely wrong to say that I wanted a private line.

What did this self-styled champion of the railwaymen—as I will call him—do in this and other areas of the State when he was Minister for Transport? Firstly, as Minister for Transport, he tore up 670 miles of railway line in Queensland, despite the pleas of the people of Queensland; despite the pleas of primary producers; despite the pleas of Liberal Party members on many occasions; despite pleas from other members of the Government; and despite protest meetings. I repeat that while he was Minister for Transport he tore up 670 miles of railway line in this State. When he left that portfolio there were approximately 5,000 fewer men in the railway service than when he took control of the department.

I think these things should be said here and reiterated when the Treasurer poses as a champion of the railwaymen. He did nothing about redundancy while he held the Transport portfolio. I remember that, under his rule, on many occasions railwaymen were told to take jobs distant from those that they occupied or get out of the railway service. Every one of us should be aware of what

has happened when the Treasurer poses as a friend of the railwaymen. On every occasion his actions have proved the contrary to be so.

I wonder whom the Treasurer thinks he is fooling, in this Chamber or outside it, when, chameleon-like, he now changes and shows some tender feeling for the railwaymen of Queensland. Wasn't he a party to the original contract between the company and this Government? Wasn't he one of those who subscribed originally to the contract between Thiess Peabody and the Government of Queensland? The answer is yes, as I see it. Wasn't the contract on that occasion for the construction of a private line? Didn't the Government decide then that there should be a private line in Queensland? Wasn't the Treasurer a member of the Cabinet that made that first decision? Did I see him stand up in this Chamber, when that agreement was presented for ratification, and say, "Over my dead body! This must be a State line. I am worried about the profits of the company. I am worried about the railwaymen?" Did he say that in 1962, when the agreement was presented? I can find no record of it at all. Obviously the Treasurer acquiesced by remaining completely silent when this was going through Parliament. What did the late Hon. E. Evans say on that occasion? According to "Hansard", Volume 233, p. 471, of 18 September, 1962, Mr. Evans said, among other things—

"Under the provisions of Part IV of the agreement the company is required to survey and build a railway from the coalfield to the port, that is, from the neighbourhood of Moura a distance of 120 miles to the port, which is defined as Gladstone or such other port where coal is shipped by the company. Under Clause 36, the route and plans of the railway are to be approved by the Minister.

"The railway is to be constructed within seven years and the company is required to lodge security of £100,000 for surveying and building it. That is not a bond, but will be in cash or in bank guarantee. The sum of £20,000 is to be returned on completion of the survey, and the balance on completion of construction of the railway."

So on that occasion the Government was quite happy to have a private railway constructed, and the Minister introducing the proposal is on record as saying that it would in fact be a private railway and would be constructed by the company concerned. The Treasurer did not say on that occasion that he wanted a State line between Gladstone and Moura. He was quite happy when his Government introduced legislation providing for a private line. It was the Government that changed its mind, not the Australian Labour Party. I ask, "Why was it that the Government changed its mind?" It is obvious to me and to many others that there must have been further negotiations with

the company. I am not aware what they were, but something happened to make the Government shift its ground.

Let there be no doubt that in the first instance there was to be a private railway line from Gladstone to Moura, and the agreement was negotiated by this Government, not by the Opposition. So I ask: Why all this hypocrisy now when, in 1962, the Treasurer, then Minister for Transport, and his Cabinet were prepared to negotiate in that way? Let there be no doubt that this money was spent firstly for the benefit of Thiess Peabody Mitsui and that if there were any other benefits to flow they were secondary to the consideration that the line was to be constructed so that the coal could be exploited by this company and for no other reason.

I also say in reply to the Treasurer that I shall continue to speak in this Chamber and show the ordinary people and the primary producers of this State that this Government is dominated by overseas interests; that it has not the interests of the ordinary people or of the primary producers at heart. As I say, actions speak louder than words, and the Government's actions show that the primary producers always lose wherever this Government shows any interest at all. Let us rip away all the camouflage that is being used at present and show all the thinking people of this State that if Queensland is to prosper as it should, the Government should go out at the next election.

Mr. Ramsden: You could not convince anyone who can think on that point.

Mr. TUCKER: I have been castigated once for replying to the hon. member, so I shall leave him alone now. I say that already the great masses of thinking people in this State are very worried by events that came to pass in the last year. And why shouldn't they be worried? I refer to that amazing episode that took place in April of this year involving the Treasurer and Deputy Premier of this State. "The Courier-Mail" of 13 April, 1968, stated—

"Chalk may take job offer . . . leave politics. Government members and supporters are concerned that the Deputy Premier (Mr. Chalk) might be considering quitting politics."

It also said much more.

For the next week there were other headlines such as—

"Chalk job offer is American. Liberal Party officials 'taken by surprise'."

"Job offer no bluff, says Chalk."

The Treasurer was obviously talking at this stage.

Other headlines were—

"Chalk's offer '\$20,000 a year salary'."

"50-50 chance of Chalk taking job."

The latter was a headline in the "Telegraph" of 17 April.

Finally, there was this headline—
 “Chalk turns down offer of \$20,000 job.”

Mr. Murray: Is that all you have to talk about?

Mr. TUCKER: This was a great worry to many people in this State, and I am entitled to speak about it if I want to. If the hon. member had any guts, he would get up and speak about it, too. The only trouble with him is that the Treasurer “killed” the “ginger group” and none of them got up and did anything about it.

For one week the Treasurer pondered and contemplated the offer of an American company, and let me emphasise that for one week he did not give an answer, yes or no. I have shown by the headlines to which I have referred that during that week the Treasurer was pondering whether or not to take the job. He was toying with the offer while the people of this State waited to see what he would do.

The point that I make is that the Treasurer made known to Queenslanders the offer that he had received. If he had wished, he could have kept quiet and said, “I do not want it”, and we would have known nothing about it. However, my point is that for one week the Treasurer let the whole of Queensland know that he had received an offer to become a servant of an American company, and for one week his own party dangled beside him waiting to find out what he would do. Although he made no secret of the offer that he had received, he was able to keep secret the name of the company concerned. To this stage, nothing has been heard on that point. I say that the people of Queensland can be forgiven for gaining the impression during that week that the Treasurer and Deputy Premier was hoping that the offer might be increased if he held off for a while, or that he was using his statements as a lever for some political or nefarious purpose. I think he did it in the hope, possibly, that the offer would be increased. Then, of course, he did something about it. By revealing the offer, by dallying and taking one week to decide, by keeping the name of the American firm secret, he compromised himself and his office, and I say that he tainted his office during the whole of that week.

Government Members interjected.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. TUCKER: I say it is unforgivable that such a thing should happen. Here was a man who was acting in the role of chief negotiator for Queensland with American firms—in fact, with firms all over the world—and it took him a week to make up his mind whether or not to accept an offer from America. For one whole week he toyed with the idea of accepting the offer, and I say again, quite frankly, that in that week he compromised himself and tainted the high office that he holds in this

State. When he was so involved, how could he negotiate in an unbiased fashion on behalf of Queensland with anybody?

I do not believe that the Treasurer now possesses the confidence of the people of Queensland as a result of his actions and what he did during that week. Let me reinforce my argument by quoting from an article in the “Telegraph” of 2 May, 1968, in which the hon. member for Windsor, Mr. Smith, an eminent barrister within the Liberal Party, was reported to have said, amongst other things—

“Mr. Smith (Windsor), in his letter which was circulated to all Liberal members, says: ‘Apparently neither you nor Cabinet see any need for a Cabinet Minister to “keep at arm’s length” with those “contracting” with the State.

“It is spelt out in the statute, however.

“I would like to be reassured that by having yourself “under offer” to a company, which on your own admission was about to start operations in Queensland, you had not inadvertently’”—

that was a nice word!—

“disentitled yourself from holding office.

“Your subsequent withdrawal from these negotiations may not completely protect you or the Government from embarrassment on this score and I want to ensure that there shall not be, through ignorance of those concerned, any repetition of such a situation in the future.”

That statement by Mr. Smith, as reported in the “Telegraph”, was not refuted.

For this reason, I believe that the Minister should resign his portfolio. He compromised himself, and I believe he should have resigned his portfolio. Others have done so on other occasions for far less. It took him a whole week to make up his mind; he hung on grimly waiting for a bigger offer from America. I believe that he lost the confidence of the people by doing that. If the Treasurer will not resign voluntarily—and I know he will not—I call on the Premier to do something about it. The Premier has come to office with an aura of decency about him and a reputation for direct thinking; he has come to office and taken a stand that will not enable anybody to point the finger at this Government for any reason. I refer to the present Premier, Mr. Bjelke-Petersen. He must be struck by the logic and the force of the argument that I have advanced in this debate. I suggest that my argument has been reinforced by the letter written by the hon. member for Windsor, to which I have just referred, and by the opinion of others, who were too weak to say anything because they were afraid.

There is a statement that justice must not only be done but must also appear to be done. If justice must not only be done but must also appear to be done, then no doubt the essence of that statement applies equally here. Whatever the Treasurer might say he did eventually, it appears to

us, anyway, that he did not do the right thing, and it also appears to the people of Queensland that he did not do the right thing. I call on the Premier to act immediately in this regard. If he does not, then let me say that in May, 1969, the people of Queensland will do it for him. There is no doubt about that.

Government Members interjected.

Mr. TUCKER: I am used to these interjections about Townsville North. I have survived three times; I have no worries in this regard and I am not afraid to express my views here on these matters. I believe that on this occasion the Premier is completely in the wrong. I am afraid that a month from now the Treasurer will get another offer. It will probably take him a fortnight to decide, but he will probably grab it because it is bigger than the last one.

There is no doubt that, by his action, the Treasurer has brought us into disrepute in the eyes of the whole world. He must have brought us into disrepute with the Americans. They must be saying, "If you make a bigger offer you will be able to pull Chalk out of the Government of Queensland." I make no reflection on the Treasurer's personal integrity; I am talking now about his political integrity.

Mr. Murray: Don't bring politics into it.

Mr. TUCKER: I will pass on from there because I wish to raise another matter, one that I raised the other day about the Queensland Housing Commission building homes for multi-million dollar companies who are well able to look after themselves. There may be a case, possibly, for assistance to struggling Queensland companies, or even an Australian company, by the Housing Commission, but today we find in Gladstone, Moura, Blackwater, and many other places, companies worth millions of dollars having the Housing Commission construct their homes so that they can duck from under this very heavy commitment and pass it on to the Housing Commission. I believe that the Housing Commission has deserted and departed from its original role in Queensland, which was to build homes and make them available to the average person in the community who quite obviously was unable himself to find the cost of a home. It was its purpose to provide cheap rental accommodation for those who were otherwise unable to get it. But we now find the Queensland Housing Commission preoccupied with the building of homes for outside and overseas companies who are well able themselves to do something about it.

As I mentioned previously, because of the offer of the Government to build homes for them, these companies have preserved their capital and can possibly channel it in some other direction or buy something else. I believe that the Housing Commission

is not providing adequate accommodation in our cities today because of its preoccupation in this direction.

(Time expired.)

Mr. AIKENS (Townsville South) (3.4 p.m.): Being probably the most self-effacing and softly-spoken member of this Committee, I have been placed at rather a disadvantage in following the hysterical and semi-incoherent fulminations of the hon. member for Townsville North. However, I will do my best.

I want to deal today with a matter which I think impinges very seriously and very gravely on the honesty and integrity of the electoral machinery in this State, and I am very pleased that the Minister for Justice is present. I want to refer first of all to a statement that appeared in "The Courier-Mail" this morning, published on behalf of the Queensland Central Executive—and we have some members of it sitting on the front bench of the Labour Party in this Chamber—in which it deplored the neglect of the Aboriginal population of this State by the Queensland Government. To my mind, that is an example of Satan reproving sin, and I shall prove to this Committee with irrefutable facts just how much the Labour Opposition considers the welfare of the Aborigines of this State.

Mr. Murray: No-one suggests that the Q.C.E. has any integrity, does he?

Mr. AIKENS: At least I was giving them credit for having it, although I am somewhat doubtful whether I should. But I am an old North Queensland gentleman, and I adopt a different tactic to that adopted by the Q.C.E. towards me.

I want to refer to a statement made in the House on Thursday by the hon. member for Townsville North, who said that he, together with the hon. member for Sandgate, the hon. member for Toowoomba East, and the hon. member for Tablelands, went to Cairns recently, and that from Cairns they visited the Edward River and Mitchell River Aboriginal communities. He said that from Cairns all their expenses were borne by themselves. He made that statement, he said, to refute some rumors that were circulating around this House that they had got \$10 a day for pocket money and had put that money in their own pockets.

If the hon. member for Townsville North is going to make a statement anywhere, might I suggest to him, as a political neophyte, that he should always tell the whole truth and not little bits and pieces of the truth, because if he does not tell the whole truth someone else is sure to tell it for him. I feel that it is my duty to tell this Committee the whole truth about that trip to the Edward River and Mitchell River Aboriginal communities.

The records of this House show that in June and July the hon. member for Sandgate went, not to Cairns, but to Normanton, and that he also pulled \$60 expenses out of

the taxpayers' pockets; that the hon. member for Toowoomba East went to Cairns, and pulled \$40 expenses out of the taxpayers' pockets; that the hon. member for Townsville North went to Thursday Island—not to Cairns—and pulled \$40 expenses out of the taxpayers' pockets; and that the hon. member for Tablelands also went to Thursday Island, and pulled \$50 expenses out of the taxpayers' pockets, plus free plane rides.

It might be interesting to know the real reason why these four members of the Labour Party went to Edward River and Mitchell River, and here I quote from the "Truth to Tell" column of "Sunday Truth" of 4 August a little par that obviously was published either by the hon. members themselves or by someone acting for them.

It reads—

"Edward and Mitchell River Mission Stations coming under close scrutiny of A.L.P. members Harold Dean, Peter Wood, Percy Tucker and Eddie Wallis-Smith, who are up in the Gulf on a Private look-see. It is their first visit since the Government took over the missions, so their trip could have significance later in Parliament."

Of course, the real reason why they went to the Edward River and Mitchell River Aboriginal communities—and incidentally they were provided with free board and lodging by courtesy of those communities (and anyone would get that if he went there), so that was something they did not have to pay out of the \$10 a day that they got from the taxpayers—was that last year at the Edward River and Mitchell River communities there was the greatest electoral scandal in the history of this State. Owing to circumstances that I will relate and substantiate, the hon. member for Tablelands, at the Edward River and Mitchell River communities—I will combine the two—received 217 votes from the Aborigines, who were exercising their franchise for the first time, and the Country Party candidate received one vote. One day hon. members might wonder how that came about. Well, I am going to tell them how it came about.

Mr. Murray: I will bet the A.L.P. have been looking for that one.

Mr. AIKENS: You're telling me!

At the Mitchell River community the A.L.P. had a stooge named Douglas Lloyd, and prior to the vote he went around and told the unfortunate Aborigines that Eddie Wallis-Smith, the member of Tablelands, was a brother of Sir Henry Abel Smith, the Governor. He told the Aborigines that if they did not vote Labour they would be turned off the Aboriginal community, and all their privileges, including their social service benefits, would be taken from them.

Mr. Murray: This is disgraceful.

Mr. AIKENS: It is disgraceful, and it is true. If the hon. member will listen, I will tell him just how true it is.

On polling day the Aborigines went in to vote and, in order to preserve the way of life that they knew, and that they wanted to maintain, they voted for Eddie Wallis-Smith 217 to 1. Anyone who cares to go today, as some of my friends have, to the Edward River and Mitchell River Aboriginal communities will find that the Aborigines will say that they did it and that they are happy they did it because they thought they were doing it in the interests of their own welfare and that of their women and children.

In case hon. members have any doubt whether this Douglas Lloyd was acting in his own interests or was doing it for some altruistic reason—he may have been, as the Q.C.E. tried to tell the people, the friend of the Aborigines—let me say that since that shocking incident Douglas Lloyd has gone to Charters Towers, where he now lives and works. In case hon. members may be in some doubt about his connection with the Labour Party, let me assure them that although he lives in the electorate of Flinders he was recently nominated and recommended as a justice of the peace by Eddie Wallis-Smith, the hon. member for Tablelands. Further, the "Moscow Mob" at the Trades Hall, which owns the Labour Party body and soul—do not forget that yesterday's Q.C.E. meeting was held at the Trades Hall—have selected this same Douglas Lloyd as their standard-bearer at the next State election and, believe it or not, he is now the official A.L.P. candidate for Flinders for the 1969 State election.

Mr. Murray: This gets worse as you go along.

Mr. AIKENS: Of course it gets worse. That is the sort of thing that is happening in the Labour Party today.

These four gentlemen went to the Edward River and the Mitchell River Aboriginal communities to see if they could get another Douglas Lloyd to conduct the same electoral scandal at these communities at the next State election as Douglas Lloyd arranged at the last State election.

I wish now to deal with something else. I have only 24 minutes, so I do not want to waste any of my time. In "Sunday Truth" recently I read quite a pitiful article. Before I finish what I have to say on this point, a friend of mine who went to the Edward River Aboriginal community a short time ago said that he had questioned some of the Aborigines on how they voted at the last State election and they said, "We did the right thing; we all voted for Eddie Wallis-Smith, brother belong Governor." That is why they voted for him. Whether the Labour Party will be able to get anyone to do the same job up there for them in 1969 as Douglas Lloyd did for them at the last State election—this shocking, monstrous, putrid job—is, of course, conjectural.

Quite recently we read in "Sunday Truth" a full-page article by Mr. Thomas Burns, who happens to be the "Moscow Mob"

secretary of the Q.C.E. Mr. Burns bemoaned the fact that poor Mr. Houston, the Leader of the Opposition, was treated like a poor relation at Parliament House; that he did not get very much money; that he had shocking working conditions. In fact, Mr. Burns came straight out and said that the Leader of the Opposition should be on the same status and salary, and have the same staff and what-have-you as a Minister of the Crown. He went on to say that poor old Mr. Tucker, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, was poked away in some little hole and corner in his office at Parliament House and that he received no recompense for relieving the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Murray: He has not to supply his own car, as Frank Nicklin did when in Opposition.

Mr. AIKENS: I was just going to tell the Chamber about that. I propose to give some figures because this is perhaps the most factual speech I have ever made. I have taken out figures on this case. When Mr. Nicklin was Leader of the Opposition and the Labour Government was in power the salary and allowances he received totalled \$6,003 a year. He did not get a car, which the Leader of the Opposition gets today—and, incidentally, the Leader of the Opposition now gets the car quite free. He has to put it in to the Government Garage every month to have it greased and serviced and kept in first-class running condition, with new tyres and everything else. All he has to do is put petrol in the car. When Mr. Nicklin was Leader of the Opposition, I remember at one time that there was a big Government function at the City Hall and Frank Nicklin had to pay his own tram fare to get there because the Labour Party would not provide him with transport.

As I say, Frank Nicklin received a total of \$6,003 a year. The poor, bedraggled Mr. Houston, who, according to Mr. Burns, is on the brink of penury, receives \$10,330, or \$4,327 a year more than Frank Nicklin did.

Mr. Ramsden: And he doesn't do half as good a job.

Mr. AIKENS: I am not going to deal with that. I am dealing with facts and figures.

I suppose that poor old Mr. Houston has fallen for this story by Mr. Burns, and for the sob stories told at the Trades Hall, about the frightfully raw deal he gets from this Government with regard to his lack of salary and lack of facilities. Incidentally, Mr. Houston gets exactly the same secretarial assistance as did Mr. Nicklin. He has a private secretary, who is a State public servant on a very high salary, and he also has a senior stenographer. Of course, he has these two offices much better equipped and appointed than they were when the Labour Party was in office. When I came into Parliament and the Labour Party was in office, there were 14 members of the

Country Party in one room, all sitting around one table like Chinamen playing Fan Tan, with two telephones between the 14 of them. The idea then of private members of Parliament having a separate table and telephone of their own was quite unthinkable. The girls in the secretarial room, which, of course, is a veritable sudatorium in the summer, did not have an electric fan. I gave them mine in 1957. When the then Speaker, Mr. Fletcher, heard of it, he immediately had a fan installed in their room.

Let us get on with Mr. Houston and Mr. Nicklin. Mr. Houston is apparently convinced that he is in the pauper class and feels that he should augment his salary. And so, as he is a very good dog judge—and so he should be; he gets plenty of practice as there are more dogs in the Parliamentary Labour Party in Queensland than he finds at any exhibition in the South or anywhere else—he goes away to shows in the South judging dogs. In this way he can augment the paltry \$10,330 a year that he receives as a member of Parliament and Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Houston recently went to Melbourne and Hobart. He goes there on his parliamentary gold pass and with the Done Committee privileges, and he receives hundreds of dollars as a dog judge in Victoria and Tasmania, and anywhere else that will employ him. I have been reliably informed that he writes to the kennel associations and the show societies in the South and tells them that it will be in their financial interests to employ him as their dog judge because they will not have to pay him any transportation costs to and from the shows as they would other judges.

Mr. Walsh: You are exaggerating.

Mr. AIKENS: I am exaggerating nothing. I saw a letter from a Victorian dog judge. It is quite possible, and I shall be quite honest about this, that he was a little piqued that Mr. Houston had been appointed as the dog judge, but I actually saw the letter he wrote in which that allegation was made. However, the fact remains that Mr. Houston travels interstate on his gold pass and with the Done Committee concessions and picks up hundreds of dollars from acting as a dog judge, because he considers that the \$10,330 a year he receives as Leader of the Opposition is not sufficient.

When Mr. Houston does this, the hon. member for Townsville North leaves Townsville and comes to Brisbane to relieve him as Leader of the Opposition. What Mr. Burns did not say, and what the taxpayers of Queensland do not know—and this was not the position when the Labour Party was in power—is that the hon. member for Townsville North, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, receives an extra \$600 a year for coming to Brisbane and relieving the Leader of the Opposition while he is interstate picking up hundreds of dollars a year extra as a dog judge. So that is the

true position of the poor old downtrodden Leader of the Opposition and Deputy Leader of the Opposition, according to Mr. Burns.

Mr. Ramsden: You would say that we have been a pretty generous Government?

Mr. AIKENS: To the Opposition, I think the Government has been more than generous. I am sorry that more hon. members did not support my notice of motion the other day. If they had, we would have discovered, as I already know, that some members of the Opposition are in receipt of considerable extra emoluments. For instance, I was told by a man who claims he has something to do with the preparation of the tax returns of the hon. member for South Brisbane that he picked up \$19,000 last year for his work at the Bar. He has not come to Parliament yet this session, and this is the second week of the sitting. Goodness knows where he is, and how many thousands of dollars he is picking up now.

Mr. Hanson interjected.

Mr. AIKENS: The hon. member for Port Curtis interjects. Although I have a high regard for him, I doubt if a wealthier man than he has ever sat in this Chamber. He would be as rich as Croesus himself. No-one doubts his affluence, so he should be the last to interject about people picking up something on the side in addition to their parliamentary salaries.

Returning to my introductory remarks, I refer to the tears shed by the Q.C.E. and by Mr. Douglas Lloyd, who has written articles in "The Northern Miner", a Charters Towers newspaper. He stated in one of them—

"Establishment of hostel mooted to help
Aborigines

"The establishment of a Government-controlled hostel in Charters Towers to provide short-term accommodation for aboriginal people has been advocated by Mr. Doug Lloyd.

"Mr. Lloyd, the A.L.P. candidate for Flinders in coming State election, said that such a hostel should be designed to provide meals and accommodation at a nominal cost for coloured people visiting here from other centres or from outlying areas."

All of this blither and blatherskite appears in "The Northern Miner", together with Lloyd's photograph.

A Government Member: The member for Flinders would take strong objection to that.

Mr. AIKENS: By the time Bill Lonergan is finished with him, there will be little of him left.

I am not going to defend for a moment the attitude of the Government towards the Aborigine. I am not going to buy into that one, because, when all is said and done, Bill Lonergan is one of the finest

men ever produced in the back country—and that is saying something. He will always be my friend.

Mr. Murray: You are comparing him with Wally Rae now.

Mr. AIKENS: I am not going to digress and become flippant in this speech, because it is much too serious for that. At the last election—and I am assured that this has happened in many other electorates—people who claim that they have the interests of the Aborigines at heart were ruthlessly, brutally and putridly blackmailing the Aborigines. Women came to me in Townsville at the last election and told me that they had been told by A.L.P. stooges who went to their homes that if they did not vote for the A.L.P. their children would be taken from them and sent to Palm Island.

Mr. Lonergan: The A.L.P. did the same thing at Charters Towers.

Mr. AIKENS: They did it everywhere; I have spoken to others about this. These are the men who claim that they have the interests of the coloured people at heart.

Mr. Murray: That deserves thorough investigation.

Mr. AIKENS: Of course it does. The Minister for Justice could very well do something about it. This is the sort of thing that goes on. They blackmail and brutalise these people, and stand over them. They adopt all the putrid and foetid tactics for which the A.L.P. today is notorious. Yet they come out in today's "Courier-Mail" and accuse the Government of not having the interests of the coloured people at heart!

It has been said—and I want to make this perfectly clear in deference to the presiding officer and the poll clerk at the Edward River and Mitchell River Aboriginal communities—that many of the ballot papers at those polling places were filled in with exactly the same figures, the inference being that one person filled them all in. Although at first glance there would seem to be something sinister about that, that is in fact not so. The Election Act provides that any elector who is unsure about voting can ask the presiding officer to vote for him, and that is what a lot of Aborigines did at the Edward River and Mitchell River Aboriginal communities. They wanted to make sure that their votes were cast for Wallis-Smith, the "brother belong Governor", because they wanted to make sure that they were not going to be chased off the community or have their social service and other privileges taken from them.

I rose purely and simply to expose once again, as I will do from the public platform, over the radio stations and television stations, and through whatever other media are at my command, the slobbering, stinking, putrid hypocrisy of the Labour Party when it comes to dealing with the Aborigines, and I will

expose the tactics and the rorts and the rackets that it has practised on polling day wherever it has had a chance to do so. I do not know what Mr. Douglas Lloyd is going to do in Flinders at the next election; I do not know what the Labour Party is going to do at the Edward River and Mitchell River Aboriginal communities at the next election. I do not know whether it can get hold of another Mr. Lloyd to go up there, and I do not know what men he can recruit and introduce to the Flinders electorate to do at the polling places in that electorate the things that he did at the Mitchell River and Edward River Aboriginal communities at the last election.

Mr. RAE (Gregory) (3.26 p.m.): In speaking to the motion before the Committee, I say first that the Treasurer gave hon. members an excellent run-down on the actual progress that Queensland is making. We have heard many cries from hon. members opposite that the State is not progressing in a way that they consider is in the best interests of the people of Queensland. I differ very strongly from the views that they have expressed, and, being 54 years of age and having lived virtually all my life in this State, and having had the privilege of representing for 11 years nearly a quarter of the area of this State, I claim that I can give the answer to them in a rather effective way by stating exactly what the Government has done. Nobody with truth in his heart can say other than that very great progress has been achieved under the Country-Liberal Government. Buildings, roads, hospitals and schools have been constructed, and the Government has shown up well in every facet of its responsibilities. In fact, it has done extremely well.

I do not like comparisons that are rather odious, but I can remember that when former Labour Governments were in office there was a lot to be desired.

Mr. N. T. E. Hewitt interjected.

Mr. RAE: It is true, as the hon. member for Mackenzie has said—I thank him for reminding me—that we had Ministers in Labour Governments representing the area; but the record of those Governments was a very sad one.

Mr. O'Donnell: How come you are not a Minister now?

Mr. RAE: There are many men on this side of the Chamber who are much more able and better fitted than I am to be a Minister. All I want is to be a good member of Parliament for my own area; that will do me.

I appreciate particularly one point made by the Treasurer in this debate. He said that he recognised very fully the seriousness of the drought and the part that it played in affecting the economy of the State.

Mr. O'Donnell interjected.

Mr. RAE: The hon. member for Barcoo can make a speech later if he wishes to do so. He should sit back and listen.

The Treasurer made special reference to the fact that the State's finances have been handicapped by the drought, and I support what he said. He did make available drought relief, rate remissions of 50 per cent., and transport concessions, and we are very grateful indeed for those things.

However, I still feel that it would be quite wrong of me not to mention at this juncture that I think the Federal authorities do not fully recognise the problems that are ours. There are today people on the land who are disillusioned, frightened and at a tremendous loss personally, and I do not see how they can ever extricate themselves from this position unless we have some other medium whereby their finances can be strengthened. This will be resolved only by a long-term loan at a low rate of interest. I have stated this before, and I repeat it. This is the only answer. We may have good seasons, but they do not wipe off the colossal debts that people have incurred. It takes more than that when they are paying, as they are paying today, a rate of interest of 7½ per cent; it completely kills any hope of their getting out of debt.

There are other points that I can pursue in other debates, but one thing that has been particularly exercising my mind is that today we find in this State a company called Ansett-Pioneer, which is running a bus service from Brisbane to Cairns and doing a very good job. In running this service it is subscribing to the coffers of the Government to the tune of \$1,000 a week. On the other side of this blessing to the State, people who travel by bus from Brisbane to Camooweal, have to pay the interstate fare. Intra-state passengers will not be tolerated on this run. I do not follow the reasoning behind this procedure. Nothing would do more for the people in the back country at this moment than the right to get on a bus at Charleville and go to Augathella, Winton, Tambo, McKinlay, or wherever it may be. Yet today, people who are travelling on this bus service are being pulled up by the police and by traffic inspectors; they are made to show their tickets and to give every reason why they are going from here to there, and they are asked if they have purchased a ticket from Tweed Heads to Camooweal. This is very wrong. If people travelling between Brisbane and Cairns can enjoy the privilege of getting on or off a bus at any point and paying in accordance with the mileage travelled, I fail to see why we in the West cannot do the same. We have "copped a caning" all along the line, and this is one very glaring example of wrong thinking; it is not a fair go at all. I deplore sectional blessings.

Mr. Walsh: Have you found out the reason for it?

Mr. RAE: I know the reasons, just as the hon. member does. However, if under State law permission can be given to people to travel up the coast, surely the same concession can be granted to us to travel in our country. It is imperative that we be consistent.

I will outline a few reasons why this privilege should be extended to my people. The school-children alone who travel from Toowoomba to the West and those who travel from the Rural Training School to their homes in the East in many cases find themselves, under the present cost structure, having to fly to Brisbane and then back to Cunnamulla or somewhere like that in order to get home. This is unrealistic and stupid.

Mr. Davies: Which Minister would you blame?

Mr. RAE: I am not concerned about which Minister should be blamed. I am simply conveying my thoughts on what I think is something that should be looked at. I have put the question up and I have not had the right answer, so I bring it forward here.

Mr. Davies: You are talking about the stupidity of the Minister.

Mr. RAE: I am not talking about the stupidity of the Minister. If there is anything stupid going on, it is the hon. member's contribution by way of interjection.

I genuinely believe that this is something that we should recognise, purely because a tremendous interest in this State is being shown today by tourists. Apart from tourists, for whom we are prescribing adequate media for rest and cleaning up, it would be quite right and proper that we consider the pensioners, the parents, and the children, who live in these more remote areas, and who can very pleasantly be conveyed from one point to another. This is a very real and realistic proposal that I am putting up to the Treasurer.

I feel that Ansett Pioneer is to be commended. This company has excellent drivers and it also has excellent buses, which cost a small fortune. If we can encourage the company to do this job and provide a service to the people we will be doing much for those who are desirous of improving their lot.

Another point that I should like to bring up is that we talk a lot about decentralisation, a lot about secondary industries, and the desire to establish this or that industry in some particular part of the State away from the coast. The view that I hold—and this is something I am here to convey only after consultation with many people who know the score—is that Longreach should be a wool-selling centre. Within 120 miles of Longreach one-third of this State's wool is produced. Something like 240,000 to 250,000 bales of wool is produced there, and the complement for the State is around 690,000 bales.

We recognise that costs and charges to wool-growers in the west today are literally prohibitive, and the cost structure has more than defeated them. If a separate wool-selling centre could be established in Longreach, backed by my Government or private enterprise—say the A.M.P. Coy., who have done much for the Commonwealth—and if my Government were to have a very thorough survey made of the possibilities in this direction, I feel that it would have much to convey to the people who live in the West. This would be the No. 1 medium of keeping people there in employment, and it would reduce the cost to the people who live there. With the Port of Gladstone developing the way it is today, with the railways and containerisation progressing, as we are told they are, marked inroads would be made into our costs and a real breathing space would be provided. It could emerge as the biggest contribution yet to a western centre.

New South Wales has four wool-selling centres—the fourth being Albury; South Australia has two wool-selling centres; Victoria has four; and Western Australia has two. Queensland has one, and, furthermore, the times of our sales and the whole wool-selling organisation are dominated and controlled completely by New South Wales.

Mr. O'Donnell: We are lucky to hold them here.

Mr. RAE: I do not think we are lucky at all. We produce 690,000 bales of wool.

Mr. O'Donnell: If they had their way they would send it to Sydney.

Mr. RAE: I know. I agree with that interjection, but I should like to put the hon. member for Barcoo on the right track. If we were to really take a good look at this proposal, we would see that it is the most realistic way of helping the wool-grower to cope with his problems of costs. I am sure special freight rates would be accepted and employment maintained.

No-one can deny that the rapid developments that the Treasurer has told us about, such as at Gladstone, and so on, will be all to the good, and I should very much like to see them become realities before too long. As a State, we are the envy of many.

I would leave you, Mr. Carey, with these two considerations: first, that we permit the western people to use these buses run by Pioneer-Ansett, and second, that we establish a wool-selling centre in Longreach. This, as a measure, will do much for the industry, both employment-wise and in reducing the present ever-soaring costs.

Mr. WALSH (Bundaberg) (3.44 p.m.): Last week I made it known that I was seriously considering moving the adjournment of the House to discuss the present tram strike in Brisbane. After further thought I felt that it would be somewhat unreasonable to raise the matter while it was still the subject of

conferences and negotiations between a member of the Industrial Commission and the parties. However, the strike has dragged on and this debate presents the best opportunity for me to say a few words on the dispute, the matters leading up to it, and action to be taken by the authorities concerned.

I think I am correct in saying that there has been a complete disregard—I could go further and say a callous disregard—of the public interest in this dispute. The blame does not rest only on the Government; in certain directions it also rests on the A.L.P. There are 28 electorates in the City of Brisbane, 17 being represented by Liberal members, and 11 by A.L.P. members. It is somewhat amazing to me that not one of those 28 members appears to have any desire to raise or refer to the interests of the general public in this matter.

I did get a glimmer of hope this morning, and an indication that, if I had moved the adjournment of the House and had been struggling to get the requisite number of members to support it I would have had the support of the senior Temporary Chairman of Committees, the hon. member for Gregory. This morning he made a plea on behalf of pensioners, but he has just spoken for 25 minutes in this Chamber without making one reference to his plea on behalf of the pensioners in the tram strike.

Mr. Rac: I did that quietly and privately with the Premier.

Mr. WALSH: I had a glimmer of hope that he would make some reference to it so that the public would know his attitude.

The Government must share the blame for the dispute and I shall deal with that, but before doing so should like to make a short review of matters that led up to the dispute. In this area blame falls on the shoulders of the A.L.P. both inside and outside Parliament. It was left to a Liberal member of this Parliament to extract from the Premier of the day, Sir Francis Nicklin, the answer to the question whether trams would be provided for on the new Victoria Bridge. Nobody else seemed to be concerned about whether the great multitude of tram travellers in the Brisbane city area had any interest in this matter at all, and it goes without saying and cannot be denied that it was left to the Liberal member who asked the question in this House.

From that point I think it is reasonable to suggest that the Lord Mayor has adopted an arrogant attitude towards the public in this matter. I think it will be agreed that at no stage has he made any specific reference to when trams will be eliminated in the Brisbane city area, and that it was left to the Deputy Mayor of the Brisbane City Council to give the first clue, by hinting that by March 1969, or some particular date, all trams would be eliminated. But nothing came from the Lord Mayor at any stage.

Turning now to the present dispute, I know that the feeling on the Government side would be to put the blame onto the members of the Tramway and Motor Omnibus Employees' Association.

Mr. Ramsden: Not me.

Mr. WALSH: I am pleased to hear that at least the hon. member is one of the intelligent people. Personally I compliment the members of that union for their loyalty generally to their union in fighting for the things that they think they are entitled to. I do not, by any means, agree with all the submissions that have been made. But I know that the Trades Hall and its junta, with no interference from the A.L.P., have used the tramway unionists to better the conditions of many other unionists, particularly in regard to incremental pay, and then have left the tramway unionists in the lurch, as it were. They got the minimum of the benefits arising from the decision of the council to agree to incremental service pay.

As this dispute has proceeded, the tendency has been to blame the union. I do not think anyone would accuse me, in my political position today, of being on one side or the other, and I am pleased to be able to speak my mind freely on this matter. The Lord Mayor, in wanting to get the public on his side, has suggested, among other things, that the placing of two men on the buses that will replace trams would mean an increase of 25 per cent. in bus fares. I wonder if increased costs troubled his mind when he agreed to incremental service pay for certain sections of council employees? He admitted that this would mean a substantial increase in rates to the ratepayers. As long as those at the Trades Hall are calling the tune, he is prepared to fall in behind them. Having received substantial benefits in the way of incremental pay, those at the Trades Hall could not care less about members of the Tramway and Motor Omnibus Employees' Association, and this is why its members are now left out on a limb and the public is being encouraged to attack them and place the blame for the present position on their shoulders.

Can anyone imagine a more fantastic position? The Government, no doubt in its secret talks with representatives of the Brisbane City Council, decided that trams should be scrapped. Although this may be denied, at least a doubt is left in the mind in that the Premier of the day had to make a statement in this House affecting what is essentially a responsibility of the council, namely, the use of trams over bridges, and later had to announce that the Government accepted the Wilbur Smith plan which involved the scrapping of trams. Now we have the absurd position of the Government having to undertake a transportation survey, and engaging the Wilbur Smith organisation for this purpose at a cost of over \$130,000. This is to determine the type of public transport required to meet the future needs

of the Brisbane area. I should have thought that that survey would have been carried out first, before any determination was made to scrap the trams over a period. That would be the logical course.

The Government, however, cannot be released from its share of the blame. There is no justification for attempts to place on the shoulders of the union responsibility for the present strike which coincided with the Royal National Show. The Lord Mayor had already announced that trams on the Ashgrove route were to be removed after 23 August. The blame, if any, for what happened to the revenue of the Royal National Association cannot be laid at the door of members of the union. The Lord Mayor seems to have gone out of his way to precipitate this dispute. The Treasurer and the Minister for Mines, who is the deputy leader of the Country Party, know that much can be done behind the scenes to prevent this type of thing. Was any attempt made by the Lord Mayor to delay the strike till after the Brisbane Exhibition? Of course it was not. He did everything to precipitate the dispute, so that he would bring down more clamour from the public around the heads and shoulders of members of the tramways union.

Then, conferences were presided over by a member of the Industrial Commission and an order was made restraining the Tramway and Motor Omnibus Employees' Association from continuing the strike. When it was suggested that the Lord Mayor might invoke the penalty provisions of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act to compel the Union, through the imposition of penalties, to get its men to go back to work, he said that it was not Labour policy to inflict penalties on unions. In other words, the Lord Mayor was more concerned about his political hide and the dictation from the Trades Hall than about his responsibility to the public generally.

Going a bit further, we find that, in the face of his failure to exercise the rights given to any employer in similar circumstances, he then has the hide to get the Brisbane City Council to apply to the Industrial Commission for the right to stand down thousands of employees who are being humbugged by a strike precipitated by him. I would have been amazed if the Industrial Commission had granted the application, having regard to the fact that the employer in this case, the Brisbane City Council under the leadership of the Lord Mayor, did not explore every available avenue to bring the matter to a final solution. It was another attempt to get the members of the various trade unions against the Tramway and Motor Omnibus Employees' Association. The more members of unions who complained about the "trammies" and "bussies", the more chance there was of breaking down the stand of the unionists in this instance.

I shall not go into the merits or otherwise of one-man buses or two-man buses or into the question of comparisons with other

States; I do not think those arguments can be sensibly and intelligently applied. Other cities in Australia have underground railway systems and double-decker buses. Because of the topography of Brisbane, the situation of the river, and many other factors, the situation is very different here. One would be only wasting time in making a comparison with cities such as Sydney, Melbourne, and Newcastle.

Some people want to talk about the bus system in New York and the bus system in London. If the information is of any value to the Committee, I could give the opinion of a person who travels the world very frequently. He visits most countries of the world probably about four times a year. He has very big interests in this country as well as overseas, and he travels a great deal on public transport. He returned to Australia recently, and I am informed that he made the observation that the transport system in Rome would leave the bus system and the transport system in New York and London for dead.

Mr. Ramsden: It would. It would run over the lot of them.

Mr. WALSH: Yes. It was interesting to note that conductors are employed on the buses in Rome in peak hours, during which there is entrance only at the front of the buses and exit at the rear, and the system is very efficient.

The tramway system in Brisbane carries about two-thirds of all the passengers using public road transport—I am disregarding the railways—and 51 per cent., or thereabouts, of all passengers are carried by road transport in the Ipswich-Redcliffe-Brisbane city area. Surely no intelligent person would try to tell me that if 200 trams, which have four or five points of ingress and egress, are put off the road, people who are compelled to travel by buses with one point of ingress or egress will not be inconvenienced.

Mr. Hooper: They will be worse off than they are now.

Mr. WALSH: Of course they will be, and that is why I would give my unqualified support to the "trammies" in their case. It is the public we have to think of, not the members of the Tramway and Motor Omnibus Employees' Association. Like the Chairman of Committees—he has seen it—I see thousands upon thousands of people passing my residence every morning, strap-hanging in trams with four and five entrances. Can anyone tell me that these people are not going to be inconvenienced in hot weather and wet weather—without any shelter? Who cares? Certainly not the Government or the council or the Lord Mayor. He does not care so long as he can use somebody else's money.

Now, before I run out of time, I must deal with the attitude of the Government. It will probably ask what Labour Governments have done. We have precedents to

show what can be done, and going by the attitude of the Premier and the small-boy attitude indicated in the reply by the Minister for Labour and Tourism here the other day, the view of the Government appears to be, "It is all politics; let them stew in it." That is not right. Somebody has to make a call on behalf of the public.

In 1945, if anyone is looking for precedents, there was a tramway strike and, at that time, there was not a Labour Lord Mayor. At that time, the Lord Mayor was Mr. Chandler. I think he was still Mr. Chandler and he was, by no means, a Labour Lord Mayor. He refused to allow the representatives of the union to inspect the rosters—the silly point in dispute—and we had the public humbugged. What did the Government do behind the scenes? I was Minister for Transport at the time. The Acting Premier, the late Hon. E. M. Hanlon, rang me and asked if the Railway Department could supply two competent roster clerks. That was done and, on the Saturday morning, through the powers of the then Minister for Labour and Industry, now Senator Gair, the court was moved at the direction of the Minister. If hon. members want to know the powers and how wide they are, let them look at p. 168 of the 1945-46 Parliamentary Debates. They will get the answer there as to what action the Government took in that case. As a result of that investigation and that report, the then Acting Premier called the representatives of the union down here and told them they did not have a leg to stand on, and to call a meeting and recommend that the men go back to work. They called their meeting which was held in the City Hall, not the Trades Hall, and they went back to work.

Mr. Ramsden: Do you expect our Premier to fix up something like that?

Mr. WALSH: Never mind about the union, but I expect the Government to act in the interests of the public, and, if the hon. member has no interest in the multitude outside, let him say so.

Mr. Ramsden: I certainly have an interest.

Mr. WALSH: The hon. member is not displaying that interest at the moment, if I might say so. The Government cannot sit idly by and do nothing about a strike that has paralysed the transport system for a period of four weeks. The women and the male cleaners who come into this building, who normally would leave their places of residence at 5 o'clock in the morning to cleanse this place so that Ministers might come here and meet, are paying up to \$1.80 out of their pockets to get here. Nobody is organising anything, not even, as the hon. member for Gregory said, for the pensioners. "What does it matter if they have got to pay these exorbitant rates?" That is the attitude of the Government and of the A.L.P. We have Mr. Tommy Burns who has gone on the other side at the

invitation of another political party—nothing to do with Labour parties—and has been feted. No doubt he will come back here with some American ideas that should be applied within the structure of the Labour Party.

That illustrates the whole problem today in the Labour Party. I am sorry for the Leader of the Opposition. I look upon him as a man of integrity and honesty, but he is so cluttered up today with the machinations of the Trades Hall and the Q.C.E. that he—and the parliamentary party—can hardly move. Its rights now are cut into even more deeply than in the days when it was a Labour Government, before the break-up in 1957. So I say that there is an obligation on the Government to act immediately. I do not care what methods it adopts, as long as it can show the public outside that it is making an honest attempt to get the Lord Mayor back into a position where he will agree to these things.

It is probable, now that the big boss, Jack Egerton, has arrived back, that the Lord Mayor will go back on a lot of his tracks. The things that he has refused to accept, he may now humbly accept, as he did with the incremental pay and a lot of other things—as long as that policy is dictated by the Trades Hall.

While I think of it, I should give the Treasurer sufficient warning that in due course I will disclose the Trades Hall's part in the Stephens contract, too—and it will be a very interesting story, I can assure him.

Mr. W. D. Hewitt: It sounds like a serial.

Mr. WALSH: It is distinct from this question, and in the few minutes I have left now I certainly could not tell the whole story. It is too interesting for me to let it go.

So many people have been compromised in city council affairs—compromised, I say—that it is difficult for one to attack the other. There are people who can get their houses built without permits, get flats built, and things like that. It is very difficult for them to come out and criticise an administration. They all seem to be bound up in one another's pockets, as it were. That is what alarms me about public administration of a body like the Brisbane City Council, just as I am alarmed about the manner in which the Trades Hall can place its stranglehold on elected representatives in this Chamber.

Anybody who has followed the activities of the Lord Mayor over the period of this strike will agree that, as far as he is concerned, it does not matter what anybody else says. "It must be the way I want it", he says. No doubt his caucus members have been taught the lesson. When they had him on the mat he was able to thumb his nose at the Q.C.E. "I won't attend the

caucus meetings," he said. "It does not fit in with my way of thinking. I am not going to do it." With all its attempts it could go only so far in impressing upon him the need to keep within the confines of the machinery of the Labour Party. While I know the great Labour movement is there, wrecked as it is, my problem these days is that it is difficult to find the Labour Party.

Mr. Mann: You helped to wreck it.

Mr. WALSH: I do not think the hon. member for Brisbane is quite serious in that one. The wreckers are still within the structure of the so-called Labour Party, and they are still wrecking, believe me. Whereas we felt that we may have had ample justification for our actions at that time, the party cannot justify its actions today.

(Time expired.)

Mr. BROMLEY (Norman) (4.10 p.m.): As the Treasurer said, this Bill gives hon. members who receive the call the opportunity to speak about anything they wish to raise, and, again as the Treasurer said, this is a very important motion. Apparently that view is not shared by one hon. member who spoke this afternoon, because he obviously embarked on one of his usual trips. However, I do not wish to waste my time referring to what he has said or what other hon. members have said.

This is an important motion, and I now wish to deal with one or two points. The Treasurer said this morning, perhaps with some pride (although I do not think it was justified), that things had improved. I thought that he spoke with tongue in cheek. Perhaps he had to keep his tongue in his cheek because he could not get it out. He gave us certain figures and percentages associated with the State's economy—primary industry, factories, employment, secondary industries, buildings, unemployment, and so on. He spoke also of certain things that have improved, but he did not speak of those things which, to my way of thinking and the people's way of thinking, have not improved in any way. I refer to the lack of money for hospitals and nursing training, and the fact that, without any doubt, both of these things have deteriorated, particularly over the last 10 years.

I asked a number of questions the other day—42 in all—which were subsequently disallowed in bulk. On this occasion I wish to deal with the relationship of nursing to the Appropriation Bill and what I think should happen in the allocation of money for the nursing profession and health generally.

Irrespective of what the Minister for Health said this morning when answering my questions and questions asked by other hon. members, I do not think he is sufficiently conversant with his portfolio. It appears to me that he takes everything as personal

criticism. He is not prepared to learn. Personally, I speak about these things with only one desire, that is, the desire to assist him in his portfolio and to assist the people who are associated with health matters.

I repeat that the Minister takes everything as personal criticism. He proved that this morning when, in answering a question he referred to Dr. Goodman and, to a certain extent criticised him. I believe that the Minister, and everybody else, knows that Dr. Goodman is a man of sense, and that he possesses a great sense of responsibility. Even if the Minister does not like him personally, surely he should give him credit for that.

I intend to speak about nursing training and nursing education as related to health matters. Many people, including members of the Royal Australian Nursing Federation of Queensland, are deeply concerned that there has been no change and no real development in nursing courses over the last 80 years. I repeat that in the last 10 years the nursing situation and the hospital situation have deteriorated rapidly. That is an indictment of the Government. It is by no means the fault of the nurses. From what I can see their job is becoming much harder. The nurses and their organisations have battled repeatedly in an effort to do everything possible to effect improvements in their training and status, and to raise the educational requirements for entrance to the nursing school and profession.

I think we should investigate the nursing service and nursing education. For the benefit of hon. members, perhaps I should define what the nursing service is. It is defined as "the service that nurses render to the community". The guiding principle adopted by the International Council of Nurses is that the unique function of the nurse is to assist the individual, sick or well, in the performance of those activities contributing to health or its recovery (or to a peaceful death) that he would perform unaided if he had the necessary strength, will or knowledge. It is likewise the unique contribution of nursing to help the individual to be independent of such assistance as soon as possible.

Nursing education is a blend of intellectual attainment, attitudes and mental skills based upon the principles of scientific medicine acquired by means of a prescribed course in a school of nursing and practised in conjunction with curative and preventive medicine. Education for nursing should be a true educational process. Education for nursing should be related continuously to developing the total health needs of the people to be served. Education for nursing should be under the immediate direction of an educational body primarily concerned with education for nursing.

It is true that the degree of change in patient care over the years has been enormous. The attitude of the medical man towards his patient has altered greatly and where so much emphasis 40 years ago was placed on the patient's physical

requirements, today care of the emotional and the spiritual requirements of the people assume great proportions. Yet nurses themselves have the most meagre teaching in this area. For this reason, it is believed by nurses and by hon. members on this side of the Chamber that this part of the course must be enlarged to include a study of the humanities.

A great deal more is known of physiology, physics and chemistry today, and the nurse who has charge of one or more patients must be prepared to meet the needs of the patients and the requirements when treatment involves a knowledge of the sciences. The nurse must have a thorough appreciation of bacteriology to understand the prevention of disease and infection. The drugs used today are very different from the medicine of 50 years ago, when only six hours—the number of hours of training is most important—were allocated to lectures and teaching relative to this matter. More detailed observations are required today, there is a difference in the administration of the patient's treatment, different and better machines are now used in hospitals and in convalescent homes, and those machines and other apparatus involved in nursing care are in use more and more. Preparation for nursing in Queensland has not kept pace with requirements, and I intend to prove that assertion as I go along.

Even six years ago the R.A.N.F. and the College of Nursing recommended to the Australian Universities Commission that the theoretical programme should be broadened to include—

(a) Subjects providing knowledge that is essential for the development of personal maturity, professional and citizenship responsibilities, psychology, sociology, trends in nursing and nursing education and nursing as a profession;

(b) Selected content from the physical sciences that are fundamental to competent nursing;

(c) The programme of studies should be deepened in the medical and biological sciences and in nursing arts;

(d) Psychiatric, public health and maternity nursing; and

(e) Administration and educational principles.

Among many other subjects, the technical discussion of the 9th World Health Assembly of the World Health Organisation centred on nurses' education and their role in health and health programmes, and it was generally agreed that essential responsibilities of professional nursing covered the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the patient, as well as many other facets. It was also agreed at this conference that it was a big problem—of course, I realise this, too—to attract a suitable number of candidates for schools of nursing.

We must get across to the people concerned, and to their parents, the many things associated with the nursing profession.

We should make them clear to all of these possible candidates and to the families concerned. For example, we should give them accurate and attractive information about the activities of the nursing profession as a whole and the opportunities for nurses. These things should be conveyed to the parents of the nurses, and also to students in secondary schools. Allowing people to see things with their own eyes is a very good way of making known what is required, and I think there should be more use of such things as visual aids, films and pamphlets concerning the nursing profession.

It has already been found in some countries that schools of nursing which provide a higher standard of education attract and retain more and better-qualified students. It is well known that there is a fairly large wastage in the training of nurses in Queensland, which is why I bring forward the need for higher education and better training for them. Whilst education is not the major consideration for nurses, it is nevertheless most important, as with higher education and improved training there is a better chance of arresting the wastage that is experienced year after year. With improved education and training, nurses will be better fitted to meet their growing responsibilities.

I do not know whether the Minister, or the Government, realises that without this necessary education it is doubtful whether nurses will be able to meet their responsibilities. I am speaking today on behalf of nurses and, of course, also on behalf of their patients. If today there is the feeling that young men and women who want to be nurses should reach higher standards of education before undertaking their training, it is because nursing today requires wisdom in many ways. That, of course, applies also to other professions and trades. I think that a student embarking upon nursing training should have a foundation on which to build throughout the entire course.

Mr. Mann: Do you think the standard of education required now is too high?

Mr. BROMLEY: No. In fact, I think that a higher standard should be required, and that nurses should have a higher standard of training.

Mr. Mann: I have two daughters who are nurses, one a sister.

Mr. BROMLEY: And a very competent one, too. I know her personally.

Anything that can be done to improve nursing education will help to attract more students. Of course, I am not saying anything at all against the nursing profession today. I do believe, however, that with science and medicine proceeding as it is, the responsibility of nurses is increasing. I know that they themselves desire what I am suggesting.

Mr. Mann: They must have aptitude for it.

Mr. BROMLEY: Yes; their attitude to patients is most important. As I said before, education is not the major consideration but it is important, and the attitude of nurses towards patients is of great concern, too.

The Minister for Health does not appear to be at all interested in nurses. I know that they have made pleas to him and have written to him. The Royal Australian Nursing Federation has also been in touch with him. Although all types of representations have been made to the Minister, he does not seem to be interested in them. In fact, he has completely ignored them.

Mr. Davies: He couldn't care less.

Mr. BROMLEY: He couldn't care less.

Mr. Davies: I think he must have misinterpreted what they told him when he made that statement.

Mr. BROMLEY: Completely. I made it my business to find out, and it was completely misinterpreted.

To prove the point that I wish to make relative to the education and training of nurses, I have taken out some figures for certain hospitals in the State. First, the Blackall Hospital has a 5-year school and a daily bed average of 14.77. In 1966 there were six students and none graduated. At the Boonah Hospital there were no graduates in 1966, and at the Bowen Hospital, which has a 4-year school and a daily bed average of 17.75, there were 11 students and three graduated. At the Goondiwindi Hospital there were 15 students in 1966 and only one graduated. Taking a larger hospital, Innisfail, there were 47 students in 1966, but only three graduated. Going quickly through the list that I have here, no students graduated at Kilcoy out of nine, none at Miles out of 10 students, one at Tully out of nine students, one at Longreach out of 10 students, one at Prosperine out of 13 students, and none at Clermont out of 11 students. From the figures that I have given the Committee, hon. members will see that the student nurses do not get productive clinical experience in some hospitals in country towns.

Mr. Murray: Did you look into the reasons why so many do not qualify in those areas?

Mr. BROMLEY: Yes.

Mr. Murray: For example, whether they married or left for some other reason.

Mr. BROMLEY: The principal reason why they do not qualify is that they are not getting the necessary clinical experience. I suggest to the Committee that there should be some type of rotation of personnel or a transfer system that would enable the nurses in various country areas to spend a period or periods in hospitals in the more populous areas, in which they can get constant opportunities to gain the experience to enable them to pass examinations

and, of course, to graduate. It is ridiculous to think that nurses in some of the smaller hospitals would receive even six hours of lectures on subjects such as psychology and psychiatry. They could not possibly receive them. I have been to country hospitals, and I know that they could not.

Mr. Murray: There are very many distractions for student nurses in small country towns.

Mr. BROMLEY: Yes, there are distractions for them, but I think that nurses should be able to live some kind of life of their own. They should not be tied down by whatever happens in the hospital. They should have the right to live outside in private quarters, instead of living in the nurses' quarters, and they should be compensated fully if they do.

I believe, and I think I have proved, that a crisis is imminent in the nursing profession. The situation in the hospitals in this State has deteriorated under the Country-Liberal Government, and I know that when I call for a top-level inquiry, which I intend to do now, I will have the complete support of the Royal Australian Nursing Federation (Queensland Branch) and the student unit of that organisation.

Mr. Davies: That shows that they are not satisfied.

Mr. BROMLEY: They are not satisfied. They have told me straight that they are not satisfied with their lot at this point of time.

I call for a top-level inquiry by an independent expert committee. I think that such a committee should be set up with complete power to investigate the hospital system in Queensland with a view to establishing hospital regions and assessing the needs of the whole community for a hospital and health service. I think that the Nurses Act of 1964 and the 1965 regulations made thereunder should be reviewed in respect of—

(a) Raising the educational requirement for entrance to a nursing school so that nursing students may derive the maximum benefit from the educational programmes.

(b) Immediately implementing a course for nursing aides so that they will be prepared to undertake nursing under the supervision of registered nurses.

At the present time nursing aides receive no preparation at all prior to undertaking nursing duties. I think these regulations will have to be looked at.

(c) Some nursing schools should be established in regions where adequate experience is available for the preparation of student nurses.

That, of course, applies to the interjections by the hon. member for Clayfield. I think this is most important because, without these hospitals giving student nurses the necessary teaching, they will not be able

to pass any of the examinations; they will not be able to graduate and we will see a complete waste of productive hours for the nursing profession.

I have plenty of figures to quote relative to the rate of graduations throughout the State, but unfortunately I have not the time to do so. Unfortunately, too, I have a cold and my voice is going. I believe that the regulations should be altered to ensure that there will be sufficient graduate nurses to provide teaching and supervision in teaching departments in clinical areas. We do not see this today in many clinical areas. We see many nurses leaving not only country hospitals, but hospitals throughout the State, to go overseas, and I think we should revise our nursing curriculum to bring about a greater degree of integration in all the basic clinical courses and to provide the type of basic course that will provide a nursing service necessary to meet the needs of the community.

Another important matter is that we must increase the period of general teaching from the present 148 hours, which is completely ridiculous in these modern times, at least to 1,000 hours or more until nurses can learn the course completely. Down through the years nurses have had to learn and study for examinations in their own time; not in the 40-hour week—not in their working time—but in their own time. I think all formal teaching should be included in the working time and not in the nurses' spare time.

Mr. Murray: You think that, in respect of the full 1,000 hours?

Mr. BROMLEY: For the 1,000 hours, if necessary. According to nurses in the profession, the 148 hours is not enough.

One other important thing is that all non-nursing duties, such as domestic and clerical work, should be carried out by persons allocated to that particular type of work. I do not think that nurses should have to do this. So far as I am concerned, a nurse's primary function is to provide and develop a nursing service—to look after sick people and try to bring them back to a better standard of health. The more of this type of training and education that can be given to nurses, the better it will be for the State.

(Time expired.)

Mr. O'DONNELL (Barcoo) (4.34 p.m.): When I was elected to Parliament in 1961 I came here with the impression that I was representing people and that when I stood in this Chamber and made a case it was on behalf of those people. If I chose to ask a question it was because I was requested to do so by those people whom I represent. Consequently, I expected that a certain amount of courtesy would be extended, not to me as a person but to the

people I represent. When this morning the Minister for Transport chose to be facetious in such a flippant and insulting way over a question that I had asked not on behalf of all the people in my electorate but on behalf of the elderly and incapacitated people in it, I felt that I had to make some protest. My only regret is that I have not the viperish vocabulary of the hon. member for Toowong. If I had, I would certainly tear strips off the Minister for Transport very smartly. I feel most aggrieved.

I asked this simple question—

“As mobile stairways were provided for V.I.P. passengers on air-conditioned trains to the opening ceremonies at Moura and Blackwater mines, will this amenity be provided for elderly and incapacitated passengers on similar trains at rural centres where low-level platforms now exist and, if not, why not?”

I asked that question on behalf of the people of Barcoo, not on behalf of the people of Gregory. Ever since I became a member of this Assembly in 1961 I have made repeated representations to obtain this amenity for these people. They are recorded in “Hansard” and in the correspondence files of the Railway Department, both at Brisbane and at Rockhampton.

I am going to give hon. members a clear indication of how long I have been asking for this, and with what result, and with what treatment. I mentioned where the requests have been recorded. Those hon. members who went to the opening of Moura—I am talking about the mine—will realise that they travelled on the air-conditioned train to Moura, and when they were alighting there at the doorway of each carriage was a stairway attended by a Railway Department official. This was the very type of staircase for which I had been asking for seven years.

As any other hon. member could have done, I naturally said to myself, “This is the chance to put my case forward again.” I approached the Commissioner for Railways and spoke to him on the matter. I spoke to Mr. Goldston, and as soon as I mentioned it to him his words were, “You've got me over a barrel.” I have approached Mr. Goldston over the years not only to provide those staircases, but also, in appreciation of his engineering ability, I asked him whether it would be possible for him to devise a staircase that could be put into the air-conditioned carriages so that people could be catered for at the low-level-platform stations. He said, “You've got me over a barrel. I will do what I can, and I will let you know.”

I did not want the staircases for the station at Cheepie. If I did I would have asked for them at the station at Cheepie, with the permission of the hon. member for Gregory. All I wanted them for was Jericho, which is a railway junction, Alpha, which is a big railway centre, Springsure, Capella, Clermont and Blair Athol.

Mr. Murray: Are you suggesting something that is carried in the carriage?

Mr. O'DONNELL: I am talking of these landing stages, or staircases, that were used at Moura. Mr. Goldston said, "Of course, we will have to put them on wheels, but I shall do something about it and experiment with them on your behalf."

The Minister comes into the House today and tells me that he had prior representations from the hon. member for Gregory, and he also adds the rider that he had sent one of these pieces of equipment to Cheepie. That is of no interest to me; I do not want to have any interest in the electorate of Gregory. I came here to represent the people of Barcoo, and it is for the people of Barcoo that I want this amenity. This very same Minister who can come in here and be so flippant organised at Moura one of the Railway Department's biggest parties on record, and I say categorically that the Railway Department spent more on grog at the Moura and Gladstone functions than it would cost to have mobile staircases in all the railway centres throughout the length and breadth of Queensland where they are required.

Mr. Houghton: How much grog did you have?

Mr. O'DONNELL: I did not have any.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Rae): Order!

Mr. O'DONNELL: I am very concerned that the Minister should be so flippant about the needs of the people of the West. I agree with the hon. member for Gregory when he stands up in this Chamber and barracks for the people of the West, and I will continue to support him while he does so. But when a Minister treats a question asked by me on behalf of Central Westerners so flippantly, I have real cause to be angry. That is typical of the attitude towards Westerners displayed by the Liberal section of the Ministry.

I shall now deal with other instances. The same Minister had the Roma-Injune railway line pulled up. He gave an emphatic "No" to the grain-growers when they asked for a reduction in freight rates. The answer to any request for something in the West is always the same—"No!" The Treasurer is in the same boat, because he initiated this treatment of the grain-growers. He treated them flippantly and, when he was skiting about how Queensland had regained its buoyancy, he laughed when it was suggested, "Well, what about letting some benefit flow back to the grain-growers?"

I shall now give another example. The Minister for Health visited western electorates. The hon. member for Gregory will well recall this. The Minister was so concerned about his own welfare that he made strong representations to the people of Blackall to hold a function on a Sunday morning for the opening of the extension to

the hospital. He did not consider at any time the prior arrangements that had been made. They were all set aside for "his majesty" the Minister for Health to come along—and he did come along, in all his glory. I might tell hon. members that I was rebuked by a western gentleman because, when I made my speech at the function—it was before the Minister spoke—I did not take the Minister severely to task. I should not like to repeat to the Chamber the actual words suggested by this member of the western community, but he was very critical of me. I answered him in this way: "The Minister is in my electorate, and he is a guest here. While he is a guest he will be treated with the courtesy of the West." That was my answer to that criticism.

I shall tell hon. members what the Minister did. There was trouble over doctors at that centre. Some well-meaning people went around very quickly knowing that the Minister was coming and arranged a petition supported by approximately 275 signatories. They somehow presented it through the hospitals board, and eventually it got into the Minister's pocket. This is a classic! Hon. members can just imagine the Minister. If I had your ability, Mr. Rae, I would imitate him. He had the petition stuck in his left pocket, and I shall read to the Chamber a tape-recording of what he said. Incidentally, we tape-record all functions at Blackall. At this function, which 60 or 70 people had given up their Sunday morning to attend, the Minister turned to Mr. Doyle, the chairman of the board, and said, "Somehow or other I have come into possession of a certain document. It does not seem to be addressed to anyone in particular, and it is not dated. It seems to deal with matters that come within your province. It is signed by a number of people." He then turned to the people and said, "It is signed by more people than have come to this function this morning." This was after our getting the community to alter its programme. The golf championship alone was one of the great events of the day, and possibly some important bowls championship was to be held, as well as other district functions. The Minister said, "It is signed by more people than have come to this function this morning." He continued, "I hand it on to you, because it appears to deal with matters that concern you and your board."

The people of Blackall did not forget that insult. It was a gratuitous insult, and the Press reported it in these words: "Petition was ignored". That is the treatment that we get from some Liberal Ministers when they come to the West.

A Government Member: Who was it?

Mr. O'DONNELL: The Minister for Health. It is no wonder that, when Liberal Ministers come to the West, they are not greeted with enthusiasm. This is their treatment; this is their casual approach to these people who, with their hospitality

and their eagerness to do well for the community and in their isolation in many instances, endeavour to do something for the State of Queensland and are treated in a cavalier fashion. I feel extremely hurt about this. I am here representing the people of my electorate—I am not representing myself—and I feel that they are the ones who are all-important.

If I ask an uninformed question in this House, it could be put forward quite genuinely on behalf of those people so that they will be informed. I do not think that any member of this Parliament should be ridiculed by a Minister of the Crown. It is absolutely impossible to represent people when, whatever may be one's shortcomings, one is treated in this way. It is to the discredit of the Minister concerned.

As a back-bencher in this Chamber, the very Minister who ridiculed me this morning sniggered and chortled and cackled at every mispronunciation or mistake in grammar made by other members of this Parliament. I have watched him for years. I do not expect any better from him, nor am I likely to get it. That is how I feel in this matter.

I do not know how much time I have left at my disposal, but I say that any member of Parliament, irrespective of whether he is a Minister or a private member, who is not prepared to extend common courtesy to another parliamentary colleague is, in my opinion, not worthy of being here.

Mr. Thackeray: Knox gave me the "Big A" at the Railway Ball last night at Rockhampton.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Rae): Order! That is unparliamentary language and I ask the hon. member to withdraw it.

Mr. Thackeray: I said "Big A"—"A"; it is just a word.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! I ask the hon. member to retract it.

Mr. Thackeray: I withdraw it. I did not think that you quite heard it.

Mr. O'DONNELL: Last night I attended a function on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition. Before the Premier went onto the stage I congratulated him on his elevation to his high office. He went up onto the dais, recognised the Ministers of his Cabinet, and did not even refer to the fact that O'Donnell, M.L.A., was in the building. This type of behaviour is totally unnecessary. No member of Parliament, irrespective of who he is or whether he is Country Party, Liberal Party or any other party, who is put on a dais with me has ever been treated with disrespect, and I do not intend to start doing it now.

I should like to contrast what I have been relating with what Frank Nicklin did when he was Premier. On one occasion

he called me into a showground because the officials of the day had not invited me to stand by his side while he was conducting the opening ceremony. I think that this is important. At least he did set an example, and I appreciate the fact that the Treasurer did the same at Aramac when my colleague the Temporary Chairman was proposed by some gentleman to speak before me. The Treasurer rectified the matter. But while this other type of behaviour is going on, this absolutely down-grading of a person because he is of a different political colour—and this is practised only by certain people who do not know any better, I suppose, which is the least we can say for them—it is being noted by the people.

I shall give another instance. In an endeavour to down-grade my opportunities or up-grade my opponent in the 1963 election, a Liberal Minister—I shall not mention his name—invited his candidate to a function. He insisted that the candidate in question should speak at that function, and he lost 20 votes by going onto the platform. My vote increased by 20, and the whole reason for it was that that mistake was made. I have pointed out that people note discourtesy, and I regret that there is one way in which our education system seems to have failed; that is, that the courtesy which is taught so well by teachers throughout the length and breadth of Queensland, in private denominational schools as well as State schools, is not carried into public life.

(Time expired.)

Mr. NEWTON (Belmont) (4.51 p.m.): In moving this motion, the Treasurer has done what previous Treasurers have done when introducing measures dealing with finance; that is, he used the state of the building industry to indicate the present financial position of Queensland. I warn the Treasurer, as has been done on many previous occasions, that the building industry is in many ways similar to primary industry throughout the State. It is very difficult for the Treasurer to predict for the man on the land what the weather will be in 12 months' time. The same inability to predict what the future holds applies to the building industry. Time and time again there has been, because of credit squeezes and the lack of finance, a boom one year in the building industry and a recession in the next.

My main purpose in entering the debate this afternoon is to appeal to the Government to make extra finance available to avoid further dismissals in the Works Department and to have re-engaged those who have already been dismissed by that department. Although this situation was drawn to the attention of the new Minister for Works and Housing by a question on Thursday of last week, Opposition members were fully aware of the retrenchments that had taken place in

the Works Department in the first half of this year. A total of 85 men have been dismissed since April last.

I am sorry to say that even though this matter was raised on Thursday, 10 men employed by the Works Department in the metropolitan area received notice that their services would be terminated on Friday afternoon. Upon receipt of this information, the union concerned was immediately contacted to see if these men could be placed in other jobs. The union informed me that there were already 15 unemployed plasterers on its books, and the 10 additional dismissed men would bring to 25 the number of plasterers for whom the union was looking for work. Unfortunately, three of the men dismissed were working on this very building in which we sit, and there is no doubt that all members saw the amount of work done by members of the plastering trade in previous months in an endeavour to carry out the maintenance work that is necessary on this building.

One of the sad features of the dismissal of the three men who were working here was that one of them had eight years' service with the Works Department. Another of the men who were dismissed last Friday has been re-engaged by the department on a number of occasions since as far back as 1950, and on this occasion he had been re-engaged by the department for 2½ years.

Mr. Hodges: What is the period of time between their dismissal and their re-engagement?

Mr. NEWTON: As the new Minister for Works has raised the question, I point out that it is the responsibility of the person dismissed or any person who is interested in getting him back to endeavour to get him back within three months.

Mr. Hodges: That is the point I am making.

Mr. NEWTON: If they are not re-engaged within three months they lose their continuity of service for long-service leave entitlement.

Mr. Hodges: That is what the department is trying to do all the time.

Mr. NEWTON: Let us hope it is, because the Government is continually stating in this Chamber—the Treasurer has repeated the statement in the debate today—that, because of the industrial development that is taking place in Queensland, the finances of the State have never been more buoyant. In fact, it has been indicated already in the Press—the Treasurer did not say so in opening the debate this morning; the Opposition would not expect him to at this juncture—that the Budget to be brought down by the Treasurer later in the session will provide for a surplus. Will that be at the expense of employees who are dismissed by Government departments? It will be shocking if it is.

Ever since the Department of Works came into being in Queensland, it has been the main constructing authority for Government departments, with the exception of the Railway Department. It should be able to maintain a stabilised work force in full employment on its works programme each year instead of using the stop-and-go method that has been used since as far back as 1961 and which has always come into force about the same time of the year. The Premier and the Treasurer have returned from the Loan Council and have stated that, although they are not happy with the amount they have received, the position is such that they will be able to continue the various works programmes in the State.

The Department of Works and the Government are faced with a serious problem in replacing the temporary classroom accommodation in high and primary schools throughout the State, which, instead of decreasing over the years, has grown considerably. Temporary accommodation is increasing in the metropolitan area and in other parts of the State that a number of hon. members on this side of the Chamber have had an opportunity of visiting over the past 18 months.

Mr. Hodges: Are you including demountables in that, too?

Mr. NEWTON: No, I am not including demountables. It is well known that the Queensland Teachers' Union probably will supply every hon. member with the number of temporary classrooms in use in high schools and primary schools throughout the State before the next election. Even in my own electorate this is a very serious problem.

Mr. Lee: They are better than the classrooms you gave them when you were in government.

Mr. NEWTON: I am not concerned about what was done when we were the Government. Hon. members opposite have been in office now for 11 years and year after year they come in here and make claims about what they have done in relation to these particular matters. The Government has done only what it had to do because it has been faced with increased enrolments in high schools, and the same position exists in primary schools. We had the position last year—and it was drawn to the attention of hon. members—of jobs being closed down at the Central Technical College and the Yeronga Technical College. Building workers were walking the streets looking for jobs and, being unable to obtain them, had to live on miserable hand-outs from the Social Service Department. On that occasion, my present leader appealed to the Government to do something to overcome the position of men being dismissed from the Works Department in this State. That appeal was made in the first place on 4 July, 1967, and it

was followed by a further appeal on 9 July, 1967, when I asked the Government to honour its promise relative to the employment of prison labour on work normally done by employees of the Works Department. The Opposition had been given an assurance by the then Minister for Health that, if there was any prospect of unemployment for building workers in the Works Department, this work would be immediately handed back to them.

Taking the matter further, anyone who travels throughout this State will see that there is a demand for new police stations, court-houses, and hospitals, both general and maternity, apart from the urgent need for new high and primary schools and the replacement of Government buildings generally right throughout the State. No matter where we go we encounter this state of affairs.

Mr. Hodges: Of course, the position is getting better and better each year, is it not?

Mr. NEWTON: In reply to the Minister, I draw his attention to the dismissals that take place about this time each year. One can go right back through "Hansard" and see questions asked about the 200 or 300 employees of the Works Department who are dismissed at this time each year. I have gone back through "Hansard" and have found this to be so.

Mr. Hodges: With your experience as a builder, you will appreciate the fact that the Commission cannot retain all tradesmen on the job all the time.

Mr. NEWTON: If the Minister wants to argue that way, I am happy to accept that, but why is it that with two important portfolios, one for Works and one for Housing, this does not apply to the day-labour employees of the Queensland Housing Commission? Except for the odd case, there have been no dismissals, and there has never been a stand-down of a number of employees of the Queensland Housing Commission. The Minister has now assumed control of both departments, and they were formerly administered by the present Premier, but the position of which I complain has never existed in the Queensland Housing Commission. If it is possible to get stability in one section of administration, surely by the same reasoning stability can be provided in the other section.

Mr. Miller: What are the unemployment figures in the building trades today?

Mr. NEWTON: If the hon. member wants to get down to exact figures it is very difficult.

Mr. Miller: There are not any.

Mr. NEWTON: At the present moment in the metropolitan area 25 plasterers have their names listed with their union, and I know from my own experience as a trade-union official that many do not register with

their union as looking for work. There are 25 plasterers at the moment. These are the people who had their services terminated by the Government on Friday of last week.

The programme of the Works Department should be linked closely with Government policy on development and expansion in the interests of the people of this State. The work force should be kept up to maximum strength and should not be allowed to deteriorate each year. No hon. member can argue that the work done by our day-labour force in the Works Department is not of a high standard.

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. NEWTON: And that applies to construction work, renovations and maintenance, and to our workshops throughout the State, including our joinery shops. It can be stated quite openly that private enterprise would not tackle some of the tasks that our day-labour employees are called upon to perform. If private enterprise did tackle such tasks it would definitely make sure that the cost-plus clause was added to every contract to cover unforeseen circumstances that might arise.

I have been a member of the Parliamentary Building Committee, and I know that this statement applies to Parliament House. No contractor would tackle some of the tasks that have been done by the day-labour force, particularly those men employed by the Works Department and the Queensland Housing Commission, unless a cost-plus clause was included in the contract.

We ask the Government to curtail these dismissals. They have another effect. They have an effect on the training of apprentices in this State. Let me warn the Government that it should take heed of the various statements that have been made in the Press by building trade unions, the Housing Industry Association, the Master Builders Association, and other master organisations that are part of the building trade of the State. Those organisations have said from time to time that a pool of apprentices should be set up in this State, and there is no doubt—this can be read into their statements—that they are expecting the Government to carry the greatest responsibility, the biggest part of the responsibility, for this scheme. My remarks about the effect of Government policy on training of apprentices apply equally to Commonwealth Government contracts in this State.

We have a shocking state of affairs at the Lavarack Barracks in Townsville. I inspected the barracks, and I consulted members of the building trades groups and various unions who were working on that project. Here again we see that apprentices are completely forgotten. We have seen inroads into many things since this Government took office, with work being done by way of labour-only contracts. These labour-only contractors or sub-contractors, if we can call them that—and they are not that—could not care less about doing anything to train the future apprentices who are required for the building trades.

I say to the Government that the Opposition is not interested in the juggling of figures relating to dismissals from the Works Department. That matter has been raised on a number of occasions in this Chamber. However, we are concerned about the building tradesmen and their assistants who have been dismissed after giving faithful service to the department. As pointed out, the new Minister for Works and Housing has already made a very important point concerning the people who have been dismissed after giving faithful service to the Department: if they are not re-employed within a period of three months they are robbed of their long-service leave.

Mr. Hodges: Every endeavour is made to maintain that for them.

Mr. NEWTON: Numerous instances have been cited by hon. members on this side of the Chamber in which only a matter of two years have to elapse for them to qualify for long-service leave.

The same circumstances have applied to apprentices, where apprentices who have served five years under the old system with the department and have become tradesmen have found themselves caught up in the dismissals policy of the department. We appeal to the Government to maintain a stabilised force in the Department of Works, to overcome the position that has applied for a number of years.

We therefore call on the Government, through the Treasurer, to make finance available to the Works Department so that these men can be gainfully employed on the works programmes of the various departments.

Hon. G. W. W. CHALK (Lockyer-Treasurer) (5.13 p.m.), in reply: This morning, when introducing the Appropriation Bill, I indicated that it afforded an opportunity for hon. members to discuss not only the matter of appropriation but also any other matter that they cared to raise on this occasion. I think it is correct to say that the subjects that have been raised have been wide and varied. While some hon. members have seen fit to talk about the finances of this State, others have taken the opportunity to raise matters that might be regarded either as personal grievances, or as things that they consider are of grave concern to the State. I do not raise any objection to the points that have been referred to. I know that there is a limit to the time and the opportunity that private members have to devote to subjects of their own choosing.

In reply to the remarks that have been made, I feel that a number of points should be clarified. The Leader of the Opposition confined his remarks principally to matters directly associated with the Appropriation

Bill. He indicated that from 1957 onwards—which is the period since this Government came to office—the Opposition had tried to stir the Government in the matter of electrical development. That is not denied. However, the hon. member convicted himself by his own argument. What was done in this State prior to 1957? Did his party, when it was in power, take the opportunity available to it when money (other than revenue money) was a little more plentiful than it is now? When developmental costs were not as great as they have been in recent times, did the Government of the day look seriously into these problems? I do not say that it did not. What I am saying is that I have to get a base for my reply. It is true that in 1957 these problems were there. They had been to some extent grappled with by the then Government, but they had not been overcome.

So far as I am concerned, since 1957 the Treasurer who preceded me and I have endeavoured to find the maximum amount of money that could possibly be made available for the extension of electricity in this State. It is true, of course, that most of that money has been spent on what might be regarded as expansion to meet the smaller requirements of individuals in this State rather than on developing large power-stations to provide what can be described as industrial power for expansion of industry. I do not quibble with that programme. I believe that there was a responsibility on the Government to take power as far out as it was possible so to do economically and that is the policy that has been followed.

During recent times, because of the changes that are taking place and because of the development particularly of our mineral wealth, there is now a demand for large quantities of power for the furtherance of industry, and it is because I believe that this is so important to the State that I chose this morning to base the principal portion of my remarks on the provision of greater power in this State. I appreciate the support that I have received from the Leader of the Opposition in this direction. He indicated that he is behind the Government in this. Let us all be big Queenslanders and push as hard as we can to ensure that we do get a large power-house somewhere in this State, one that is able to produce power at a competitive price compared with the price in other parts of the world. It is no good having the cheapest coal in the world or the best facilities unless we can harness that power to such an extent that we can compete with other parts of the world that are seeking large industry. I say, and I repeat, that industry will come to Queensland and overseas investment will come to this State if we can provide power at a price comparable with that in other parts of the world.

The Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader said that I did not raise matters relative to the Loan Council. Any hon. member who follows the pattern that I have laid down in my approach to the Treasurership in the almost three years that I have held this office will find that on each occasion that I have brought down a Loan Bill I have chosen to speak on finance and our Commonwealth relations under a Loan Bill. I say to the Leader of the Opposition that I will be prepared to deal with some of the ramifications of the Loan Council when, later this week or early next week, I present a Loan Bill which is necessary for the continuance of the finances of Queensland.

Mr. Houston: The only thing we differ on is that I think you should make a statement at the first opportunity.

Mr. CHALK: I will select the opportunity. I believe it has always been the pattern on an Appropriation Bill to deal with the economic situation of the State. When we are dealing with a Loan Bill it is pertinent, and I believe that that is the appropriate place, to deal with the financial relations between the Commonwealth and the State. Do not let us bicker about it. I agree that this Assembly is entitled to be told of some of the discussions that have taken place concerning the obtaining of greater assistance for Queensland.

Let me also say that, in my opinion, of more recent times Queensland has become much more widely known overseas. I do not agree with the Leader of the Opposition that Queensland is not well known. It is true that, except for certain primary produce, in days gone by we possibly did not seek the markets of the world. It is equally true that members of this Assembly, with the exception of perhaps some Ministers of the Crown, did not travel overseas. This Government introduced a policy, which it has continued to follow, of sending members of both the Government and the Opposition overseas to see for themselves some of the activities of other countries. If such missions do nothing more than visit certain places, they advertise and bring to notice the State of Queensland, and I believe that what has been done in recent times has been in the interests of Queensland as a whole.

I recall a delegation being sent in 1963 to the Australian Industrial Fair in Kuala Lumpur. In fact, it was my second trip overseas since being associated with the Ministry. We had an opportunity at that trade fair to bring to the notice of the people throughout Malaysia some of the activities of Queensland, and I believe that it was through that visit that quite a lot of attention was focused on our State, particularly in Malaya.

I agree with the Leader of the Opposition that consideration should be given to trade representation in certain countries. A short time ago I discussed this matter with certain people who are interested in Queensland activities in Japan. It is true that New South Wales already has a representative in that country. Although it is not for me to say if Queensland will follow suit, I feel that as the contact between the State of Queensland and Japan—and, for that matter, other Eastern countries—grows, there will be a need for a direct line of communication. I feel certain that as time goes on we will ensure that there are mouthpieces for the State in several responsible places.

The Leader of the Opposition referred to the sale of rice. It is true that Queensland can develop a rice industry, and in fact it is being developed now. I know that the hon. member for Townsville South could inform the Leader of the Opposition of the progress that has been made in the Burdekin area.

Mr. Houston: The hon. member for Townsville North has already done so.

Mr. CHALK: I said that the Leader of the Opposition would be informed. I do not expect him to sit up there seeing it for himself. The hon. member for the area is close to it and knows something of the development that has proceeded there in recent times. I believe that production is in the vicinity of 400 to 500 tons, and a small mill has been established. That is an indication of the progress that is being made.

Mr. Aikens: The northern people are waiting to buy the rice, too.

Mr. CHALK: I do not deny that, either. I understand that the quality is good and, if it is, the people in the North will buy it. It is up to the Government and its research officers to give all assistance possible to those who are going into this industry.

One thing on which I disagree with the Leader of the Opposition is the possibility of the new power-station that Queensland needs being controlled by private enterprise. On this matter I want to make my position quite clear. I assure the Committee that if it is humanly possible to obtain sufficient finance from or through the Commonwealth Government, or to bring the necessary finance into this State with the approval of the Commonwealth Government, the power-station that is needed in this State will be built by the State and controlled through the authorities as we know them today.

Opposition Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. CHALK: But there are some difficulties, and I think they should be stated. I make no bones about the fact that I am prepared to flog the Commonwealth Government to the limit to try to get this money made available to the State through the Commonwealth, the reason being that I would get it, possibly, at 5½ per cent. interest. On the other hand, if money comes from private enterprise, possibly the interest rate could be in the vicinity of 7 or 7½ per cent. The basis of profitability of a power-house is related to the cost of money. We have, as I said earlier, the cheapest coal in the world. On the other hand, if we are going to pay the dearest price for our money we are not going to achieve the desired result, which is to get power costs down to the lowest possible fraction. It is for that reason that I want to explore every possible avenue to get the money through the Commonwealth and at the usual loan rate. But if we fail in that direction—and it will not be because of a lack of effort by the Government—I believe that we have to look at the position and say, "Well, if we can buy power from some great organisation that is prepared to establish a power-house in this State and is prepared to sell us X quantity of power over X years at X price (all stipulated), it would be better to have that power for the development of the State than to sit here, year in year out, doing nothing." This is the only point on which I differ from the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Houston: But there is no reason why the Commonwealth should not come to the party.

Mr. CHALK: I have not run away from the argument that I will flog the Commonwealth Government to the utmost to try to get some of this finance. On the other hand, I am not prepared to occupy the position of Treasurer of the State and retard the progress of Queensland if, having failed in one direction, I can obtain it somewhere else. Therefore, I indicate to hon. members now the approach that I am making.

Mr. Aikens: Your policy is one of action, as against one of no action.

Mr. CHALK: It is a policy of getting something done to further the development of the State.

Mr. Houston: The best thing you can do is get on to some of the Federal members of the Government parties and get them to do something.

Mr. CHALK: I have full confidence in the Federal members of this State; but, in fairness to the Federal members, I have to remind the hon. gentleman that Queensland sends 18 members to the Federal House, if my memory serves me correctly, and 18 members are not going to control that House. Remember that South Australia wants power; remember that Western Australia wants

power; remember that Victoria wants an expansion of power. All those States are fighting the Commonwealth Government for the assistance that they contend they require.

I should like to digress for a moment to deal with another point raised by the Leader of the Opposition. He said that there ought to be a get-together of the States before Loan Council meetings. Let me say to him now that there is a get-together. But unfortunately, yet rightly so, each State representative is interested in what his own State wants. I do not blame representatives for being interested in their own States. Some shirt-tail agreements have been made; in fact, I have been a party to a shirt-tail agreement with the Treasurer of another State to ensure that we would at least both get something. On the other hand, the Commonwealth representatives—and they have their arguments too—say that raising a greater sum of money than that laid down will cause an inflationary trend. The States argue against that, but at the same time we have to cut up the goose according to the amount that is allocated by the Commonwealth.

Mr. Houston: From the Federal point of view, what is the difference between the State spending so many millions on a power-house and a private company coming in and spending the same amount?

Mr. CHALK: From the State's point of view there is no difference except the cost of money, but the Commonwealth's point of view is that the raising of the money and the committing of the Commonwealth causes an inflationary trend. On the other hand, if private enterprise transfers a certain amount of money from one pocket to another, or from one company to another, or from one country to another, the Commonwealth takes the attitude that this is not creating a Government inflationary trend.

Let me go a little further on the point that the hon. member raised relative to the allocation of finance to local authorities. I am not unmindful of the part that local authorities are playing in the development of this State. On the other hand there has to be some basis of formula and I do not believe that we can, at Loan Council level, offer what has been suggested by many, namely, representation of the various local authorities. I think that the responsibility of government in the Commonwealth rests with the Commonwealth and the States, and consequently the correct people at a Loan Council meeting are the Premiers and the Treasurers of the States and those who hold similar positions in the Commonwealth. I am not saying that representation should not be made to the State leaders as to the requirements of local authorities, but I cannot subscribe to the proposal that the local authorities should be represented around the Loan Council table.

Mr. Houston: I did not suggest that.

Mr. CHALK: No, but the suggestion has been raised. The Leader of the Opposition developed it to local authorities and I have developed it to the stage where there has been a request to the States that local authorities be represented. The Lord Mayor of Brisbane has raised this particular issue.

Those are the principal points that I want to raise in reply to the Leader of the Opposition. The hon. member for Chatsworth indicated to this Chamber, as he has done previously, that he is taking a keen interest in those sections of the Government administration which relate particularly to the Treasury. For my part, I encourage that because I feel that as time goes on, someone either has to step into the Treasurer's shoes or give advice. From my point of view, I welcome any hon. member who is prepared to take an interest in the department that I have the honour to administer.

I do not know exactly what prompted the hon. member for Townsville North to buy into this debate in the manner that he did. There is no getting away from his approach to it; it was certainly somewhat hysterical and it was confined to two particular approaches. The first one did not deal with the finances of the State and neither did the second, which was personal. He immediately went into endeavouring to reply to remarks that I made in reply to a speech by him in this Chamber on Thursday last. All I said in reply to his speech on Thursday last was that it was full of inaccuracies; that to me he indicated by saying that we were getting only 5c a ton out of the coal that is being exported, he was apparently in favour of turning over to private enterprise the rail activities, and I pointed out that the profitability of the operations of this mine came from the transportation activity.

He also, in his previous speech, criticised the fact that certain assistance was given in providing houses at Moura and Blackwater. I accused him of endeavouring to deny homes to the workers in these places, and I repeat it. He cannot have it both ways. He came into this Chamber this afternoon and spent a lot of time in saying that there was originally an agreement for a private railroad and that I did nothing to oppose it. He put it to this Committee quite bluntly that there was not unanimity between the late Ernest Evans and me concerning this proposed railway. I make no apologies for that lack of unanimity. I know that Mr. Evans accepted ultimately the decision of the Cabinet that this should be a State-owned railway.

The point of the matter is that in the earlier negotiations and discussions it did look as though the State would not be able to finance the railway, and later Sir Thomas Hiley and I—he as Treasurer and I as Minister for Transport—devised a scheme, which we put to the Cabinet of the day. Cabinet said, "If you can get through with this we will back you." That

is why Sir Thomas Hiley and I went overseas. We were able to achieve the financing of this railway, and I make no apology now for having made it a State-owned railway. The profits from it come to the State; they do not go into the pockets of Thiess Peabody Mitsui. The jobs that are provided are not jobs outside the Railway Department; they are jobs provided within that department.

If the Deputy Leader of the Opposition condemns this as not being in the best interests of the State, I ask him in all sincerity, "Where are his Labour principles?" Does he want to deny railwaymen work? Does he want to deny the people of Moura and Blackwater homes? Does he want to see the profitability of this line put into the hands of those whom he called monopolies? I tell him in all seriousness that it is no use his coming into this Chamber and repeating that he stands by what he says. I will stand by what I say, on any platform, and defend this policy.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition also accused me of pulling up 670 miles of railway line, and said that I had no friends in the Railway Department. All I say to him is this: I believe that what was done has placed the Railway Department in such a position today that it is no longer a drain on the finances of this State. The railways today are a working instrumentality, and, as hon. members will see when the Budget is presented, they are a working instrumentality that has provided a profitability to this State other than the provision of interest. Is that not better than being a drain on the State and taking the State's finances, thus preventing other work from being done? Is that not an indication that what was done by this Government has been an achievement?

Government Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. CHALK: Yet we are accused by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition of having done something that is not in the interests of this State.

Mr. Aikens: He wants to turn Gladstone into a ghost town.

Mr. CHALK: He does not want Gladstone to prosper; he does not want more homes built for the workers in Gladstone; he does not want Gladstone to get the benefit; he wants to put it in the pockets of some of these monopolists about whom he talks.

Mr. N. T. E. Hewitt: Nor Blackwater; nor Moura.

Mr. CHALK: He does not want Blackwater, either—he does not want houses for the men at Blackwater. On this issue I am prepared to face any electors on any platform and expound the policy that I have expounded in here this evening. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition can put up his policy, too. I am prepared to let the people of Queensland be the judges.

The hon. member said also that this Government had lost the confidence of the people of this State. He will have an opportunity some time next year to prove that. I will for all time follow the policy that we are following now, because I believe that the lives and activities of the men employed by the Railway Department today have improved out of all sight.

No more for the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. CHALK: Exit—that is what I meant.

The hon. member for Townsville South gave us a dissertation on some of the happenings associated with certain A.L.P. activities. He is in a better position than I to know about them. I can only say that if what he says is true—and I do not doubt the word of the hon. member in this Chamber—what happened was nothing less than scandalous.

The hon. member for Gregory put forward a point which I believe he very rightly raised in the interests of his area. It concerned the operation of certain bus transport or motor services which pass through Camooweal. No doubt he also has in mind Mt. Isa, Winton, and Cloncurry, which are in somewhat similar circumstances, although all those areas are not in his electorate. Let me make the Government's policy quite clear. When we came to office we had problems of transportation; we had problems with the finances of the railways. We have grappled with those problems and, as I say, the railway service today is returning a profitability of revenue over working expenditure. Immediately that happened, my colleague the Minister for Transport released some of the restrictions on passenger movement and road transportation. Only recently we have opened up, as a trial, the route between Brisbane and Cairns.

Mr. Davies: It is a pity you did not build a few new trains.

Mr. CHALK: That is another point that I am prepared to debate with the hon. member. We are trying to improve the facilities of the Railway Department and get the greatest return as quickly as possible so that we will have extra finance to do the things that are not so profitable. Consequently, we have opened up as a trial the first road service between Cairns and Brisbane. I will say to the hon. member for Gregory that his area is being looked at. I believe that the people of his area have an even better claim than those in the Cairns area. At the same time, we have experienced the usual difficulties with Section 92 of the Commonwealth Constitution. We know something about what can be done in relation to intrastate and interstate transport, and the case put forward by the hon. member is sound. The Government has moved in that direction, and I believe that the hon. member for

Gregory will find that this progressive state of affairs will extend to his area very quickly.

I believe that the hon. member for Bundaberg rose for one purpose only. I have known him for a long while. If hon. members want somebody to put the spade in and do the stirring they should leave it to the hon. member for Bundaberg. If hon. members followed his remarks in the Chamber this afternoon they should know that he put the spade in and stirred it round amongst the A.L.P., amongst various other sections closely allied to the A.L.P. and then, for good measure, threw it over in the Government's corner. Then, as an Independent—and this is the most important thing about it—he said, "The Government has to step in; the Government has to do something. I don't know what it will do; I don't know what it can do; but it has to do something." He is the type of critic who can stand up in the Chamber as an Independent and roll it out—

Mr. WALSH: I rise to a point of order. I am quite capable of making my own speeches. I did not say that I did not know what the Government could do. I gave the Treasurer precedents in which the Labour Government had acted.

Mr. CHALK: I will accept the hon. member's assurance that he knew what to do. If the hon. member knows what to do, in the interests of Queensland why does he not tell us what to do so that we can do it?

Mr. Walsh: You are the Government.

Mr. CHALK: I see. The hon. member accuses us of doing nothing to settle the strike. He sits over there, knowing what can be done, yet he will not tell us how to do it. I will leave it to this Chamber to decide who is right and who is wrong.

The point of the matter is this: I would be prepared to say one or two things, but the best news I can see is in the late edition of the "Telegraph". At least some sanity is apparently being displayed by the Lord Mayor and certain sections of the A.L.P., the Trades Hall, and the tramways union, and far be it from me to make one utterance in this Chamber this evening that would prevent a settlement of this dispute. All I hope is that plain common sense will prevail.

Mr. Aikens: You know, of course, that Egerton—

Mr. CHALK: I am not worried about Egerton. I am worried about the people of Brisbane. At the same time there is a responsibility, and that responsibility has to be sheeted home to the Brisbane City Council and to those who are controlling the tramways. All I hope is that as a result of the conference tomorrow morning trams and

buses will again be running in Brisbane. Whether one man or two men are put on the buses has nothing to do with my argument. The operation of trams and buses is something important to Queensland and I hope that common sense will prevail.

Only three other hon. members spoke in the debate. The hon. member for Norman went to great lengths to explain to us the problems associated with the nursing service. I say to him that I know there are problems and difficulties associated with the administration of almost any department. I believe that the action that has been taken by this Government in an endeavour to overcome some of these problems has been carefully studied. It is an indication that the Government is aware of the problems, and I believe that as time goes on we will be able to prove to the hon. member for Norman, although I know it will be difficult, that we are interested in the furtherance of the welfare of nurses and of health in this State. The votes that have been and will be recorded by the Government in the near future will indicate that.

I was rather sorry to hear the remarks of the hon. member for Barcoo. I know that he feels aggrieved at the actions of certain Ministers. I know that occasionally inside this Chamber attempts are made to score one off the other, and far be it from me to be the "odd bod" out. But the point of the matter is that possibly, because of some of the problems that face them, my colleagues have answered the hon. member's questions in a way that is not quite to his liking.

However, I believe that the main factor is this: the hon. member has made his point, and I believe that the Minister for Transport in this State will do all within his power to ensure, if it is proved possible to use the particular type of steps that are being experimented with at Cheepie now, that they will be provided. After all, if we give a service, let us give a good service, and the hon. member for Barcoo will then be able to get some credit for having raised the matter.

I have a high regard for Jim Goldston, the general manager in the Central Division, and if Jim Goldston said that the hon. member for Barcoo had him over a barrel, I believe that the hon. member had him over a barrel. The point of the matter is that the Minister for Transport has now indicated to the hon. member that the matter is being looked into carefully, and all I can hope is that the difficulty will be overcome quickly.

I have no knowledge of the point raised by the hon. member for Barcoo about the Blackall Hospital. No doubt in due course the Minister for Health, who is very concerned with the health of the people and is doing all he can within the Vote accorded to him, will provide extra facilities in the

country. I am sure that the hon. gentleman will, in due course, take an opportunity to reply to the hon. member for Barcoo.

The last point, that raised by the hon. member for Belmont in relation to the building industry, is an important one. I know it is true that from time to time the Department of Works, and for that matter other employing departments of the Government, find it necessary to either stand down or dismiss employees who in most cases are temporary employees or employees taken on for a specific job.

Whether they are employed by a private business or a Government, men are engaged to do specific work, and when that work terminates and there is no other job for them to go to, naturally their services have to be dispensed with for the time being. This is a serious problem, because if an employer, whether in private enterprise or a Government department, loses his workmen, when he wants to start operations again he has to get new men.

On the other hand, it has been the policy of the Government through the years to allocate certain amounts of money for specific purposes. Consequently, the responsibility rests with the Minister for Works and Housing and his advisers to decide whether there is money available for continuation of a job, or whether it should be spent in some other way. The hon. member for Belmont referred to the termination of the services of a number of plasterers whose work on a job finished. It was said that some work was continuing on this building, and possibly those whose services have been continued here are those who will get continuity of work for the whole period. If the services of a number of them were not dispensed with, what would happen? At the end of the period the amount of money available would be spent, and all the men would have to be dismissed.

I have had telephone calls from building contractors in Townsville, men whom I know well, asking, "Can you get me some men?" Operations in the building trade cannot be confined to the heart of Brisbane. Men who follow this trade have to follow the work, and let it not be said that there is no work today in the building trade.

Mr. Newton: On a labour-only basis.

Mr. CHALK: Does the hon. member not want the men to be paid for their labour? The point is that there is work available. Latest statistics show that the employment position in Queensland at present is very favourable. I inform the Committee that I am aware of the position. I also know that certain men have to follow certain jobs.

The hon. member for Belmont referred to the fact that there has been no slowing down in the operations of the Queensland Housing Commission. It is in a slightly different position. Efforts are made to budget

all the year round for the construction of a certain number of homes by day labour. Others are built under contract. By constructing a certain number by day labour, continuity of employment can be maintained.

The building of new schools and hospitals is proceeding as fast as the Government can provide the finance necessary for them.

Generally speaking, I believe that I have replied to all the points raised by hon. members. I welcome a debate of this type because it not only stirs the Chamber up a bit, but it also gives the Government an opportunity to place its views before the people. Further, it gives Opposition members an opportunity to say whether they think that our administration is slipping in any direction. Collectively, I believe that the debate has been in the interests of the State of Queensland.

Motion (Mr. Chalk) agreed to.

Resolution reported, received, and agreed to.

WAYS AND MEANS

COMMITTEE

VOTE OF CREDIT, \$190,000,000

(The Chairman of Committees, Mr. Hooper, Greenslopes, in the chair)

Hon. G. W. W. CHALK (Lockyer—Treasurer): I move—

“(a) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, on account, for the service of the year 1968-69, a further sum not exceeding \$75,000,000 be granted out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Queensland exclusive of the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund Account.

“(b) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, on account, for the service of the year 1968-69, a further sum not exceeding \$90,000,000 be granted from the Trust and Special Funds.

“(c) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, on account, for the service of the year 1968-69, a further sum not exceeding \$25,000,000 be granted from the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund Account.”

Motion agreed to.

Resolutions reported, received, and agreed to.

APPROPRIATION BILL No. 1

ALL STAGES

A Bill founded on the Resolutions was introduced and passed through all its stages without amendment or debate.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.