

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**THURSDAY, 23 JULY 1970**

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## THURSDAY, 23 JULY, 1970

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

### QUESTIONS

#### CHARTERING OF AIRCRAFT BY MINISTERS

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

(1) Which Cabinet Ministers (a) during the year ended June 30, 1970, and (b) from July 1 to date, have chartered or hired aeroplanes for official purposes?

(2) On how many occasions did such hiring take place and at what total cost for each Minister for each period?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "The information in the form sought by the Honourable Member is not readily available. I will have inquiries made and, as soon as the details are to hand, pass them on to him by letter."

#### OVERLOADED TRANSPORT VEHICLES

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

(1) When transports are detected at weighbridges at Gailles, Coomera and Burpengary as illegally overloaded, are they allowed to continue on public highways?

(2) If so, for what reason and, if not, what action is taken?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "It is not practicable to require all illegally overloaded vehicles to discontinue their journeys when the overloading is detected but this action is taken when excessive overloading is reported and it is being progressively extended. The practice adopted is consistent with the objective of reducing road damage without undue disruption of commercial traffic."

#### PERMITS FOR BINGO, PINBALL MACHINES AND POOL TABLES

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

(1) Since January 1, 1970, how many permits have been (a) issued to and (b) withdrawn from, licensed clubs for the installation of bingo or pinball gambling machines?

(2) What were the reasons for the granting of such permits and any subsequent withdrawal of them?

(3) On what date was the law changed on pool tables being permitted in club bars subject to licensing by the Justice Department and approval by the Licensing Commission?

(4) How many pool tables have since been so licensed?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) "No permits have been issued to licensed clubs for the installation of bingo or pinball gambling machines. However three permits, since withdrawn, were issued for the conducting of in-line machines which, by means of certain electronic equipment installed therein and unless that equipment is removed, could be used for the purpose of gambling. One of these permits was issued in respect of a licensed club."

(3) "The Honourable Member will recollect that amendments of the Liquor Act were enacted by this Assembly allowing in licensed premises, subject to the prior obtaining of certain approvals, (a) entertainment machines within the meaning of the Art Union Regulation Act by the *Liquor Act Amendment Act 1970*; and (b) mini pool tables by "*The Liquor Act Amendment Act of 1965*."

(4) "450 mini pool tables have since been permitted on certain parts of licensed premises."

#### HOME CARE AND ASSISTANCE SCHEME

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

(1) Is the home care and assistance scheme for pensioners and invalids, as promised before the last State election, presently operating in Brisbane and, if so, how many people have so far taken advantage of it?

(2) When will the scheme be instituted in provincial towns and cities such as Townsville and who can expect to receive home assistance?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes. At June 30, 1970, a total of 1,437 people had taken advantage of the scheme. Of these 436 received home help."

(2) "The scheme will be extended when finance is available. The scheme is aimed to help the elderly, particularly those in poor circumstances. Assistance is also given to the disabled in other age groups."

## SHALE OIL DEPOSIT, JULIA CREEK

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

In view of his statement during the recent Cabinet meeting at Hughenden, that if all went well production of shale oil at Julia Creek could begin by the end of 1974, and the subsequent statement by Mr. J. W. Dunlop, Chairman of the C.S.R. Company, whose subsidiary Pacimenex Pty. Ltd. is one of the three partners in the project, that it would be a long time before it was known if the Julia Creek deposits were worth anything, will he clarify the position for all North Queenslanders who are in a state of anxiety at the conflicting statements?

Answer:—

"The Press statement issued at Hughenden was completely factual and based on details of the Company's programme of development which had been made available to us. However, I would like to point out that the concluding sentence of the Press statement in question read—"If things go well it is forecast that production could commence about the end of 1974."

## AGE OF ADULTHOOD

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

In view of his statement at the Premiers' Conference that the voting age of twenty-one years should not be lowered, the Country Party Convention decision that the adult age should be twenty, the observation of the Minister for Justice, Dr. Delamothe, that it should be nineteen, the Cabinet's decision at Hughenden, as reported in the *Townsville Daily Bulletin* of July 14, that the adult age should be reduced to eighteen and the Government caucus decision to defer the matter, will he indicate who or which speaks authoritatively on behalf of the Government of Queensland and which decision young Queenslanders can ultimately consider to be the final one?

Answer:—

"This is a question of Government policy and our intentions in the matter will be made known at the appropriate time."

## DELFT LABORATORIES

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

(1) When is it expected that the work being undertaken by the Delft Laboratories of Holland on behalf of the Government will be completed?

(2) What is the total amount paid to Delft Laboratories for such work up to June 30, 1970?

(3) How long was Mr. McGrath overseas involved in this work and when did he return to Australia?

Answers:—

(1) "End of September 1970."

(2) "\$64,748.05."

(3) "15 months, and returned to Australia on 20th July, 1970."

## ELECTRICAL TRADES UNION EMPLOYEES STRIKE

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

In view of the threatened strike by the Electrical Trades Union and the serious disruption to personal and industrial activity, is it intended that the Government will intervene in any way to avoid a calamitous position of industry that could almost certainly arise?

Answer:—

"I appreciate the Honourable Member's concern in relation to this matter but, in view of yesterday's successful talks, the possibility envisaged by the Honourable Member does not arise."

## NEW HOSPITAL, MIAMI

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

In view of the serious overcrowding at the Gold Coast Hospital, where this morning there are 43 patients in a 35-bed ward and the distinct possibility that new patients will have to be transported to Brisbane, where there is a delay of 2½ to 3 years at the dental clinic in the provision of dentures and where the only available space left to build the nurses' lecture room is under Ward 2, when is it proposed to commence work on the new major hospital complex at Miami, as recommended by the consulting architects Conrad & Gargett and approved by the Gold Coast Hospitals Board?

Answer:—

"Whilst at times overcrowding in a particular ward may occur the daily average number of patients including intermediate and private patients accommodated in the general wards of the Southport Hospital during 1969-70 was 90.2. The total number of general beds available is 103. The Hospital requirements for this area have been considered previously by this Department and approval was given for the planning of a new thirty-one bed ward block at the Southport Hospital. The Secretary of the Gold Coast Hospitals Board has advised that final sketch plans were considered by that Board at its meeting on

July 22, 1970. The provision of this accommodation together with projected Private Hospital development will, it is felt, alleviate the position. The Gold Coast Hospitals Board has however purchased land in the Miami area to ensure that a suitable site is available as and when the need arises for a new Hospital in that area."

#### GAS EXPLOSION IN BRISBANE

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

In view of the serious gas explosion which occurred in the city on July 17—

(1) What action has been taken by his Department to have a full public enquiry into the gas mains in all categories in the City and Fortitude Valley areas?

(2) Will any enquiry have power to investigate fully the position relating to the odour of the gas so that it can be rapidly detected following the change-over from coal gas to liquid and natural gas in Queensland?

(3) What action is being taken by the Department to see that there is no recurrence of Friday's disaster in the City and Fortitude Valley areas?

Answers:—

(1) "No action has been taken to have a full public enquiry. The Office of the Government Gas Engineer and Chief Gas Examiner is mindful of its responsibilities and is presently fully occupied in intensifying safety procedures. Certain actions have already been taken, some before the unfortunate incident and some since, including arrangements to convene, through the Co-ordinator-General of Public Works, meetings of appropriate utilities to solve some problems concerned with gas mains and other underground services. At present some of these matters are beyond the authority of the Government Gas Engineer."

(2) "This situation is adequately covered by Division 4 of "The Gas Regulations of 1966," which applies to all flammable gases. These requirements are being complied with."

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

#### SAFETY AT OIL REFINERIES, BRISBANE

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

(1) How many employees attached to the Machinery Department are qualified to make inspections of the oil refineries' plant and equipment for safety purposes in the metropolitan area?

(2) How many inspections have been carried out on the two refineries for 1967-68, 1968-69 and 1969-70?

(3) How many inspections were carried out from July 1 to July 22, 1970?

(4) How many complaints were raised with (a) Ampol and (b) Amoco, to be rectified as from January 1 to July 22, 1970?

(5) How many prosecutions were taken out against (a) Ampol and (b) Amoco for failure to rectify faults and safety precautions for 1967-68, 1968-69 and 1969-70 and up to July 22, 1970?

Answers:—

(1) "Twenty-four Inspectors of Machinery."

(2) "1967-68—Ampol 25, Amoco 191; 1968-69—Ampol 78, Amoco 70; 1969-70—Ampol 17, Amoco 163. In addition to these inspections a number of unrecorded spot inspections have been made on the initiative of the Department and at the request of the Companies."

(3) "Ampol—9, Amoco—Nil. Eight of these were in connection with new plant and repair procedures on other plant. One was made in connection with corrosion checking of pressure vessels by ultrasonic means."

(4) "(a) Nil; (b) Nil."

(5) "(a) Nil; (b) Nil. There has been no need to consider prosecutions. All requests have been carried out immediately."

#### WARWICK—KILLARNEY RAILWAY LAND

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

When is it envisaged that it will be possible to finally dispose of the now unused sections of the old Warwick-Killarney railway line?

Answer:—

"The necessary preliminaries inherent in the placing of the land in the hands of the Lands Department for dealing and action associated with the identification of adjoining titles have now been virtually completed. Progressive disposal of the various parcels of land comprised in the closed railway line will be initiated forthwith."

#### ALLOWANCE FOR TRANSPORT OF SCHOOL-CHILDREN

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

Is the conveyance allowance payable by the Education Department reduced from \$30.00 per year to \$21.00 per year per child if a child is transported over six

miles to join a school bus route as compared to being conveyed the same distance direct to a school? If so, what is the reason?

*Answer:—*

"Parents or guardians of children who are conveyed each day by private motor vehicle to and from the nearest school may claim conveyance allowance as follows:—When conveyed more than 3 miles—\$21 per pupil per annum; When conveyed more than 6 miles and up to 9 miles—\$30 per pupil per annum—when conveyed more than 9 miles—\$42 per pupil per annum. A parent living more than three miles from the nearest school whose child must be conveyed, by private motor vehicle, more than two miles to a school transport service, a licensed bus, or railway, in order to attend the nearest school, may claim a conveyance allowance of \$21 per annum for each child conveyed. This allowance remains constant irrespective of the distance travelled by private means. Costs of travel on the official school bus service, licensed bus or railway have to be borne by the Department in addition to this particular allowance."

#### SOUTHERN ELECTRIC AUTHORITY'S CAPITAL CONTRIBUTION SCHEME

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

(1) What progress is being made towards implementing the Southern Electric Authority's capital contribution scheme established to make it possible to reticulate power to previously regarded uneconomic rural areas in their franchise?

(2) What formula is used when assessing a capital contribution?

*Answers:—*

(1) "Revenue returns on projects undertaken so far have been such that it has not been necessary to apply the scheme. A number of projects under the scheme are under consideration and administrative details (documents, etc.) are being finalised before making firm offers to prospective consumers."

(2) "The capital contribution sought will be the amount necessary to reduce the Authority's capital expenditure to a level which will increase the anticipated revenue return to ten per cent."

#### SGIO ANNUAL REPORT

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

(1) Further to my Question of December 10, 1969, as to when the annual report of the State Government Insurance Office for 1968-69 would be available, is the report yet available?

(2) When does he anticipate availability of the annual report for 1969-70?

(3) Does he accept as satisfactory to policy holders, Parliament or the public the delay that has occurred in this regard and, if not, what steps has he taken to correct it?

(4) In view of a statement by the Insurance Commissioner that he is considering the request of insurance companies for an increase of motor vehicle comprehensive insurance rates, will he table information as to SGIO experience in motor vehicle comprehensive insurance for 1968-69 and 1969-70 in terms of premium income, claims, allowance for outstanding claims and such offsets to profits recognised as determining the result of the operation in that field?

(5) As the public might reasonably expect the State Office not to follow other companies in increasing premiums on comprehensive motor vehicle insurance if State Office profits are already reasonable, will he give an assurance that SGIO will not increase rates in such circumstances?

*Answers:—*

(1) "The Annual Accounts for 1968-69 will be tabled in Parliament as soon as the Auditor-General's certificate is obtained. The Auditor-General has sought further advice from SGIO to substantiate that Department's assessment of certain underwriting provisions."

(2) "The Honourable Member should be aware of the fact that this is impossible for me to forecast."

(3) "Whilst the position is not entirely satisfactory, I emphasise that policyholders have not been disadvantaged by this delay, since profit distribution has been equal to or greater than the previous year. The matter of strengthening the accounting management staff of the Office is at present under consideration."

(4) "The underwriting surplus for the year ended June 30, 1969, by the SGIO on Comprehensive Motor Vehicle Insurance was \$48,713 which is equivalent to less than one per cent. of the Premium Income. The figures for 1969-70 are not yet available."

(5) "As already indicated, the figures for 1969-70 are not yet available. If, when available, they reveal a satisfactory profit position, then the Honourable Member has my assurance that premiums will not be increased."

## INDUSTRIAL TROUBLE IN QUEENSLAND

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

(1) Is the present spate of industrial unrest in Queensland a deliberate attempt to by-pass arbitration and conciliation?

(2) Is the Commonwealth taking all possible measures to counter these disruptive tactics?

(3) Are these strikes being master-minded by communists in high positions in some unions?

Answers:—

The Honourable Member is seeking an expression of opinion but, in my view:—

(1) "It would certainly appear so."

(2) "I have publicly expressed my deep personal concern at the effect these industrial disruptions could have on the safety and well-being of the people of Queensland, particularly the old, the young and the infirm. In my telegram to the Prime Minister earlier this week, I stressed that it was essential his Government do everything within its power to bring an end to the severe hardships imposed on our people as a result of the recent strikes."

(3) "The underlying organisational pattern of these industrial disputes certainly bears the old, familiar thumbprint of Communist inspiration and control."

COMMONWEALTH DAIRY INDUSTRY  
REHABILITATION SCHEME

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

In view of the Answers to my Questions on the Commonwealth Dairy Rehabilitation Scheme on August 21, 1969, and March 1, 1970, and also my telegram to him on April 1, 1970—

(1) When is it now expected that the scheme can be implemented?

(2) Is he aware that many dairy farmers find it impossible to hold out any longer and are being forced to sacrifice their farms at prices well below their actual value?

(3) Will he accept any applications now from farmers to be included in the scheme and have an investigation made as to their qualifying or otherwise?

(4) How many dairy farmers left the industry during the year ended June 30, 1970?

Answers:—

(1 to 3) "I understand that the implementation in Queensland of the Commonwealth-State Marginal Dairy Farm Reconstruction Scheme now awaits only completion of formal documents for signature.

However the scheme will be administered by my colleague the Hon. V. B. Sullivan, M.L.A., Minister for Lands, and any questions on the subject should be directed to him."

(4) "Approximately 880."

APPOINTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL  
ADVISER, ATHERTON TABLELAND

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

In view of the importance of rural industries on the Atherton Tableland and district and the fact that the District Agriculture Adviser has been transferred from Atherton, will he indicate when his successor is to be appointed and expedite his taking-up of duties after appointment?

Answer:—

"An appointment to this vacancy was made but the appointee subsequently was offered an opportunity to take up advanced studies and therefore did not take up the position. A further applicant for this position is at present under consideration. The Honourable Member may rest assured that an appointment will be made as soon as a suitably qualified applicant is available."

WATER SUPPLY FOR KOAH, MANTAKA,  
OAK FOREST AND KOWROWA

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

Further to my Questions concerning a water supply for Koah, Mantaka, Oak Forest and Kowrowa—

(1) Has any money been allotted for this scheme and, if so, when and what amount?

(2) When is it intended that the work will be carried out?

(3) Is it intended to have a reticulated supply to all homes and will the water be taken into the houses and not only to an outside tap?

(4) Will he urge those responsible for these works to expedite their preliminary duties and so hasten the completion of this scheme?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) "As was conveyed to the Honourable Member in my letter of October 8, 1969, approval was given to a Government expenditure of \$18,170 for the Mar-eeba Shire Council to provide suitable water supplies to Koah, Kowrowa and Mantaka. The Council advise that delay was occasioned by availability of electricity and immediately this matter is resolved, plans can be completed for approval by

the Department of Local Government. The Honourable Member will appreciate the homes involved are on private property and the local authority would make water available on the usual terms and conditions. The Department is taking all possible steps to expedite completion of the scheme."

SELECT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRIAL TROUBLE IN QUEENSLAND

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

Will he consider setting up a Select Parliamentary Committee to investigate and ascertain the underlying causes of the current pattern of industrial disputes and strikes and the manner in which they affect the public well-being and a stable economy, such Committee to report its findings and recommendations?

Answer:—

"My Government is well aware of the effects the current industrial unrest has had on the State's economy and the welfare of the people of Queensland. It does cause us considerable concern, but no useful additional purpose could be served by the setting up of a Select Parliamentary Committee, as my Government has always adhered to the principles of arbitration."

MOTOR VEHICLE ANTI-POLLUTION UNIT

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to a statement in *Sunday Truth* of July 19 that a Sydney inventor had claimed that big business interests were combining to keep off the market a device which cuts car fuel costs by up to half and which a University of New South Wales traffic engineering expert said was the world's best motor vehicle anti-pollution unit?

(2) In view of the general concern felt by Members of this House and the public, will he invite the inventor, Mr. Duncan McWade, to Queensland and provide him with facilities to develop and produce his anti-pollution unit in the interest of Queensland?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "The Director of the Division of Air Pollution Control keeps abreast with all recent research in this field. However, if Mr. Duncan McWade is willing to make available details of his invention the Air Pollution Division will be pleased to examine it."

ELECTRICAL WIRING, HOUSING COMMISSION HOUSES, ZILLMERE

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

(1) In how many Housing Commission houses at Zillmere has the electrical wiring been condemned by Housing Commission or Brisbane City Council inspectors?

(2) What action was taken following these reports?

(3) In how many cases was no action taken?

(4) In view of the imminent risk of fire occasioned by faulty wiring, will he take immediate action to have a thorough inspection made of all Housing Commission houses?

Answers:—

(1 to 3) "In respect of Zillmere occasional notices are received from Council Electricity Inspectors on matters generally, other than rewiring. All Council reports receive prompt attention by the Commission's own electricians who also attend to any other electrical work which comes directly to notice. There was one recent rewiring request from the Council and two other cases were reported by Commission electricians, one of which was dealt with yesterday and the other will receive early attention."

(4) "The Commission is very conscious of the risks which may be occasioned by development of faults in wiring notwithstanding that all installations are passed initially by Installation Inspectors of the Supply Authority. Recent amendments to "The Electric Light and Power Regulations" have given authority to an owner to require his Electric Authority to inspect premises not inspected by the Authority within the past 5 years. The Commission will be arranging with Electric Authorities throughout the State to inspect all such State Rental Houses."

FIRE PROTECTION, ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, BRISBANE

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

(1) Have wards at the Royal Brisbane Children's Hospital been inspected by officers of the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board in the past six months?

(2) Have any wards been condemned by the Board or its officers as potential fire hazards?

(3) Has it been recommended to the North Brisbane Hospitals Board by the Fire Brigades Board that certain wards at the Children's Hospital be vacated until such time as structural modifications are carried out?

(4) Which wards were involved in any condemnation and/or recommendation?

(5) Were these wards vacated following the recommendation and, if not, what was the reason?

(6) Were certain wards at the Children's Hospital not provided with adequate fire escapes and some multi-floor ward blocks of part wooden construction without fire escapes?

(7) What action has been taken to meet the recommendations of the Fire Brigades Board and to remedy this very serious situation?

*Answers:—*

(1) "I am informed that fire fighting apparatus at the Royal Brisbane Hospital complex including the Royal Children's Hospital has been inspected annually by officers of the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board. However, at the special request of the North Brisbane Hospitals Board all buildings in the complex were inspected by an officer of the Fire Brigades Board and a report furnished to the Hospitals Board. Following consideration of the implications of the report another inspection of the Children's Hospital buildings was carried out recently by a Fire Brigade officer in company with senior officers of the North Brisbane Hospitals Board, and a further report furnished to the Board."

(2 to 4) "The Inspecting Officer recommended the immediate evacuation of the top floor wards of certain multi-storied buildings. However, in regard to the wards in the lower floors of these buildings he stated that if other accommodation is not available immediately continued occupancy would be acceptable for a limited period provided certain other requirements were implemented."

(5) "No. The recommendations of the Fire Officer concerning the entire Royal Brisbane Hospital complex covered a very wide field, necessitating a close and critical examination bearing in mind the need for the continued functioning of the Hospital."

(6) "Whilst existing fire escapes in certain wards may not be regarded as adequate it is not correct to state that some multi-floor ward blocks were without fire escapes."

(7) "I am advised that the North Brisbane Hospitals Board has adopted a recommendation to re-arrange patient accommodation at the Royal Children's Hospital, at the same time meeting the requirements of the Fire Brigade, as a matter of urgency."

UNDERGROUND WATER SUPPLY

**Mr. V. E. Jones**, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

In view of the desperate position within the primary industries, which has been brought upon them by many years of droughts causing underground water levels to drop and irrigation activities to be brought to a halt—

(1) Has a greater amount of money been allocated in this year's budget for the Irrigation and Water Supply Department?

(2) Is the Government taking all possible steps to relieve these producers who, by droughts, have been burdened by financial hardship?

*Answers:—*

(1) "The whole question of the framing of the Budget for 1970-71 is at present under consideration. I appreciate the concern of the Honourable Member and I can assure him that his request will be given sympathetic consideration, but the ultimate decision must be dependent to a large degree on the availability of funds."

(2) "Yes. The Government is taking active and positive steps for the provision of various relief measures to assist those who have been financially distressed by the long and severe drought."

GREAT BARRIER REEF COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY

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

(1) What is the estimated cost of legal representation of the Minister for Mines entering an appearance before the Great Barrier Reef Committee of Inquiry?

(2) From what fund will these expenses be met?

(3) Was the entering of an appearance by the Minister the subject of a Cabinet decision?

(4) As evidence will be presented dealing with matters pertaining to tourism, conservation and reef fauna, on what grounds was it felt that the Ministers representing tourism, fisheries and conservation need not enter an appearance?

(5) Did any of these Ministers submit to Cabinet that they should be represented?

(6) Is it the intention of these Ministers to make submissions?

*Answers:—*

(1 and 2) "I have no estimate available and no determination has been made as to Commonwealth/State responsibility in this regard."



(3) "The Honourable Member surely does not expect me to disclose Cabinet deliberations."

(4 to 6) "See Answer to (3)."

#### AUTHORITIES TO PROSPECT

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

(1) Will he lay on the Table of the House an up-to-date list of authorities to prospect, presently held within the State, in regard to mineral sands mining, covering designations, locations, sizes of leases, names of companies and dates of granting?

(2) Will he also table a similar list in regard to mining leases?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "Preparation and typing of this material will require considerable effort. It is in hand and will be tabled at an early date. It is taken than in (2) the Honourable Member refers to leases for the minerals mentioned in (1) and not all mining leases."

#### HOUSE CONSTRUCTION FOR COMPANIES

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

Will he table details of housing erected to assist industry including (a) the number of houses built, (b) the names of the companies for whom the houses were built and the number provided for each company, (c) the total expenditure on such housing and (d) the number of houses each company has provided from its own funds?

Answer:—

"The information requested is very comprehensive. I will have the details extracted and will table a list as requested by the Honourable Member."

#### WORKERS' COMPENSATION FOR EMPLOYEES ON COMMONWEALTH BUILDING SITES

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

(1) What is the immediate result of the Full High Court's decision that State laws could not apply to Commonwealth-controlled property?

(2) Would the rights of workers to pursue workers' compensation claims or conversely the State's rights to insist upon their protection by insurance when on Commonwealth building job sites be in any jeopardy whatsoever?

(3) Does the Commonwealth intend to rectify this position by legislation at the earliest possible date?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) "The High Court, by a four to three majority, in Worthing's case, decided that a State law requiring certain persons to take measures (including fencing) to secure the safety of persons engaged on building work did not validly apply in respect of building work in a "place acquired by the Commonwealth for public purposes" within the meaning of section 52 (i) of the Commonwealth Constitution. The matter came before the Standing Committee of Commonwealth and State Attorneys-General on 9th and 10th July, 1970. Because of the conflicting views of the members of the High Court it was not assumed that no State laws apply on Commonwealth property or that some particular law does not so apply. Worthing's case was decided on the application of specific regulations under the Scaffolding and Lifts Act of New South Wales, and it does not follow that other State laws would be similarly affected. It was emphasized that the States will continue to administer and enforce the criminal law as before the decision. However, the Ministers agreed to the establishment of two joint Commonwealth-State Committees, each consisting of a Commonwealth and three State officers. One committee would deal with questions of policy and general questions of law; the other would be a committee of draftsmen. Instructions were given to the draftsmen to prepare draft legislation so as to give full protection to all those who in the meantime have acted on the assumption that State laws continue to apply."

#### COMMONWEALTH DAIRY INDUSTRY SUBSIDY

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

(1) As the Commonwealth Government claims it is increasing the bounty to the dairy industry from \$27,000,000 to \$46,250,000, is the increase of \$19,250,000 real or does it consolidate assistance apart from subsidy, e.g. devaluation reconciliation, etc.?

(2) As dairy production must remain at the 1969 level in order to maintain the guaranteed return of 34 cents per lb. of commercial butter, how will Queensland dairy farmers fare as Queensland production of butter for 1969 was 19,000 tons as against the actual need of 27,000 tons?

(3) Has the Australian Dairy Council requested all producers to reduce production by 3½% so that they may make a voluntary contribution to their own salvation?

(4) As diversification is proposed in the Marginal Dairy Farm Reconstruction Plan, what avenues of profitable diversification are available?

*Answers:—*

(1) "The increase of \$19,250,000 in the Commonwealth Dairy Industry Subsidy announced by the Federal Minister for Primary Industry would allow the guarantee of 34 cents per lb. commercial butter to be maintained provided overall Australian production of butter does not exceed 220,000 tons and cheese production 70,000 tons. The increase would allow continuation of subsidy on processed milk products and would also include casein and other non-fat products. It is understood that the proposed increase includes \$3,379,000 in substitution for devaluation payments."

(2) "Queensland has not agreed to any decrease in dairy production in 1970-71. In fact it is expected that, given favourable seasonal conditions, production will increase."

(3) "As stated in my Answer to Question (1), the Commonwealth guarantee is limited to a specific quantity. If production exceeds these limits it is possible that average returns on total production may not reach 34 cents per lb. commercial butter. The Australian Dairy Industry Council apparently recognises the wisdom of containing production in the present market situation."

(4) "The Commonwealth's Marginal Dairy Farm Reconstruction Plan envisages amalgamation of small and/or uneconomic holdings as well as diversification. In Queensland the emphasis will be on amalgamation because of the fact that Queensland is currently a deficit State in so far as butter production is concerned. It is not possible to generalise on diversification possibilities. These will depend on many factors including the location of farms, their size and their suitability for other purposes."

#### MINING WARDENS

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

Is a mining warden allowed to hold any interest in any mining activity directly or indirectly? If not, what are the penalties for such participation?

*Answer:—*

"Section 164 of *The Mining Acts, 1898 to 1967*" reads as follows:—If any warden shall at any time during his appointment hold any interest or share in any claim, gold-mining, or mineral lease or mining adventure, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanour, and be liable to fine

or imprisonment for any term not exceeding three years, or both, in the discretion of the court."

#### DEED OF GRANT, BRISBANE TRADES HALL LAND

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

(1) Is he aware that an office has been established known as the "Treason Room" at the Brisbane Trades Hall, headquarters of the Australian Labor Party in the State, in order to incite and encourage the young people to treat the law with defiance and contempt?

(2) Is the Trades Hall built on land ceded by the Government to the trustees for the purpose of the erection of the hall and, if so, will he consider closely examining the Deed of Grant in view of the present treasonable activities of those associated with the hall and the A.L.P.?

*Answers:—*

(1) "I am aware of the room known as the "Treason Room". In my speech in this House yesterday, I made it known that two of the four men in charge of this room are known Communists."

(2) "Yes. I will look into this matter."

#### RAIL TRANSPORT OF GREENVALE ORE

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

Has any decision been reached concerning the rail route for transportation of Greenvale ore or concentrates to Townsville and, if so, will he fully inform the House on the matter?

*Answer:—*

"No decision has been reached as yet. The Companies concerned have a firm of Consulting Engineers making investigations in this regard."

#### ALLEGED PUBLIC BURNING OF STATE ACT AT TOWNSVILLE BY SENATOR KEEFFE

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

Has his attention been drawn to Press articles, one accompanied by a photograph, wherein Senator J. Keffe, President of the Federal Executive of the A.L.P., was reported and depicted as burning a copy of a State Act in a public place in Townsville and, if so, was consideration given to taking action against Keffe for a breach of the law by such act?

*Answer:—*

"Yes. Investigations did not reveal evidence other than that the material burned was waste paper. The action was considered to be a vain-glorious exhibition."

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I remind hon. members that at the commencement of each previous session I have announced that I will not tolerate interjections or cross-firing in the Chamber during question time. I intend to apply the rule very vigorously again this session. I thought that hon. members would at least remember that this was my thought at the beginning of the previous session, but apparently they have forgotten during the recess.

**Mr. Bromley** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** In future, please do not interrupt during question time. I will deal with any hon. member who does.

#### SHARE REGISTER OF COMALCO

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to several recent Press statements wherein it was reported that the Opposition will initiate a debate during this session on the question of Comalco share holdings?

(2) If so, in view of the serious issues involved, will he confer with the Minister for Justice, who administers the Companies Act, in an endeavour to have the share register of Comalco, or a certified copy of it, laid upon the Table of the House, or, failing that, a statement showing Comalco share holdings by all State parliamentarians and/or their relatives, together with share holdings by officials and members, outside Parliament, of all political parties and/or their relatives, as well as holdings by State public servants in any category whatever and/or their relatives, so that members participating in the debate will be fully informed of all the ramifications involved?

*Answers:—*

(1) "The subject matter of the Honourable Member's Question was fully covered yesterday by the Debate in this House."

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

#### RISING COSTS CAUSED BY INDUSTRIAL TROUBLE

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

In view of the Press statements made by the Leader of the Opposition on July 17 predicting increased industrial unrest—

(1) What measures is this Government taking to counter rising costs?

(2) To what extent has the present industrial unrest contributed towards rising costs?

(3) What further effects will the A.L.P. attitude towards industrial unrest and rising wage costs have on the economy and development of this State particularly in relation to primary industry?

*Answers:—*

(1) "Yes, the Government is very much aware of this problem and is taking all appropriate action within its Constitutional power."

(2 and 3) "I would only be giving an expression of opinion if I were to attempt to answer these parts of the Question. While I agree with the Honourable Member's general premises, I could not give a factual answer."

#### MOOLOOLABA HARBOUR PROJECT

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

(1) Were tenders called for the harbour project in connection with the Mooloolaba slip?

(2) Has a lease already been granted in connection with this proposal?

(3) Who was the successful lessee?

(4) Where does the lessee live?

(5) Has the lessee any convictions and, if so, what are they?

*Answers:—*

(1) "Yes."

(2) "No. The conditions of lease have been agreed to in writing by the successful tenderer and a lease in this form is at present under preparation."

(3) "Mooloolaba Marine Services Pty. Ltd."

(4) "Mooloolaba Marine Services Pty. Ltd. has its registered office at Rex Building, 186 Wickham Street, Fortitude Valley, Brisbane."

(5) "The Honourable Member should address this Question to the Honourable Minister for Works and Housing."

#### PROMOTIONS AND MARKETING (QLD) PTY. LTD.

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to the activities of a company known as Promotions and Marketing (Qld.) Pty. Ltd.?

(2) If not, will he have the activities of this company closely investigated as it is operating like a chain letter organisation but extracting thousands of dollars from the unsuspecting investors?

(3) Does Frank Adler supply the appliances that are operated in the course of this firm's nefarious activities?

(4) Will he accept and have perused the booklet called "Opportunities Unlimited" put out by this company which I have in my possession?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 4) "The question of the desirability of investigating the activities of companies or firms is not a matter which comes within my administration."

#### DONATIONS TO PARENTS AND CITIZENS' ASSOCIATIONS

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to recent literature from State high school parents and citizens' associations and in particular to that issued by the Brisbane State High School Ladies' Auxiliary dated February 19, 1970?

(2) As parents are required to write the amount of their donation and the name and class of the child on all donations made, does this constitute a breach of the Education Acts?

(3) What is the reason for having the name of the child written on the donation form?

(4) With the prospect of the abolition of the Junior and Senior Public Examinations, will the amount of parents' donations determine whether or not a child will be granted a Leaving Certificate or some suitable reference because of the parents' wealth?

*Answers:—*

(1) "No."

(2) "No. This is a voluntary contribution."

(3) "I have been advised that the parents and citizens' association does this for the purpose of checking the amount in the envelope against the amount written. The envelope is then initialled and is returned to the student who is expected to return it to his parents."

(4) "No. I resent this slur on teachers and on my Department."

#### RAIL-MOTOR SERVICE, BOWEN— TOWNSVILLE

Mr. Bird, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Transport,—

Will the rail-motor service operating between Bowen and Townsville be continued after the expiration of the three months' trial period at the end of this month?

*Answer:—*

"This is under review."

#### GOODS SHED, AYR RAILWAY STATION

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

Will he have new filing cabinets, cupboards, shelving and table tops installed at the railway goods shed at Ayr at an early date to replace the present "packing case" cupboards and shelves, most of which were supplied or constructed by the staff over a number of years?

*Answer:—*

"I am having his request examined."

#### SONY READERS CLUB LTD.

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

(1) Does the Sony Readers Club Ltd., Darlinghurst, N.S.W., have any agencies in Queensland? If not, is there any legislation to prevent such interstate book clubs sending to Queensland so-called students to cajole unsuspecting mothers to subscribe for certain publications which are of little value in relation to the cost of annual subscription?

(2) Will he have the activities of this firm fully investigated for the protection of the public?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) "An examination of the subject matter of the Honourable Member's Questions does not give any indication that this is a matter coming within my administration. However, I shall be pleased to bring a copy of these Questions to the notice of my Ministerial Colleague in New South Wales who is charged with the administration of the Consumer Affairs Legislation in that State for favour of any advice which he might be able to let me have on this matter."

#### AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT ON S G I O AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION PATIENTS

Dr. Crawford, pursuant to notice, asked The Treasurer,—

(1) When is it anticipated that the Auditor-General's report for the S G I O for the financial year 1968-69 will be published?

(2) Why was it not published in the usual manner with the other matters dealt with by the Auditor-General last year?

(3) Are figures available of the numbers of patients treated under the Compensation Act through S G I O auspices for any recent financial year, when hospital treatment, either public or private, was involved?

*Answers:—*

(1 and 2) "These are matters outside my Ministerial jurisdiction."

(3) "There is no record kept of Workers' Compensation cases hospitalised or treated as outpatients at State Public Hospitals. However, the Mater Public Hospital in Brisbane does keep these records and in order to provide an Answer to the Honourable Member's Question I accept as reasonable the Mater figures as an indication of the Queensland experience. In 1968-69, the last year for which figures are readily available, there were 2,240 Workers' Compensation patient days at the Mater Public. The total Public General days at the Mater for that year were 101,118. On these figures the Workers' Compensation patient days represented 2.2 per cent. of the total. Applying this proportion to the overall Queensland State hospital experience for 1968-69 where total General Public days less nursing home days were 1,838,219 we find a Workers' Compensation patient day experience in State Hospitals for that year of 40,720."

SURVEY OF S G I O BY W. D. SCOTT  
AND COMPANY PTY. LTD.

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

(1) What was the commencing date of the survey by W. D. Scott and Company Pty. Ltd. of the S G I O?

(2) Why is the survey being conducted?

(3) How much has been paid to W. D. Scott and Company Pty. Ltd. since the commencement of the survey?

*Answers:—*

(1) "November 18, 1968."

(2) "The survey is being conducted following a submission made by W. D. Scott and Company Pty. Ltd., in June, 1968, after a preliminary survey, which arose from representations made to me by the State Service Union that considerable arrears of work existed within the office and, also, the submission of a report on this matter by officers of the Public Service Commissioner's Department. Cabinet decided to seek opinions from W. D. Scott and Company Pty. Ltd. and the company proposed that a comprehensive and detailed clerical analysis should

be undertaken by staff of the S G I O, under the guidance of the company. This proposal was accepted by Cabinet. I might add that the State Service Union intimated to me that the staff of the S G I O welcomed my advice that a preliminary survey of the office was to be made by W. D. Scott and Company."

(3) "\$88,970, covering, *inter alia*, training and project supervision for S G I O analysts and related supervisory training, and including charges for the services of the company's officers at the S G I O."

DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE

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

(1) How many people have attended the defensive driver-training course since its inception?

(2) Is the course proving successful and in what ways?

(3) Does the Queensland Road Safety Council confine its course to night-time training only?

(4) Is it intended that this course be extended or enlarged in any way and, if so, will senior high school students be included in the course at school?

*Answers:—*

(1) "Number of persons attending courses completed—2,336. Number of persons attending courses in progress—309. Total—2,645."

(2) "Yes... in creating an awareness of driving problems likely to be encountered and imparting a knowledge of Defensive Driving techniques to cope with them. Sample opinion surveys of persons attending the courses indicate that 99 per cent. of the participants considered the course would improve their driving."

(3) "No. Day-time courses in Brisbane are conducted by arrangement for the employees of Government and commercial organisations. Day-time courses for the general public are included in the programme for country areas."

(4) "The course itself is strictly a Defensive Driving Course, based on procedures evolved by the National Safety Council of the United States. No necessity has arisen to warrant an alteration to its scope or format. The coverage of the courses is being progressively expanded within the resources of the Council. A special course was conducted for High School students generally, in Brisbane during the day-time in the Christmas

vacation period 1969, and, in addition, courses have been or are being conducted at Miami High School, Toowong High School and Gatton Agricultural College at the schools outside normal school hours. Attendance is voluntary and normal enrolment fees apply."

"MOORLANDS", CORONATION DRIVE,  
BRISBANE

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

Will he urgently consider the Government's acquiring of the property on Coronation Drive known as "Moorlands", so that this last remaining large unit of open land fronting the river in this area can be saved from irreparable fragmentation?

Answer:—

"The possibility of the Government's acquiring "Moorlands" for Crown purposes has already been carefully examined. However, the building and site are not regarded as being appropriate for such purposes."

RELIEF OF UNEMPLOYMENT,  
TOOWOOMBA

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

In view of the exceptionally great number of persons receiving unemployment benefits at Toowoomba, many of whom are workers in the building industry, will he, in order to alleviate this position, immediately release money for Department of Works buildings which have been gazetted?

Answer:—

"My Department's Programme of Works is undertaken in accordance with the priorities determined by Client Departments on a State wide basis in relation to the funds available. Works valued in excess of half a million dollars have been released by my Department in the Toowoomba area in recent months."

HARLAXTON RAILWAY QUARRY,  
TOOWOOMBA

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

(1) Has the railway quarry at Harlaxton, Toowoomba, been advertised for sale or lease? If so, has any finality been reached either for the sale or lease?

(2) If the quarry has been sold or leased, what are the conditions of the sale or lease and what will become of the employees now employed at the quarry?

Answers:—

(1) "Public tenders were invited through *The Courier Mail* dated June 6, 1970, and June 13, 1970. The tenders closed on July 21, 1970, and are at present being examined."

(2) "If a tender is accepted, the employees of the quarry will continue to be employed in the Railway Department."

HOUSING COMMISSION LAND,  
IPSWICH EAST ELECTORATE

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

(1) How much land is owned or held by the Government in the Electorate of Ipswich East for the purpose of constructing homes, particularly by the Queensland Housing Commission?

(2) If any lands are so held, where are they situated and what is the area of each parcel?

(3) If no land is held for this purpose, will early action be taken to obtain land for the construction of additional homes?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) "The Queensland Housing Commission holds land as listed hereafter. Some of the sites are in groups and others are single allotments and it would not be practicable to detail the area of each parcel. Sites for the following numbers of houses are held in the respective localities—Dinmore 45; Gales 137; Goodna 22 (plus further areas of 70 acres and 45 acres); Redbank 2 (plus a further 34 acres); Riverview 135."

MATERNITY WARDS, IPSWICH HOSPITAL

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

(1) What progress has been made with the planning of the proposed additions and alterations to the maternity ward building at the Ipswich Hospital since a deputation from the Ipswich Hospitals Board met him on August 29 last?

(2) When is it likely that the plans will be completed?

(3) Will the actual construction be undertaken by a private contractor or the Department of Works?

(4) Will construction commence during the present financial year?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) "I have been advised that minor amendments to the working drawings are now proceeding. It is anticipated that working drawings and specifications will be completed in the very near future."

(3) "Public tenders will be invited when this project is ready to proceed."

(4) "Actual date of commencement of work will depend on the availability of finance."

#### DROUGHT RELIEF SCHEMES

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

While acknowledging the Government's assistance to the drought areas and being aware of the drastic loss of Government revenue caused by drought, what further actions are contemplated to assist (a) graziers and graingrowers and (b) employment within local authority areas and what extensions of the scheme can be made to assist horticulturists, small crop farmers and business people?

*Answer:—*

"The Government is doing all within its financial capacity to assist primary producers affected by the drought and, in addition, has asked the Commonwealth to approve the continuation into 1970-71 of all the drought relief schemes which prevailed during 1969-70. The Commonwealth has replied agreeing to this proposal with the State and Commonwealth sharing the cost of approved schemes up to \$4 million and the Commonwealth accepting the expenditure in excess of \$4,000,000 and the question of further assistance to relieve unemployment in the drought-stricken Local Authority Areas is at present also under examination by the Co-ordinator General of Public Works. Horticulturists, small crop farmers and other eligible primary producers affected by the drought are advised to contact their local Agricultural Bank Inspector or the General Manager, Agricultural Bank, Brisbane, for drought relief assistance. They may be assured that their applications will receive sympathetic consideration."

#### APPRENTICESHIPS IN SAWMILLING INDUSTRY

**Mr. F. P. Moore**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Labour and Tourism,—

In view of the importance of saw doctors and planing machinists in sawmilling, has his Department considered forming apprenticeships in these fields as most sawmilling interests believe they are necessary?

*Answer:—*

"There is provision under *"The Apprenticeship Act of 1964"* for indenturing apprentices as Saw Doctors in the employment of the Railway Department but there is no provision for apprenticeship in this Industry elsewhere. The lack of demand for apprentices in the Railway Department is evident from the fact that it is more than two years since an

apprentice has been indentured in this calling. Before an apprenticeship can be introduced for any calling there must be some indication that there are vacancies which apprentices could fill in that calling. The technical training of apprentices has also to be considered as sufficient numbers of apprentices are required to enable college classes and/or correspondence courses to be conducted. There have been only very rare enquiries in Queensland for apprenticeship in this Industry. The matter was considered by the tripartite Apprenticeship Executive which decided to take no action as it considered there were not sufficient vacancies for apprentices in this calling. I am informed also that there have never been any representations for an Apprenticeship in the calling of Planing Machinists. However, I am asking the chairman of the Apprenticeship Executive to have this aspect considered by the Apprenticeship Executive."

#### DECLARATION OF MOURILYAN AS NON-POLLUTION AREA

**Mr. F. P. Moore**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Local Government,—

(1) Who assessed the Mourilyan township area as a non-pollution area?

(2) Was the decision an unqualified opinion?

*Answer:—*

"I have no knowledge of the decision referred to by the Honourable Member."

#### RESIDENCE FOR SECRETARY, TULLY HOSPITAL

**Mr. F. P. Moore**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Health,—

As the Tully District Hospital has land available for a secretary's residence, has his Department decided on a date for the commencement of the dwelling?

*Answer:—*

"The provision of official residences for Secretaries of Hospitals Boards is a matter which comes under the control of the Department of the Public Service Board. That Department has been asked to give consideration to providing an official residence for the Secretary of the Tully Hospitals Board as part of the 1970-71 Housing Programme."

#### STAFF, ROCKHAMPTON STATE HIGH SCHOOL

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to an article in the Rockhampton *Morning Bulletin* of July 11 in which concern was expressed over the shortage of teachers at the Rockhampton High School?

(2) Is he aware that each teacher on the staff has been losing five preparatory and correction periods each week through having to supervise classes which have been without teachers for set subjects?

(3) Has he been advised that this unsatisfactory situation will be further aggravated in third term by the fact that two teachers will be going overseas and another two will commence their long-service leave?

(4) As the teacher shortage is extremely detrimental to both students and teachers, will he take immediate steps to alleviate the present situation and give an assurance that action will be taken to provide sufficient replacement teachers to meet the needs of the school for the commencement of third term?

Answers:—

(1) "No."

(2) "No. I visited the school in the company of the Honourable Member about a fortnight ago and neither he nor the Principal drew my attention to any difficulties regarding staffing. It was recognised that the effects of the influenza epidemic were being felt here and in many other schools during the last few weeks."

(3) "The Department is well aware that some teachers presently employed will not be available next term and is taking steps to make appropriate adjustments."

(4) "The staffing at the Rockhampton High School compares favourably with Australian standards. Replacement teachers are provided when they are available and if the staffing situation warrants their employment."

#### "EVENTIDE", ROCKHAMPTON

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

With reference to the proposed new 40-bed nursing-home unit at "Eventide", Rockhampton—

(1) What is the estimated cost of the proposed unit?

(2) When is it anticipated that building will commence?

(3) Is it expected that the unit will be ready for occupancy in January, 1971?

(4) Are there any immediate plans to provide additional cottage accommodation at "Eventide"?

Answers:—

(1) "Estimate of cost of this particular building is not yet available. A similar unit to be erected in another locality is estimated to cost approximately \$200,000."

(2) "Planning of the project is in progress but an actual date of commencement of construction cannot be given at this stage."

(3) "The unit will not be ready for occupancy by January 1971."

(4) "No."

#### COOLOOLA SAND-MINING LEASES

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

What progress is being made in regard to proposals for sand-mining in the Cooloola area and when is it anticipated that the final decision will be made?

Answer:—

"The hearing of these lease applications was very protracted as a result of the lengthy evidence. The Warden's Report and recommendation are not expected until next week—the delay being occasioned by the serious illness, for some weeks, of the Warden. When the Report comes to hand it will, of course, have to be closely examined and it is not possible to say at this stage when a final decision will be made. The Honourable Member may be assured that, in the public interest, unnecessary delays will be avoided."

Mr. Sherrington interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I have already warned hon. members. This is my last warning to the hon. member for Salisbury.

#### INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, MACKAY

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

(1) Is he aware that the *Queensland Government Public Relations Bureau Bulletin* of June, 1970 states that an industrial estate of 170 acres has been opened up at Mackay?

(2) Is he aware that no such estate exists?

(3) Which of the provincial industrial estates listed in the *Bulletin* are actually in use?

(4) What priority has the estate in Mackay been given and what is the delay in its establishment?

Answer:—

"Industrial Estates in provincial centres have to date been established at Bundaberg, Cairns, Dalby, Gladstone, Ipswich, Kingaroy, Maryborough, Narangba, Rockhampton, Southport, Toowoomba, Townsville and Warwick. In each of these areas developmental work has reached the stage where factory sites can be made available for immediate occupation. An area of approximately 170 acres of Crown land is held at North Mackay by the



Department of Industrial Development for industrial estate purposes. Local Consultants were appointed in June 1969 to prepare a detailed report and subdivisional design of the said area. This disclosed the costs of reclamation were likely to be heavy, which in turn would make the developed sites considerably dearer than comparable land in other provincial centres. Clearly this would act as a discouragement rather than an incentive to industry which might be considering the merits of alternative regions. In the circumstances the Department is currently investigating the availability and suitability of an alternative area in Mackay which may offer better promise. The Honourable Member can rest assured that the Department of Industrial Development is anxious to proceed with the establishment of a Crown industrial estate at Mackay and the decision to postpone actual site development has only been made in the best interests of Mackay."

#### TEMPORARY SCHOOLS AT DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECTS

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

(1) Is he aware of the hardships of parents in educating their children on remote developmental projects during the construction stage?

(2) Has his Department considered the possibility of temporary schools for the children of construction workers?

(3) If so, will his Department further investigate the purchase of "World Wide" or "O'Neill" type demountable units for use as temporary schools on the various remote developmental projects throughout the State?

Answers:—

(1) "My Department has not received complaints giving instances of hardship."

(2) "Whenever possible the children of construction workers, at dams for instance, are transported to the nearest school. If it becomes necessary, the provision of temporary accommodation will be considered."

(3) "I shall draw the attention of my colleague, the Minister for Works, to the types mentioned and arrange for consultation between officers of both Departments as to their suitability."

#### OVERSEAS ADVERTISEMENTS FOR PURCHASE OF LAND IN QUEENSLAND

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

(1) Is he aware that a Brisbane real estate firm has been conducting a large-scale campaign in overseas papers to sell

land in Queensland and that the types of caption that it has been using are—"There's 670,500 square miles of land in Queensland—Let us help you buy some of this land as an investment" and "Land is a safe investment—Land in Queensland is a profitable investment"?"

(2) Does he condone this type of attempt to place our lands in the hands of overseas speculators?

(3) If not, will he take steps to prevent this mass attempt to place our lands in overseas hands for the financial benefit of a few real estate companies?

Answers:—

(1) "No, but I will have inquiries made."

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

#### EMPLOYEES' PROTECTIVE CLOTHING, AMPOL OIL REFINERY

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

(1) How many hydrofluoric acid protection suits are available to workmen working in the alkylation unit at Ampol oil refinery?

(2) Are all the alkylation suits serviceable and in good order? If not, how many leak and where?

(3) How many workmen have received treatment for hydrofluoric acid burns during the period from May 1 to June 30, 1969 and what were the dates?

(4) How many accidents occurred at the alkylation unit which were not attributable to acid burns?

(5) How does the safety record at Ampol oil refinery compare with that at other oil refineries operating in Australia?

(6) What are the facilities provided by Ampol oil refinery for workmen to neutralise their protective clothing?

Answers:—

(1) "Twenty-seven (27)."

(2) "Yes. All suits are maintained in accordance with the standard of Phillips Petroleum, the licensors of the unit."

(3) "Five (5). One (1) man was burned three times on 14th, 20th and 22nd May, and four (4) were burned on 15th, 18th, 22nd and 29th May. It was a shut-down period when maintenance workers were at a peak of activity. Comparison with the same period this year when operations were relatively normal revealed one burn recorded."

(4) "Three (3) for same period."

(5) "For the same period recorded quarterly to 30-6-1969 Ampol was 6th in order of excellency out of 12 plants. This was based on the frequency/severity index. The Ampol index was 1.1 compared with a range for other plants of 0.0 to 12.6."

(6) "Special washroom containing stainless steel tubs and scrubbing benches with sodium bicarbonate solutions."

#### DROUGHT RELIEF FROM SHIRE RATES SCHEME

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

In view of the assistance recently negotiated between the State and Federal Governments whereby primary producers in twenty-seven shires are to receive half the cost of the local authorities' rates for the current year from a special Commonwealth grant, what steps has he taken to include further shires in this scheme, since there are still many shires in Queensland in an equally drought-stricken state?

*Answer:—*

"The Queensland Government is providing assistance to all classes of primary producers in Shires which meet the requirements of the Rates Scheme, namely, that the Shire should have been drought-stricken for 2 years in the last 5, 12 months in the 18 months period from January 1, 1969 and during 1970. However, a number of Shires met the general conditions as laid down by the Prime Minister in his announcement of May 4 but were not drought-stricken for the required period from January 1, 1969. An approach has been made to the Commonwealth Government to allow a grant to primary producers, "who are demonstrably in need of assistance in these Shires". I have advised the Honourable Member that, since the announcement of the Scheme on June 5, some additional Shires have met the requirements of being drought-stricken for 12 months during the 18 months' period since January 1, 1969, so that 36 Local Authority areas have now been determined as being eligible to participate in the Scheme. The General Manager of the Agricultural Bank is advising these Shires of their inclusion."

#### TRAINING OF SUB-NORMAL CHILDREN, CHALLINOR CENTRE

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

What arrangements are being made for some pupils of the Ipswich Sub-Normal Centre to participate in training at Challinor Centre and why is this different approach for sub-normal children from the Centre being made?

*Answer:—*

"I am informed that the medical and education panel of the Queensland Sub-Normal Children's Association, Ipswich Branch, has given consideration to the question of a selected group of adolescents using the facilities at Challinor Centre on a part-time or daily basis. Apparently no decision has yet been reached by the Association. There are specially designed facilities at Challinor Centre for the training of such persons. It is inherent in the care of the intellectually handicapped that those who are capable of being cared for in their own homes should continue to be so accommodated. I am advised that access to the facilities that are available at Challinor Centre is desirable for those who live in the local area."

#### BRASSALL STATE SCHOOL

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

Have any plans been made to replace the temporary classrooms at the Brassall State School with permanent buildings? If so, when is it intended to do this work?

*Answer:—*

"Plans have been completed for the construction of additional permanent classrooms at the Brassall State School to replace the temporary rooms and this project is to receive consideration in relation to the funds which will be available when the Department's Programme of Works for this financial year is finalised."

#### MOUNT MORGAN WATER SUPPLY

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

(1) Is he aware of the very grave situation of the town water supply at Mount Morgan?

(2) As residents of the town are facing a serious and grave crisis and the hazards of fire, pestilence and disease are very real, has his Government kept in close contact with the situation to ensure that with Government assistance the citizens of that community can live in reasonable safety and comfort?

(3) What assistance is likely to be available through the Co-ordinator-General's funds and other sources this financial year to assist this drought-stricken community to augment its water supply?

*Answers:—*

(1) "Yes."

(2) "Following receipt of an application by the Mount Morgan Shire Council, a special drought unemployment relief grant of \$2,800 was approved on June 23, 1970, to assist in further search for water."

In addition, the Chief Water Supply Engineer of the Department of Local Government is presently in Mount Morgan for the purpose of meeting the Mount Morgan Shire Council to discuss the matter and tender advice to the Council."

(3) "In an examination of the situation in drought-stricken areas at present being made by the Co-ordinator-General's Department, the needs of Mount Morgan will most certainly be given sympathetic consideration."

#### INVITATION TO HIS HOLINESS THE POPE TO VISIT QUEENSLAND

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

(1) Is he aware of the contemplated visit to Australia this year of His Holiness Pope Paul VI?

(2) In the interests of ecumenism and true Christian unity, has he extended or does he intend to extend an invitation to His Holiness to visit this State?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes. I have read newspaper reports to this effect."

(2) "I am informed that His Holiness was invited to come to Australia by Church Authorities and he will visit this country as Head of the Roman Catholic Church and not as Head of State of the Vatican City. In other words, it will not be a State Visit. However, at an appropriate time, I shall be pleased to make representations to the Church Authorities to have Queensland included in His Holiness' itinerary, if this is at all possible."

#### GIFT DUTY ON TRANSFERS BELOW MARKET VALUE

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

(1) In the event of a father or mother selling to a son or daughter property at a price which is below market value, is this transfer investigated for the purposes of gift duty and is gift duty in fact payable in certain cases?

(2) In the event of (a) an allocation of shares being made to individuals or companies outside normal share market trading at a price below that of the normal market trading price or (b) an existing company registered on overseas share markets and intending to issue shares on the Australian market allocating numbers of shares to selected individuals at a price below that of the normal or anticipated market price, would such share sales be liable to payment of gift duty where the value of the transaction is outside the amount of exemption?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "It is not the practice to answer questions involving an interpretation of the Law. However, the Honourable Member may rest assured that if a gift in terms of the Gift Duty Acts were involved in any of the transactions he mentions, then that gift would be liable for Gift Duty in accordance with that Act."

#### FORCED SALES OF DROUGHT-STRICKEN PROPERTIES

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

(1) Is he aware that many western property owners have been forced to abandon their properties and that forced sales of properties are taking place?

(2) Does he intend to implement his statement of May 7 wherein he promised to prevent the selling-up of drought-affected properties?

(3) Can he offer any information on the establishment of a financial reconstruction board also promised on May 7?

Answers:—

(1) "I understand that this is true in some cases."

(2) "I made no statement to this effect, but I have indicated on many occasions that the Government is taking all positive action within its financial capabilities to preserve and maintain our drought-affected primary industries."

(3) "The position was made perfectly clear by me recently. The only way such a Scheme could be established would be with Commonwealth Government assistance. I have approached the Prime Minister and am awaiting advice of his Government's decision."

#### UNIMPROVED LAND VALUATIONS, WESTERN QUEENSLAND

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

(1) Is he aware that a grazing property was sold recently in the Charleville district for only \$10,000 in excess of the Valuer-General's valuation, notwithstanding that improvement values would be greater than \$60,000?

(2) How does he justify such high unimproved values in the west of Queensland when it is virtually impossible in most instances to sell either town or country properties?

(3) What steps does he intend to take to remedy this ridiculous situation?

*Answers:—*

(1) "No, but if the Honourable Member for Warrego will identify the property and provide details of the sale I will have the matter investigated."

(2 and 3) "See answer to Question No. 1. I would point out that the Valuer-General cannot justify valuations other than in relation to market value as at the date of valuation."

#### SPARK-PROOF ELECTRIC SWITCHES

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

In view of the announcement that an electric spark from a traffic control switch ignited the gas which exploded in city streets recently and that spark-proof switching devices have been available for at least thirty years, will he consider the installation of spark-proof switch devices in all places near to where gas could escape?

*Answer:—*

"All electric installations, including the wiring and control of traffic lights, are subject to the Standards Association of Australia Wiring Rules which are mandatory in Queensland. These Rules make provision for the use of special wiring and switching equipment in the locations in which flammable gases are or may be present in the air in quantities sufficient to produce explosive or ignitable mixtures where these occur in the course of normal operation. In the matter referred to, the traffic control installation in its location relative to the gas main would not require such special equipment."

#### PRO RATA LONG SERVICE LEAVE FOR MARRIED WOMEN TEACHERS

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

Will he consider allowing married women teachers, who are forced to resign owing to the transfers of their husbands, the same long service *pro rata* pay privileges as are now given to female teachers resigning to be married?

*Answer:—*

"It is not proposed to extend to female married officers a special consideration which does not apply to single female officers who resign for reasons other than to be married."

#### FORESTRY MILL STUDY SURVEY, DUNKELD AREA

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

Has the mill study survey been carried out in the Dunkeld area? If so, what

was the result of the survey and was the timber survey carried out on accepted conventional lines?

*Answer:—*

"The Mill Study has been completed at local level but has not yet been finally considered by the Conservator of Forests as a preliminary to discussions with me. At the earliest opportunity I will advise the Honourable Member by letter of the outcome thereof."

#### INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC

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

(1) What was the number of reported influenza cases during the recent epidemic in Queensland to date or at the latest date for which figures are available?

(2) How many deaths were recorded as (a) directly caused by influenza and (b) indirectly caused or attributed to complications arising from influenza?

(3) Do figures disclose any particular age group who have succumbed or were more susceptible to the effects of the epidemic?

(4) Are new steps to be taken by his Department to investigate the incidence of sufferers who had received anti-influenza injections and whether vaccinations have proved effective preventatives for the influenza viruses?

Mr. R. JONES: I would rather get the answer here than read it in "The Courier-Mail".

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member will not get the answer at all if he continues to interrupt.

*Answers:—*

(1) "As influenza is not a notifiable disease no figures are available."

(2) "The Commonwealth Statistician has advised that no figures are yet available for this period."

(3) "Whilst no official figures are yet available, reports from hospitals suggest that elderly people, particularly those with underlying heart or kidney complaints, appear to have been the most susceptible."

(4) "Available information is being collected."

#### COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY INTO TEACHER EDUCATION

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

With reference to the special committee appointed on April 24, 1967, to review teacher education, has he received the report and, if not, when does he expect to receive it?

*Answer:—*

"A report has not yet been received. The Committee is at present considering the first draft of the report."

ENROLMENT OF STUDENT TEACHERS,  
DARLING DOWNS INSTITUTE OF  
TECHNOLOGY

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

When is it anticipated that the first students will be enrolled in the proposed teacher education facilities at the Queensland Institute of Technology, Darling Downs?

*Answer:—*

"In accordance with present plans it is expected that the first students will be enrolled in 1972."

RAIL FREIGHT CONCESSIONS ON  
EXPORT SORGHUM

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

(1) What are the details of freight concessions granted by the New South Wales Government Railways on export sorghum?

(2) Has his Department been requested by Queensland growers to grant concessions on export sorghum, which would be of great assistance in view of adverse seasonal conditions and what decisions have been made?

*Answers:—*

(1) "Details are not known."

(2) "A request has been received from Downs Irrigation Co-operative Association for a concession. There was a reduction on sorghum freight as from November 1, 1968, varying from 8% to 9%. Any further consideration of grain freight rates will be examined by Beckingsale Management Services Pty. Ltd., the Consultants currently engaged on a review of freight rates."

HOUSING ACCOMMODATION,  
THURSDAY ISLAND

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

(1) Is he aware that a number of islanders have been required to move from temporary dwellings because of dam construction at Thursday Island and that there is no alternative accommodation of any standard available?

(2) Is he aware that married teachers cannot remain on the island as there is no accommodation for them?

(3) Is he aware of the position of Mrs. D. Perkins, who is required to leave a Cairns Regional Electricity Board

house following the death of her husband and who is still unable to find even appalling accommodation after searching for four months?

(4) Is he aware of the great number of sub-standard houses, humpies and hovels in which people are forced to live on Thursday Island?

(5) Is he aware that until recently no application forms for State Housing Commission homes were available?

(6) Will he initiate an immediate inquiry to ascertain the housing needs on Thursday Island and ensure that the required building work proceeds promptly?

*Answers:—*

(1 and 2) "No. I suggest that these enquiries be directed to the appropriate Ministers."

(3) "This has not been brought to my notice or to that of The Queensland Housing Commission."

(4 and 6) "I will arrange for a special report to be obtained in respect of these matters."

(5) "Leaflets of information on Commission home ownership schemes have been forwarded to Thursday Island on several occasions including in 1968."

OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL, MAREEBA

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

(1) When will the Opportunity School or classes commence at Mareeba?

(2) What work has been carried out on the buildings which will be used?

*Answer:—*

"It is expected that the opportunity classes at Mareeba will open sometime in third term. The exact date of opening will depend firstly on the completion of the work of the remodelling at Mareeba and secondly on the carrying out of a survey to determine entrants for the classes. The remodelling is expected to be completed in the near future and I understand that the painting was commenced on Friday, July 17."

PRIVILEGE

ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr. R. JONES (Cairns) (11.59 a.m.): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order No. 115 on a matter of privilege. Yesterday I gave notice of a question relative to the flu epidemic in Queensland. It appears that Parliament is being bypassed. I read a more comprehensive reply to my question in "The Courier-Mail" this morning under the heading "Flu is fading away" than the one I received from the Minister for Health. I may be labouring under a misconception, but I feel it is only ethical that when

members ask questions in this House they should have the reply given in the House, not through the medium of the Press.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! There is no question of privilege.

#### SITTING DAYS

**Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN** (Barambah—Premier): I move—

"That, unless otherwise ordered, the House will meet for the dispatch of business at 11 o'clock a.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in each week, and that on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and after 1 o'clock p.m. on Thursdays, Government business shall take precedence of all other business."

Motion agreed to.

#### SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

##### TEMPORARY CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY AND WAYS AND MEANS

##### APPROPRIATION BILL No. 1

**Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN** (Barambah—Premier): I move—

"That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would otherwise prevent the constitution of Committees of Supply and Ways and Means, the receiving of Resolutions on the same day as they shall have passed in those Committees, and the passing of an Appropriation Bill through all its stages in one day."

Motion agreed to.

#### MINISTERIAL EXPENSES

##### ORDER FOR RETURN

**Mr. V. E. JONES** (Callide): 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, 1969, to 30 June, 1970, inclusive, showing each separately and in detail."

Motion agreed to.

#### OVERTIME PAID IN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

##### ORDER FOR RETURN

**Mr. AHERN** (Landsborough): I move—

"That there be laid upon the table of the House a return showing the amount of overtime paid in each Government department (all funds) in 1969-70."

Motion agreed to.

#### GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

##### ORDER FOR RETURN

**Mr. R. JONES** (Cairns): I move—

"That there be laid upon the table of the House a return, in the usual form, showing the number of Government

employees at 30 June, 1969 and 1970 (all departments), paid from Consolidated Revenue, Trust Fund, and Loan Fund, respectively."

Motion agreed to.

#### FEES PAID BY CROWN TO BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

##### ORDER FOR RETURN

**Mr. W. D. HEWITT** (Chatsworth): 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 1969-70 financial year, stating the names of the recipients and the amounts received, respectively."

Motion agreed to.

**DEATHS OF MR. E. P. DECKER, MR. W. M. GUNN, MR. J. J. O'C. HEALY, MR. L. W. LUCKINS AND DR. C. V. WATSON BROWN.**

##### MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

**Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN** (Barambah—Premier) (12.3 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

"1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this State by the late Eric Paul Decker, Esq., William Morrison Gunn, Esq., John Joseph O'Connor Healy, Esq., Louis Wells Luckins, Esq., and Dr. Charles Victor Watson Brown, former members of the Parliament of Queensland.

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

The late William Morrison Gunn was well and favourably known to many hon. members on both sides of this House. He entered the Queensland Parliament as the representative of Wynnum on 15 April, 1944, and sat continuously for 22 years until his retirement in 1966.

The late gentleman spent most of his youth in Gympie and later moved to Laidley, at which centre he enlisted in the 1st A.I.F. and served in Gallipoli and Palestine. He took up permanent residence at Wynnum some little time after his return from active service and was prominently associated with a number of public and sporting organisations over very many years. Noteworthy among these activities was his continued interest in the Wynnum Ambulance Centre as a committee member. He will be remembered by me and by many others here as a very kindly, friendly man, who performed his parliamentary duties conscientiously and

held the respect of all with whom he made acquaintance, including many who did not share his political views.

The parliamentary career of Charles Victor Watson Brown was unusually brief, extending over the last 22 months of the 28th Parliament. He was returned as an Independent candidate for the electoral district of Gregory on 27 May, 1939, at a by-election necessitated by the death of the previous member.

Short though it was, his time in the Legislative Assembly was enlivened by his eagerness to catch Mr. Speaker's eye during debates on a variety of issues. He brought to Parliament a western philosophy as seen through the eyes of a medical practitioner whose professional franchise encompassed hundreds of square miles when sealed roads were anything but numerous and the automobile had its limitations.

In the West he earned the reputation of a country doctor who combined humanitarian work with the busy routine of healing the sick in all weathers. During the early years of the Royal Flying Doctor Service he was always available with advice and personal service when such assistance was needed.

The late Louis Wells Luckins was elected to the 29th Queensland Parliament at the general election in 1941 as the representative of Maree, and served continuously through the terms of that and the three succeeding Parliaments. At the general election of 1950 the name of the electorate was changed to Norman.

The late gentleman came to this Chamber with a sound knowledge of public administration which he had acquired during a total period of nine years in local government. From 1928 to 1931, and again from 1935 to 1941, he represented the eastside ward of Maree on the Brisbane City Council. He was chairman of the Transport Committee of that authority at a time when the council bus fleet was being built up to supplement the existing tramway system, which was then feeling the stress and strain of war.

He severed his association with municipal affairs soon after his election to the Legislative Assembly in order to give undivided attention to his parliamentary duties. This he did conscientiously in the interests of his constituents, both by his regular attendance and his contributions to the debates. He was a man whom the Treasurer and I held in high regard and came to appreciate from the time we entered Parliament in 1947.

Reference to the late Eric Paul Decker must bear an extra tinge of sadness because of his death by misadventure only a few weeks ago.

Like the late Mr. L. W. Luckins, he graduated to Parliament from local government. By a strange coincidence, their terms of service in this House were identical—from 29 May, 1941, to 6 March, 1953, extending

over the 29th, 30th, 31st and 32nd Parliaments. For a time, they also sat simultaneously on the Brisbane City Council.

Eric Decker was a member of a versatile sporting family which has conducted a successful real estate business in Sandgate and Redcliffe for very many years.

After his return from active service in World War I, he became prominent in community activities. He was elected to the Brisbane City Council in 1930 as the representative of Sandgate and remained an alderman until his resignation in 1942, shortly after his election to the Legislative Assembly, also as representative for Sandgate. In 1939 and 1940 he was chairman of the council's Works Committee and a member of its Establishment and Co-ordination Committee. He, too, was a man whom I came to know in this Parliament and to respect and hold in high regard in my early years of parliamentary service.

The late John Joseph O'Connor Healy, who died only four days ago, represented the electoral district of Warwick from 5 May, 1935, to 2 May, 1947, serving continuously through the 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th Parliaments.

The late gentleman had left politics before all but one of the hon. members constituting this Parliament had arrived, but it is on record that he was his party's choice as secretary, a task usually earned by constant attention to parliamentary business.

After his departure he joined the Public Service, and from 1950 to 1956 he was private secretary to the late Mr. Paul Hilton, who was Minister for Works in the Government of that time. He later was clerk in charge of records in the Department of the Valuer-General till his retirement in 1962. He therefore gave long years of service to the State in different spheres.

It is fitting that the House should record its appreciation of the service rendered to the people of Queensland by the five gentlemen named in the motion.

**MR. HOUSTON** (Bulimba—Leader of the Opposition) (12.11 p.m.): Naturally, I join with the Premier by seconding the motion, and I endorse what he has said about these former hon. members and their service both inside and outside this House. It is quite true, as the Premier said, that the great majority of us here today did not serve in Parliament with any of these gentlemen.

Many of us, of course, served with the late Bill Gunn. I had a very happy association with him for quite a number of years in this House, and, although history records that in the latter period of his service he did not make a number of speeches, I know from first-hand experience how many of us, as new members, were helped by him with advice and information on various matters. As the Premier said, he was particularly concerned with the welfare of Wynnum and its people, and the welfare of the fishing

industry. I feel that there have been few men in this Parliament who had greater knowledge and understanding than he had of the fishing industry and those associated with it.

It is also to be greatly regretted that a man should lose his life under circumstances so unfortunate as those that caused the death of Mr. Decker. When a person has given many years of service to the community and is apparently in good health, his sudden death comes as quite a shock to those associated with him.

The other gentlemen named in the motion all served long periods in this House, and, in addition, some of them had the added experience of local-authority service. Together, of course, they gave much of their time and energies to the service of their people.

I join with the Premier in extending to the families of the deceased gentlemen, and others who were associated with them, our sympathy. Their relatives and friends can carry on in the knowledge that all of them were very highly respected by those with whom they came in contact, and certainly were very highly respected by those who had some association with them in this Parliament.

**Hon. G. W. W. CHALK** (Lockyer—Treasurer) (12.14 p.m.): I rise to associate members of the Liberal Party, and also myself personally, with the motion of condolence that has been moved by the Premier and seconded by the Leader of the Opposition. It is indeed unfortunate that on each occasion on which Parliament assembles we have to place on record the death of a member of Parliament or of men who have served previously as members of Parliament. It is an indication of the number of men and women who have served their country in this Chamber.

This morning we are paying our respects to five men who served the people of this State and who, possibly with one exception, spent what I believe might be described as an average term, or a little longer than an average term, in this Assembly. Dr. Watson Brown was here for only a short period, but all of us realise the service that he gave to the community.

The late William Gunn was a member of this Assembly when I entered it. Although on many matters his political viewpoints and mine did not synchronise, I believe that he was a very sincere member, one who did what he could for the people whom he represented and for the community as a whole.

The late Eric Decker was also a member of this Assembly when I entered it. He gave me considerable help and taught me the value of adhering to routine. Although he may not have entered fiercely into debate, he believed sincerely that there were certain

rules within this Chamber that should be obeyed, and his advice was very helpful to me.

Perhaps it may not be remembered by many people that when an increase in the salary of members of Parliament was proposed, Mr. Decker was one of those who voted against it. Not only did he vote against it; over the next few years he did not accept the increased salary. As I recall, he was the first member who voted against the salary Bill who was defeated—an indication that some people are not appreciative of the things that an hon. member does.

The late Lou. Luckins was a man of a different character. He was happy-go-lucky, and he held a seat that was somewhat doubtful from the point of view of those of us on this side of the Chamber. He was a man who would help anyone, and I believe it was because of his character and the way in which he went about his parliamentary duties that he remained in this Chamber for the period that he did. He would never say no to a request, and I know that he gave a considerable amount from his own pocket to help people living in the area that he represented in this Chamber.

The late John Healy left this Chamber at the time that I entered it. In fact, although possibly he never realised it, he was the reason why I became a member of this Assembly. He was also the reason why I changed my political affiliation from the Country Party to the Queensland People's Party and later to the Liberal Party. In 1944 the Queensland People's Party contested the Warwick seat unsuccessfully against Mr. Healy. In 1947, three years later, the same political party desired to contest the Warwick seat. However, because of arrangements that are made between political organisations, it was agreed that the Queensland People's Party would move out of Warwick and allow the Country Party, which believed that it had a man, in the person of the late Otto Madsen, who could win the seat against the late John Healy. Consequently Otto Madsen stood for, and won, the Warwick seat and, because of that, the seat of East Toowoomba was transferred to the Queensland People's Party by arrangement between the Country Party and the Q.P.P.

At that time I was a member of the Country Party. Because some people associated with industry and interested in industrial development believed that I had a chance of winning the seat for the Queensland People's Party, I was induced to change over to the other arm of the non-socialist parties and I contested the seat of East Toowoomba on that basis. It is in that connection that I always think of the late John Healy. I later knew him as secretary to the late Paul Hilton, and also as a public servant.

To the relatives of all of these members who have passed on, we express our deepest sympathy. I believe that the carrying out



of the duties of a member of Parliament has a very great bearing on the life of his family, and I think it is only right and proper that we should pass on to those who are bereaved the condolences of this House. I thus associate myself with the motion.

**Mr. DEAN** (Sandgate) (12.21 p.m.): I wish to associate myself with the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Premier on this sad occasion. I knew all of the deceased gentlemen very well indeed. Out of the five of them, two in particular were extremely well known to me in associations elsewhere than in this Chamber. I refer particularly to the late Mr. Gunn and the late Mr. Decker.

I knew Mr. Gunn, as I said, in other places and I always found him to be a man of high honour and integrity in his daily life and in his citizenship generally, and I think it is only right and proper on occasions such as this that we should place our feelings of sympathy on record.

I knew the late Mr. Decker for virtually the whole of my lifetime in the Sandgate electorate, which now extends over almost 40 years. He came from an historic family in the Sandgate electorate. Even now there is a large and well-established real estate business in Sandgate and on the Redcliffe Peninsula bearing the Decker name.

I always thought that Mr. Decker, because of his humane outlook and the way in which he extended the hand of friendship and help to many people in my electorate during the depression years, would have made an excellent member of the Labour Party.

His family is held in high regard in the Sandgate area and on the Redcliffe Peninsula, and I am sure they will maintain the honourable name that the late Eric Decker established. His father before him was also well known in the electorate and, I believe, in other parts of Queensland.

The way in which the late gentleman met his death was, as has been mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition, a tragic happening. But Mr. Decker loved the sea, and I suppose that if one could wish one's end to occur in a particular manner this perhaps would have been his wish. The sea claimed his whole attention and he lived his entire life close to it. He lived on Flinders Parade, from where daily he could view the waters of Moreton Bay.

It is with a feeling of sadness that I associate myself with this motion of condolence to the relatives of these five deceased gentlemen.

**Mr. CORY** (Warwick) (12.24 p.m.): I wish to be associated with this motion of condolence and to support the expressions of sympathy to the families of the deceased members referred to in it. Many of us had the privilege of being in this House with the

late Mr. Gunn, but I wish to refer particularly to the late Jack Healy, who was member for Warwick from 1935 to 1947. Throughout his life Jack Healy was sincere, dedicated to whatever cause he believed in, and to this day this is accepted in Warwick and the Warwick electorate. He was held in high personal regard by many people, and it is commonly felt that he was close to Ministerial rank when he left Parliament. He leaves behind a host of friends in many areas. Although it is 22 years since Mr. and Mrs. Healy left Warwick, the mention of their name still evokes many favourable comments. The district has not forgotten the type of service that Jack Healy gave.

On behalf of the people in the Warwick electorate and myself may I take this opportunity of offering sincere sympathy to Mrs. Healy and her family in their bereavement.

**Mr. HARRIS** (Wynnum) (12.26 p.m.): I wish to associate myself with the remarks of the Premier and Deputy Premier in this motion of condolence, and particularly their references to the late William Morrison Gunn. You will appreciate, Mr. Speaker, that being Bill Gunn's successor I would be able to speak for some considerable time about what he had done not only in this House but also throughout the Wynnum electorate and the surrounding districts.

Bill Gunn was not a flamboyant type, and he would not be regarded as an orator, but I think the Deputy Premier summed him up pretty well when he said, "Bill Gunn was sincere in his actions." I think that his tribute reflects the feelings of most of the associates of Bill Gunn.

It has been mentioned that he was a member of the First A.I.F. and served on Gallipoli. If hon. members had visited him in his last months they would have seen and realised just what toll the war had exacted from Bill Gunn.

On behalf of the people of the Wynnum electorate I point out that Bill Gunn went out of his way to help many people not only verbally but also financially. As some of the older hon. members know, when Bill Gunn came into this House he was the local grocer at Wynnum. At that time Wynnum was considered to be more or less an industrial and working-class area and employment was not secure. Bill Gunn is reputed to have kept a great many of the homes in groceries, thereby putting himself into the financial position that he was in before he entered Parliament. No one knows exactly how much Bill Gunn gave away in his time.

The Leader of the Opposition has said that he was closely associated with Bill Gunn for many years and that Bill Gunn had rendered him and many other members of the Australian Labour Party, including me, very good and sound advice on many occasions. But Bill Gunn did not stop there; he was prepared to help anyone irrespective of that person's political views.

On behalf of the electors in the Wynnum district and of the people generally, I heartily endorse and support the motion of condolence to the family of the late William Morrison Gunn.

Mr. BROMLEY (Norman) (12.29 p.m.): I wish to be associated with the motion of condolence that has been moved by the Premier and seconded by the Leader of the Opposition because I knew three of the gentlemen who have passed away. Individual members have referred to those gentlemen whom they knew personally in their own electorates and in this Parliament, and I should like to pay my respects to the relatives of Bill Gunn, Eric Decker and, of course, Lou Luckins. I have already done so personally, but I associate myself with this motion in this Parliament.

Lou Luckins was a very well-respected member of Parliament when he represented Maree. It is good to know that the name "Maree" is still retained for a subdivision of the Federal Division of Griffith, and to all intents and purposes the name of Lou Luckins is still identified with that area. As the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition said, the sorrowful fact is that we in this Parliament are regularly called on to pay respect to those who have died, and extend our condolences to their families.

Last night when I was looking through my records I noticed with regret the number of members of Parliament who have died over the years. To my mind it seems—and it probably seems to many members of this House—that the cause of their passing in such a short time after leaving this House is their conscientious and close attention to the needs of their electorates, the people they represent, and the State of Queensland. I believe that all members of Parliament do their utmost to help develop the State and help the people they represent.

I wish to be associated with the remarks of other members, but for the reasons I have outlined I express regret at the frequency of such motions.

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

#### PAPERS

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

##### Reports—

Report on the Grounding of the Oil Tanker "Oceanic Grandeur" in the Torres Strait on March 3, 1970, and the subsequent removal of oil from the waters.

"Oceanic Grandeur" Report—Action Statement.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

##### Proclamations under—

The Sugar Acquisition Act of 1915.

Local Government Act 1936–1969.

##### Orders in Council under—

Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966–1970.

The Fauna Conservation Act of 1952.

The Fisheries Acts, 1952 to 1962.

The Fish Supply Management Act of 1965.

Meat Industry Act 1965–1969.

The Milk Supply Acts, 1952 to 1961.

The Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Acts, 1926 to 1966.

The Regulation of Sugar Cane Prices Acts, 1962 to 1966.

The Stock Acts, 1915 to 1965.

The Sugar Experiment Stations Acts, 1900 to 1965.

The Wheat Pool Acts, 1920 to 1957.

City of Brisbane Act 1924–1969.

The City of Brisbane Acts, 1924 to 1954.

The City of Brisbane Acts, 1924 to 1967.

##### Regulations under—

The Fish Supply Management Act of 1965.

The Fruit Marketing Organisation Acts, 1923 to 1964.

Meat Industry Act 1965–1969.

The Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Acts, 1926 to 1966.

The Stock Acts, 1915 to 1965.

Wheat Delivery Quotas Act 1970.

Traffic Act 1949–1969.

The State Transport Acts, 1960 to 1965.

Local Government Act 1936–1969.

By-laws Nos. 990 and 991 under The Railways Acts, 1914 to 1965.

Rule under the Local Government Act 1936–1969.

Ordinance under the City of Brisbane Act 1924–1969.

#### FORM OF QUESTION

Mr. BENNETT (South Brisbane) having given notice of three questions—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member's last question appears to seek an expression of opinion. It is not a matter for which the Premier is responsible.

Mr. BENNETT: The Premier gave many opinions in his answer this morning. He admitted that himself, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I can assure the hon. member that the question will be edited. For one thing, it is too lengthy, and secondly, it seeks an expression of opinion. I will allow the hon. member to complete it provided it is not too long, as other hon. members are desirous of giving notice of questions.

Honourable members continuing to give notice of questions—

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! Any remaining questions may be presented to the Clerk to obviate the necessity of breaking into the after-lunch proceedings.

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

#### GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I have to report that His Excellency the Governor, on Tuesday, 21 July, delivered to Parliament an Opening Speech of which, for greater accuracy, I have obtained a copy. I presume hon. members will take the Speech as read?

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY

**Mr. HEATLEY (Albert)** (2.16 p.m.), who was received with Government "Hear, hears!", said: I move—

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

'May it please Your Excellency,—

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

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

I noticed during the Governor's Opening Speech that he referred on several occasions to the words "planning" and "development". To be quite honest I have always been intrigued about who initiates over-all, organised development, particularly State development. I know that suggestions come from members of this House, private citizens and members of various Government departments. They are handed to the respective departments and eventually are submitted to the Co-ordinator-General for implementation. But I consider this to be more or less sectional development rather than over-all development. I pay no disrespect to the Co-ordinator-General, Mr. Charles Barton, under whom I served for several years in the Army before he was taken prisoner. I know his enormous capacity for work and his great planning ability apart from his engineering skill.

We have departments that look after their respective problems such as Main Roads, Local Government, and so on, which all affect the entire State. However, I suggest that the State should be divided progressively into regions for consideration of future development. At the moment I am not prepared to say whether these regions should be defined on geographic or demographic lines. These are usually coincidental. In some respects we already have regional planning. For instance, industry is divided into regions, and recently all members received notice of seminars on industrial bureaus. We have regional education, regional transport—as evidenced by the recently presented Wilbur Smith report—and regional electricity boards, but in my opinion they are not sufficient for entire, complete, State developmental requirements.

I do not propose that local authorities should be deprived of any of their authority, although I suggest in passing that the time has come for considering the establishment of a boundaries commission. I think it is long overdue. Considering that we have 130 local authority areas in the State, how long they have been there, and the changes in the various areas and populations within them, there is a valid reason for a review of their duties and responsibilities. I do not propose that they should be the planning authorities to which I refer.

As you are well aware, Mr. Speaker, I am far from being the first to make such a suggestion. There are many eminent authorities—some State, some Federal—who have commented on this subject, and some of their comments are worthy of mention today.

I refer, first, to Professor Hughes, head of the University of Queensland Government Department who, at a recent seminar, said that only by involving the whole community in the process of planning can these interests get proper consideration. He also said that, after all, it was the community who would have to remedy any mistakes.

The editorial in "The Australian" of 11 October, 1967, is quite important in view of what has happened in this House in the past. In that editorial, there appears the following—

"Apart from its common sense, the most encouraging thing about the Town and Country Planning Board's report is the Minister for Local Government's assurance that it will not be pigeon-holed as another thoughtful, but impractical, answer to urban chaos."

Mr. Colin Clark, who is well known to us all, asks in a headline, "What cities does Australia need?" He was looking at it on a Commonwealth basis whereas I am, at this stage, referring to it on a State basis.

He said,

"One of the most urgent of all present-day problems is the planning of our cities; not only their internal planning, but also decision as to how many cities we want, and what size, and in what places."

Mr Slaughter, again well known to us all, gives his views on what is necessary for development, and suggests, in a round-about way, that regional development is the solution.

Another very prominent man, Professor Greenwood, a geography professor at the University of Queensland, in one of his articles, when speaking on development and saying that bigger centres grow at the expense of small towns, said that the major regional centres, such as Toowoomba and so on, are growing but laid down no regions at that stage.

I mention those things to prove that a great deal of thought has been and is being given to this matter by very prominent and capable men—and I do not place myself in that category. Sir Francis Nicklin mentioned these things in the House some years ago.

A major point arising from those statements is the fact that development concerns people, and, as Professor Hughes said, it is the people and the community who rectify the mistakes. Many of these mistakes and possible hardships can be avoided by the introduction of regional development.

I feel qualified to speak on this subject partly because of my experience in the electorate which I represent, and what has happened and is happening there. Development on the Gold Coast has been ad hoc to a great extent. The Gold Coast City Council deserves full credit for being the first local authority that I know of in Australia to employ development consultants who are experts in this field to bring out, firstly, a strategic plan, which has been followed by an action plan.

These planners, by name Clark, Gazzard and Partners, have spent a great deal of time visiting various branches and departments in Brisbane, and they have received nothing but courtesy and assistance from all departments to which they have had to refer. However, I think that much wasting of time could have been avoided if there had been a central regional development authority or office. Clark, Gazzard and Partners have recently been successful, against world-wide tenders, in obtaining the assignment to complete the town planning of Sydney. They are therefore seen to be a firm of world standard. I think that some of their comments apply equally to what I am speaking about here today. Their first comment on research, planning and implementation is this—

"An effective research, planning and development is a continuous and flexible process. It proceeds through repeated

cycles of investigation, decision, action, and feedback of new or revised information; . . .

"This is, particularly, the case in the evolution of Town-Planning Schemes and the gradual extension of Development Control by Local Government Authorities. Such authorities can only gradually extend their abilities to carry out research, to preplan and control private development or to finance public improvements."

I think this could be accelerated if there were in existence a body such as a regional planning authority. The concept, I think, spells it out quite clearly as a continuous evolving and strategic plan.

They go on to say—

"The basic policy document from which all other policies, plans and programmes are derived must be one which illustrates the desired broad future pattern of land uses, major transportation routes, central places, open spaces and major public utilities.

"Such a document may be called an 'Outline Plan' or a 'Strategic Plan.'"

Personally, I would be more inclined to refer to it as a "policy plan".

It must be realised that the Gold Coast generally grew "like Topsy". For a long period its population was static, and then it became quite explosive. Today its population growth rate is second only to that of Canberra. Main roads have expanded rapidly, and we hope that further expansion is well in hand, particularly in this region.

One field in which there is a lack of regional planning, which I feel I must explain in detail, is that which concerns the Southport General Hospital. Certainly population growth can be blamed to a certain extent, but not entirely. When one looks at figures showing the comparative positions throughout Queensland, it is quite obvious that regional development is extremely necessary. I have referred to the population growth rate, but I repeat that it is not responsible for today's situation. I shall quote definite and confirmed figures.

Expenditure in Queensland on hospitals is \$24 per resident. On the Gold Coast, the expenditure is \$8.50 per resident. Beds provided in Queensland number eight per thousand residents. On the Gold Coast the figure is 2.3 per thousand residents. Of those beds, 59 are designated as public. That represents one per thousand residents, compared with seven per thousand for Queensland overall. The United Kingdom Ministry of Health estimates about 3½ to 4 acute beds per thousand residents. The daily average occupied beds, for those who like to argue on figures, is 63 per cent. in Queensland; the Gold Coast has an average of 80 per cent. occupancy.

As an interpretation of these figures, I point out that the Gold Coast receives one-third of the current expenditure expected on a Queensland-wide basis, one-quarter of the beds expected in comparison with Queensland figures, and, even if one accepts that Queensland is relatively over-provided with beds, the Gold Coast still has only half the number recognised by the United Kingdom estimate. That is the situation which I put down as being caused by a lack of regional development.

Another major question associated with regional development is conservation. I think it is obvious that with regional planning provision could be made for belts of land that would probably come under the bulldozer, if it went on an ad-hoc basis, to be reserved, as has been done, as I mentioned, by the planners in Southport. Planning would ensure that these areas were inspected and studied very closely, and when sound reasons became obvious land could be put aside as Crown-reserve land.

In the field of conservation, the lack of regional planning rears its ugly head once more in my own electorate when one considers the damage that could have been avoided in marine and bird ecology had regional planning been in existence for some time. Also, I think that an agricultural experimental station could have been established in the hinterland close to Southport had we had regional planning similar to that mentioned in the Opening Speech of His Excellency the Governor.

I mentioned earlier the importance of people, and I return to that subject. The major purpose in development is the improvement of environment for the population, and in this respect I would say that if we had regional plans that could be viewed by the citizens from time to time, many hardships could be avoided. Things such as resumptions and the introduction of industry into what previously had been domestic areas could easily be avoided in the future. A host of subjects could be mentioned in this field, but, to mention just a few that are not normally confined to departments, I mention population trends, waste disposal, and one that is seldom discussed but which will become of great importance in Australia, and particularly in Queensland, in the near future. I refer to desalination.

The hon. member for Mt. Coot-tha, Mr. Lickiss, mentioned the subject of regional planning in this House in 1968 when he spoke of the requirement for a statutory body to handle the development of the Roma Street site. Such a body would, I think, be consequential on a policy body such as I have suggested. The hon. member for Mt. Coot-tha has been plugging his suggestion in this House since 1963, and that supports my contention relative to the vital necessity for this concept to be not only accepted, as it has been, as Government policy but also implemented as a matter of urgency.

Finally, I know that finance will control all with regard to development. However, I would suggest a special body within the Co-ordinator-General's Department, working under his charter, with a staff of qualified persons who, if necessary, would call in outside or private consultants as has been done in recent surveys. I think if this were adopted even the Treasurer could be assisted.

Finally, it has already been said in substance in this House—and I say it emphatically again—that Queensland cannot afford the luxury of unco-ordinated planning. The answer to this, of course, is a concept of town and regional planning based on co-operation with the local authorities and not in any way opposed to them.

**Mr. BIRD** (Burdekin) (2.36 p.m.): It is with great pleasure that I rise to second the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply at the opening of this second session of the 39th Parliament of Queensland, which was so capably moved by my colleague the hon. member for Albert. I deem it an honour to me and to the electorate of Burdekin that I have been selected to perform this duty.

I should like to congratulate His Excellency the Governor on the manner in which he delivered his Address, which demonstrated his close and continued interest in the welfare of the people of Queensland and the progress and development of this State. I extend to His Excellency and also to the throne and to the person of our Most Gracious Sovereign, Queen Elizabeth II, an assurance of my continued loyalty and the continued loyalty of the constituents of the electorate of Burdekin.

I also tender congratulations to the Premier, Hon. J. Bjelke-Petersen, to the Treasurer, Hon. G. W. W. Chalk, to you, Mr. Speaker, and to Cabinet Ministers of this Government on the manner in which they administered their high offices and portfolios during the past year.

My thanks go to my parliamentary colleagues for their kind assistance and advice during my first year in this Parliament. I also wish to express gratitude to my branch and electorate council members, to the past and present shire chairmen and the councillors of the Ayr Shire Council, to the Shire Clerk, Mr. Venables, and his staff, to the members and staff of the cane-growers' organisations in Ayr, to the Burdekin Development Council, to the North Burdekin Water Board, to the Burdekin dam committee, to the editors and publishers of the newspapers that are published and distributed throughout my electorate, to all organisations too numerous to mention here today and to the people of my electorate for the assistance rendered to me by them.

Changes and plans foreshadowed for introduction in the forthcoming year reveal that the Government will continue to streamline the activities of many departments and

that the State will continue to develop at a rapid rate. I should like to pay particular attention to a few of these. The setting up of the Board of Advanced Education and the Board of Teacher Education giving every college a council responsible for the development, control and management of its affairs, shows but a portion of the forward thinking of this Government. Continuation of the revision of the primary school curriculum with the new social studies syllabus is to be commended, whilst the fact that particular attention will be given to primary school libraries—a long-felt need, we will all agree—and the further implementation of improvements in school design are welcome news.

Improvements to existing Government buildings, and the construction of new ones, together with an accelerated programme of urban road development, gauge the continuing growth in importance of our capital city. I trust though that they will not detract from the need for similar works in our provincial cities, towns and rural areas.

I note also with interest that negotiations are proceeding with companies interested in the further coal-field and other industrial development in Central, Northern and Western Queensland. The people of North Queensland welcome the news of the development of the Greenvale nickel complex, whilst the recent announcement that a major industrial complex based on oil shale will be established at Julia Creek should help greatly to revive the prosperity of that town and increase its population.

Some additional prominence will be afforded Mourilyan. Like Deception Bay it will have a new marine research centre. The establishment of these centres at a time when the expansion of research on Barrier Reef conservation and fisheries utilisation is required is further evidence of the forward planning of this Government. Other schemes being implemented or expanded by the Government, as outlined by His Excellency in his Speech—the increased planting of softwood, the further development of cattle-fattening and agricultural areas and the subdivision of Crown land to provide allotments for residential, business and industrial purposes—will ensure the continued progress of this State.

The decision recently announced by the Premier to establish an environmental control council is again one that we can applaud. The need for such an authority has been clearly established. We see growing indications throughout the world that man, if allowed to proceed unchecked, as he has been in the past, will create an environment in which he will be unable to survive. Increases in industrial activity, particularly in close proximity to the cities, has resulted in excessive pollution of rivers and streams and in the

pollution of the air by factory and exhaust fumes. Many once beautiful scenic spots have been destroyed by man's thoughtless urge to expand and develop regardless of the consequences that development may have on his future well-being. Throughout the world people are only now starting to realise that, if mankind is to survive, pollution of the air, water and soil must be halted.

**Mr. Houston:** The Labour Party has been telling you that for 10 years.

**Mr. BIRD:** But it did nothing. If we are to enjoy our leisure hours we must stop the desecration of our major beauty spots and preserve those that are worthy of preservation before it is too late. In many instances it is already too late. By all means have increased industrial and agricultural activity, whether it be by way of processing factories, mineral or pastoral development, but let it not be at the expense of our health.

Pollution is not confined only to our air, water and soil. As we travel about our continent we see evidence of our increasingly casual attitude towards pollution. Our roadsides and fields are littered with unwanted waste. Bottles, cans, papers, and all other rubbish, detract from the natural beauty of the whole countryside to such an extent that sometimes we wonder whether we live in one huge rubbish dump. For this we have only ourselves to blame.

With the increase in motor travel we have done nothing to educate our fellow beings in the habit of being tidy. How often do we see adequate receptacles provided at picnic spots for the disposal of unwanted articles that accumulate in the vehicles of motorists? Very seldom. The rubbish is tossed out at the roadside. A move to provide such receptacles was instigated earlier this year by the Junior Chamber of Commerce movement throughout Australia when it adopted as its slogan for 1970, "Don't rubbish Australia." It is directing its efforts to cleaning up our continent and to educating our people to keep it clean.

The project of the Ayr branch of the Jaycees was the construction of three roadside rubbish bins on the Bruce Highway midway between Ayr and Brandon for the convenience of motorists. Designed by the Chamber president, Mr. Freshwater, this project has proved successful beyond all expectations. The popularity of these bins is indicated by the fact that the Ayr Shire Council has to empty them three and sometimes four times a week. This proves that, given the opportunity and conveniences, humans will keep their environs clean. I believe that, in view of the success of this particular venture, bins of a similar type should be installed throughout the State.

Earlier this year the State of Queensland was honoured by a visit by Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh and Her

Royal Highness Princess Anne. The Royal family came to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the discovery of the east coast of this wonderful continent of ours in 1770 by Captain James Cook. Although the tour of Queensland by their Royal Highnesses did not include a visit to my electorate, it took them to a number of widely scattered areas throughout the State, from Brisbane in the south to Cooktown in the north, and as far west as Mount Isa. Their tour included a visit to Townsville, the unofficial capital of North Queensland, which afforded my constituents the opportunity to see and hear them.

I congratulate the people of Townsville and surrounding districts on the warm welcome they tendered to the Royal family and on the magnificent display arranged for their entertainment at the Townsville sports ground. There is no doubt that their Royal Highnesses were heartened by the warmth of the welcome they received throughout their tour of Queensland. We wish Her Majesty a long and glorious reign and trust that she and her family may soon return to honour us with yet another visit.

It is heartbreaking to all that we have entered another year without relief from the serious drought that has gripped the State for the last 12 years. Our sympathies go to all who have been so adversely affected by its continuation. We go forward trusting that it will break soon and that we may see a return to normal seasons. Unfortunately, so many of the people affected by the drought conditions have had thrust upon them the problem of low prices for their commodities, and I refer particularly to the wool-growers.

The Federal and State Governments must continue their efforts to assist the drought-affected primary producers and to find a solution to the problem of low prices and rising costs of production. It was upon these industries that we depended for so long and we cannot lose sight of the fact that we shall continue to lean upon them because we are still essentially a primary industry State.

Although I stated earlier that our State has entered a period of unsurpassed progress and development, we must continue to strive for over-all progress and development. It must not be confined to particular areas or industries. I agree with much of what has been said in this House about progress and development being hampered to some extent in the North and West by the present rail-freight anomalies. I have referred to some of the anomalies that add considerably to the cost of items essential to northern development. I know that this matter is being investigated at the moment, but time is the essence of the contract.

To further hasten northern and western development it is essential that these anomalies be rectified at the earliest possible

opportunity. As it is general knowledge that profits from the northern, western and central divisions of the Railway Department contribute heavily to the record profit of the Queensland Railway system, surely it is high time that some relief and concessions were granted to those areas. I am confident that the Minister for Transport would agree that our railway system is provided to assist in the over-all progress and development of the State, and that it should not be used to develop one section at the expense of another.

Progress and development has continued in my electorate of Burdekin. Although it depends almost entirely on primary industry, having little to offer in the mineral field and by reason of its geographic situation not lending itself to secondary industry, an air of prosperity and optimism pervades the electorate, despite the severe drought conditions that prevail in the Giru, Majors Creek and Woodstock districts. The new International Sugar Agreement has brought a return to stability of prices in the sugar industry, which has resulted in a gross return of \$26,800,000 from the 270,075 tons of 94 n.t. sugar manufactured by the Kalamia, Pioneer and Invicta mills in the 1969 season. A further \$12,500,000 could be added to that figure if one were to add the return for the 125,928 tons of sugar manufactured by the Inkerman mill at Home Hill. And it must be remembered that the International Sugar Agreement was pooh-poohed by the Labour Party in this House not long ago.

A comparatively new industry to the Burdekin, namely, rice-growing, yielded crops to the value of \$500,000 last season, and it is believed that this figure could be increased to \$1,000,000 in the near future.

Maize, grain sorghum, seed beans, and a host of other crops, together with beef, added substantially to the electorate's income, and these avenues of production are showing increases year by year. It is beyond doubt that, given access to markets, the Burdekin could become one of the largest food bowls in Australia.

Improvements throughout the electorate during the past 12 months, for which this Government was responsible, were many and varied. Most have been completed or are nearing completion; others of great importance have been planned or are in the planning stages for commencement in the near future.

One of the more important items on the programme is the establishment of the State's third rural training school, which Cabinet, in its wisdom, has decided to locate in the Lower Burdekin. This school of irrigated agriculture could not be placed in a more ideal part of the State.

As the State continues to be gripped by drought, more emphasis is placed on the value of water conservation and irrigation. There are some who are still of the opinion

that water conservation schemes for irrigation are not economic propositions. One has only to look closely at the record of production in the primary-industry field in the Lower Burdekin to realise how wrong these opinions are. Irrigation is not new to the Burdekin, having been introduced under the present system by the late John Drysdale. Since the introduction of mill peaks in 1927, the Burdekin has never failed to produce its sugar peaks, and this is in an area which would not support a viable sugar industry if it depended on natural rainfall alone.

A few minutes ago I mentioned the wide variety of crops grown in the district, and their value. However, I did not mention the quality of those crops. Their quality is unsurpassed anywhere else in Australia and, in most cases, anywhere else in the world. The area holds the world record for tonnage of sugar cane and sugar produced per acre per year.

Like other small crops, the long-grain blue bonnet rice produced there is equal in quality to that grown anywhere else in the world. Experiments with improved pastures show that the area lends itself readily to this development.

The district is well catered for in the way of research stations. It has the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Station at Brandon, together with the Millaroo, Swan's Lagoon and Ayr Cattle Field Research Stations, covering a wide range of research work ranging from crops, dairy and beef cattle husbandry and animal nutrition to soil research. Also in close proximity are the C.S.I.R.O. establishments in the Townsville area and the Department of Primary Industries, horticultural branch at Bowen.

A wide selection of soil types, ranging from rich delta lands to Oakey and Barratta, and including levee, river flood plains, plains of local alluvium and upland soils, as well as Dalrymple soil types, is growing crops under irrigation. Thus it can be seen easily that the needs of this agricultural school in methods of irrigation, soil types, variety of crops and assistance in research will be well catered for.

Among the improvements in the education field, either completed or soon to be completed, are the new classrooms at the Ayr, Kalamia and Millaroo schools, and a new library at the Ayr high school. At the request of parents the small one-teacher school at Shirebourne will close in August, and the children will be conveyed to the Giru school. The introduction of the high school bus service from Woodstock to Townsville was very welcome, and provided another reason for the popularity of the policy of this Government in bringing higher education within easy reach of all children.

I have been asked to express to this Government the gratitude of head-teachers for its decision to appoint clerk-typists and groundsmen to their schools. They are most appreciative, and we must all agree that this is a great step forward.

Despite these improvements, there are still many urgent requirements for the betterment of education in my electorate. Perhaps the most important is the need for an opportunity school. I understand that the establishment of a school of this type in the Lower Burdekin is high on the list of priorities, and it is sincerely hoped that this Government will have it constructed and staffed in this financial year. A library and an essential administration building for the Ayr State School are also in the planning stages.

I trust that this financial year will see the construction of the long-awaited library at the Mingela State School, and a library and television room at the Ravenswood State School. A library is also required at the East Ayr State School.

Urgent attention must also be given to another section of education. I refer to speech therapy. There is an obvious shortage of trained speech therapists throughout Queensland. However, I have noted that provision is to be made for teachers to be given additional training in speech therapy this year, and I sincerely hope that this will do much to alleviate the problem caused by the shortage of such teachers throughout Queensland. Meanwhile, I believe that every effort should be made to have children who are so afflicted transported, at little or no cost to their parents, to the nearest centres where facilities for speech therapy are available.

I am pleased to be able to report that the new traffic bridge over Sheepstation Creek is almost completed. It has been constructed for the Main Roads Department by the Ayr Shire Council as constructing authority, and it replaces the last of the narrow bridges on the Bruce Highway between Ayr and Townsville. There is now an all-weather road of highway standard from south to north through my electorate. Some resurfacing of this road has yet to be done north of Giru, but the Main Roads Department appears to have this work well in hand. Several long sections have been resurfaced in recent months. I offer my congratulations to the Ayr Shire Council, which, through the knowledge of the shire engineer (Mr. Doug Haigh), the foreman (Mr. Fred Ward), and the other employees, who had not previously carried out any bridge-construction work, has proved that it is quite capable of undertaking the largest of road-making and bridge-construction tasks.

The new traffic bridge across the ana-branch of the Burdekin River linking Jarvisfield and Ayr is another achievement of which the Main Roads Department and the Ayr Shire Council can justly be proud. The



department would be well advised to look to this council when future works are being allocated within the shire.

I trust that the Minister for Mines and Main Roads will now turn his attention, and the attention of the Main Roads Department, to the Ayr-Dalbeg Road. Constructed at the time when the settlements of Clare, Millaroo and Dalbeg were opened for tobacco growing, this road is too narrow for the amount and type of traffic using it now that these areas are growing sugar cane. The Minister will be aware that cane from Dalbeg and Millaroo is hauled in bins by road transport to the tramline terminus at Clare. This traffic, plus the increased traffic that has resulted from the improved prosperity of these areas, creates dangers on the road. It could not have been envisaged, when the road was first constructed, that it would have to carry its present traffic volume. The bridges, of timber construction, are showing signs of rapid deterioration and are constantly in need of repair. No doubt they will be replaced by concrete structures as soon as finances permit.

I mentioned earlier the increased prosperity of these settlements. It might be as well to mention now that crops, including sugar cane, to the value of \$2,500,000 were produced in these three areas in the 1969 season. I remind the House that had it not been for the Government's making the very wise decision to expand the sugar industry, these areas would now be very poverty stricken.

One other road that I should like to see upgraded in the not-too-distant future is the one between Clare and Hillsborough. Improvements to this road would assist the development of the area that it serves.

Some short time ago we had a visit to the Lower Burdekin by an officer from the Department of Primary Industries, and one from the Department of Industrial Development. They were looking into the possibility of constructing a snap-freezing works in the Lower Burdekin, and their investigations included the snap-freezing of mangoes, beans and all the other crops that grow so readily, and of such good quality, in the Burdekin district. I have received one progress report on the result of those investigations, and they are still proceeding. Earlier this year I was invited to one of the shopping centres in Brisbane to taste mangoes that had been stored under refrigeration since last season, and I must say that they were still of first-class quality. A couple of days ago a news item mentioned that mangoes were being imported from South Africa because of a shortage here, so I do not think there is any doubt that a snap-freezing works of the type that we have requested could be constructed in the Burdekin area in the very near future.

It is not my intention to go into great detail today on the necessity for or the benefits that would accrue from the implementation of the Burdekin dam scheme, having spoken at great length on the subject during the Address-in-Reply debate last year.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! There is too much audible conversation on both sides of the Chamber.

**Mr. BIRD:** My address would be incomplete, however, without mention of the need for this and other water conservation schemes on the Burdekin and Haughton Rivers, and particularly, at this time, on the Haughton. My thanks are extended to the Minister for Conservation, Honourable N. T. E. Hewitt, for his visit to the Giru district last month, when we viewed at first hand the plight of the cane-growers and townspeople resulting from there being no flow in the Haughton River for almost three years. As the Minister observed, water supplies in the aquifers have been almost completely exhausted. Loss to cane farmers over this extremely dry period has reached very serious proportions, and this is now added to by the possibility that the town water supply could fail at any moment.

The Thuringowa Shire Council is at present searching for an alternative source of supply for both the town and the Invicta sugar mill. Indications are that they may have to pipe water from the Barrattas to Giru, a distance of some 8 miles, if the town is to survive. I trust that every endeavour will be made by this Government to assist the council with this or any other scheme it may require.

The residents of the district are grateful for the investigations being carried out by the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission and McIntyre and Associates on schemes which it is hoped will guarantee them abundant water supplies in the future. The only hope for immediate relief will, of course, be from good rainfall.

The Minister's announcement that the proposed weir above the traffic bridge is estimated to cost \$750,000 was not particularly good news, especially as it is considered that the second weir, planned for construction below the railway bridge, will also be necessary and could be of equal cost. Nevertheless, I am sure the Minister is aware of their importance if the district is to have an assured water supply and will press for their implementation at an early date.

Some satisfaction was gained from the further information that preliminary investigations indicate that construction of a dam in the vicinity of Mt. Piccaninny may be economically feasible and could store approximately 100,000 acre-feet of water. It could well be that, if further investigations prove that pumping water from the Burdekin River to the Haughton would be too expensive, the building of this dam could be the

salvation of this important community. It is hoped, therefore, that the investigations will continue without delay.

The further statement that this Government has approved the payment of \$100,000 to the Snowy Mountains Authority for the provision of technical aid to the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission for the investigation of a number of dam sites in Central and North-west Queensland in 1970-71 is also heartening news. This is especially so as it will include the reappraisal and recosting of the Burdekin River irrigation, hydro-electric and flood mitigation project.

Although it is not my intention to oppose any of the investigations of possible dam sites on the Upper Burdekin, I trust that they will not retard the continuation of the re-estimate of the Burdekin Falls dam scheme in its entirety, for we consider it to be of urgent necessity. The need for guaranteed supplies for the Delta is evidenced by the continuing decrease in water levels in the aquifers, endangering the future of the farming areas and the town water supplies of Ayr and Home Hill.

Having reassured my constituents that I shall continue to press for the early completion of this reappraisal and re-estimate of costs as the first step towards the implementation of this scheme, I shall be looking forward to, and seeking, frequent progress reports.

Allow me to issue one note of warning. With the construction of each dam on the Bowen-Broken and Burdekin River systems, we can expect a reduction in the water flow available in the Burdekin River at Ayr and Home Hill. I need not remind the House that the cane-growers and millers have, at considerable expense to themselves, installed pumping plants and channels for the artificial replenishment of their underground supplies in the Burdekin Delta.

**Mr. Wallis-Smith:** How about getting on to Giru?

**Mr. BIRD:** I told the hon. member about that. Prior to the implementation of these schemes by the duly constituted North and South Burdekin Water Boards, it was estimated that the amount of replenishment required could be achieved with the capacity of the pumps that were originally installed. This was based on their being able to pump on an average for approximately 220 days each year. Unfortunately, with the succession of abnormally dry years the boards have been able to average only 80 to 100 pumping days a year. This has naturally severely restricted their replenishment programmes and they are now faced with the task of increasing pumping capacity to allow them to pump the required amount of water in these shorter periods of free flow.

Construction of these dams along the river systems will further reduce the periods of free flow during which the pumps can be operated, thus reducing their effectiveness. These

schemes represent a tremendous investment by the growers and millers, and their worth has been proved in the short time they have been in operation. Reduction of their effectiveness must, therefore, not be allowed to occur.

I note that the Minister for Conservation, in his letter dated 1 July, 1970, made reference to allowing for the commitment of unregulated flows of at least 80,000 acre-feet per annum for the recharge of the Burdekin Delta underground supplies. As the implementation of these schemes was a recommendation of this Government, I trust it will give an assurance to these boards that this water will not only be made available, but will also be made available to them free of cost, at least to the extent that it would have been available had the dams not been constructed. Failure to provide water on these conditions would mean the end of these very worthwhile schemes, as any charge for water released for the boards' benefit may make it too costly for replenishment purposes.

I should again like to draw the attention of the Minister for Conservation to my representations on behalf of the landholders of Clare, Millaroo and Dalbeg. In my correspondence to the Minister I stated that these men must have more land. When the area was opened up for tobacco-growing they were given an area considered sufficient to grow tobacco, and at that time that was all right and nobody argued against it; the areas were sufficient. However, with the change over to sugar when these people got assignments, the areas were no longer considered sufficient for assignments for growing sugar-cane. At the time those with an immediate problem were given small additional areas, sometimes many miles away from the land they previously held.

I believe that there will be a further expansion in the sugar industry but, even without it, these people require some additional land for the growing of small crops and for other ventures, such as the growing of rice and other crops. Therefore, I ask the Minister to lend his assistance in having additional land allocated to these people as early as possible.

**Mr. N. T. E. Hewitt:** Where do you suggest we should give it to them?

**Mr. BIRD:** I think this could be worked out with a little level thought as time goes on.

I am also very pleased to note that in a Press statement dated 13 July the Minister for Lands, Mr. Sullivan, informed us that research will be carried out on the chinee apple and rubber vine pests in Central and North Queensland. This is a subject I was going to deal with in the near future, so it looks as though I will be saved the trouble of doing that. One has only to look at the chinee apple trees around Townsville and the rubber vines around Charters Towers and

down the Burdekin—around Ravenswood and other places in that area—to realise that these pests are spreading rapidly. They are getting right down into the Lower Burdekin area. I am sure that many other areas are infested with them. I know that graziers in my electorate have tried to destroy both the chinee apple trees and the rubber vines, but they have found that where the area of infestation is large the cost of eradicating these pests is prohibitive. We look forward to the outcome of this research and hope that a solution will be found to the problem.

Today I received a letter from the Ayr branch of the Blue Nursing Service advising me that as a result of increases in nurses' wages—I am not against the granting of increased wages to nurses—the Blue Nursing Service in Queensland will be forced to find an additional \$106,000 that it had not budgeted for. The service has requested me to put its case before Cabinet and to ask for an increase in the State subsidy from \$1,100 to \$1,550 per sister. We all realise the importance of this service, so I trust that Cabinet will give this matter full and favourable consideration in the very near future, certainly before the Budget is presented.

Finally, I thank the Minister for Conservation for having given me the opportunity of joining the party that toured the Thursday Island and other Torres Strait island reserves, as well as the Bamaga and Yarrabah settlements, in May.

**Mr. W. D. Hewitt:** Weren't there some good swimmers in the party?

**Mr. BIRD:** Yes, some very good swimmers.

It is unfortunate that many of the people who live on the Torres Strait islands have been forced to seek employment on the mainland. However, I am pleased to learn that a training programme that is designed to ensure the ability of Torres Strait Islanders to compete with Europeans in the prawn-processing industry will be implemented following the delivery of a training vessel, which is being constructed at a cost of \$79,000. Our party inspected the cultured-pearl industry at Friday Island, and we appreciate how much that industry is worth in terms of creating employment for the Islanders. In addition, it is proposed to commence wolfram mining on Moa Island and to reintroduce beche-de-mer fishing. Those industries should help to ease the unemployment problem on the Torres Strait islands.

I should like to thank the director, Mr. Killoran, for the excellent way in which he organised everything for our trip. Once we settled down to learning to live with the cockroaches on the "Melbidir", we had a wonderful trip and had no problems.

Debate, on motion of Mr. Houston, adjourned.

The House adjourned at 3.15 p.m.