

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 30 AUGUST 1977

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DEATH OF HON. K. W. HOOPER

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

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

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1)

ASSENT

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to report that on 12 August 1977 I presented to His Excellency the Governor Appropriation Bill 1977-1978 (No. 1) for the Royal Assent and that His Excellency was pleased, in my presence, to subscribe his Assent thereto in the name and on behalf of Her Majesty.

ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF GREENSLOPES

RESIGNATION OF MEMBER

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that I have received the following letter from the Honourable Keith William Hooper, member for the electoral district of Greenslopes:—

“22 Lutzow Street,
“Ekibin Heights,
“22 August 1977.

“The Honourable the Speaker,
“Legislative Assembly,
“Parliament of Queensland,
“Parliament House,
“George Street,
“Brisbane. Q. 4000

“Dear Sir,

“For personal reasons I hereby resign as a member of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland. My resignation is to take effect forthwith.

“Yours faithfully,
“Keith W. Hooper.”

SEAT DECLARED VACANT

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

“That the seat in this House for the electoral district of Greenslopes hath become and is now vacant by reason of the resignation of the said Keith William Hooper.”

Motion agreed to.

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier) (11.5 a.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

“1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this State by the late Honourable Keith William Hooper, recently serving as member for the electoral district of Greenslopes and Minister for Transport.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that every member of this House was deeply shocked by the death a week ago of the Honourable Keith William Hooper, a passing made all the more sad because of its suddenness. I am sure, too, that Keith Hooper was a very good friend of and on very friendly terms with every member on both sides of the House. That was his nature, and I am sure that we all deeply regret his passing.

Members on both sides of the House regarded Keith Hooper as a real man, a man who had served his country and his community in peace and in war according to his high ideals. He will long be remembered as a politician and as a man who sincerely tried to make his State and his community a better place in which to live.

The late Mr. Hooper was born at Boonah on 21 August 1919, and celebrated his 58th birthday last Sunday week. He was educated at schools in Boonah, Maroochydore and Brisbane.

He worked as a carpenter and builder before enlisting with the A.I.F. in 1940. As we know, he served with 2/10 Field Regiment attached to the ill-fated Eighth Division. While serving in South-east Asia, he was taken prisoner of war by the Japanese in Singapore in 1942 and was held in the then notorious Changi prison. The following year he was transferred to a prisoner-of-war camp in Japan, where he was held until the end of the war in August 1945. Although the rigours, privations and forced labour of life in these camps took a very heavy physical toll of Keith Hooper, it did not break his spirit.

He was a practising Christian, and he had a deep involvement with his church, Holy Trinity, at Woollongabba. A further token of his faith was his retention over the years of a Bible that he received under the wire at Changi prison. He cherished this Bible and received great comfort from it during and after the war. It was significant that a lesson was read from this wartime Bible at his private funeral service.

Both Keith and his wife Betty were also Sunday school teachers. He was a dedicated Christian. His favourite hymn was "Onward Christian Soldiers", which was sung at both the Holy Trinity and St. John's Cathedral services. It was in this image that Keith modelled his life—as a Christian and as a soldier, always trying to help people and fighting for what he felt was right and good.

Keith Hooper came from a working family and it was only natural that he was an untiring worker himself and also a friend of those who are sometimes termed "the workers".

After the war he established himself as a carpenter and later as a building contractor. He married Betty Ball on 8 February 1947 at Holy Trinity Church. He became a member of the Liberal Party and entered this Parliament as member for Buranda on 3 August 1957. Since 1960 he had continuously represented Greenslopes, giving him an active life of some 20 years as a member of the Parliament of Queensland. During that time he always had the interests of his electorate at heart. His wife, Betty, and daughters, Barbara and Wendy, were a tower of strength to Keith and they worked untiringly organising functions, attending meetings and coping with the personal problems of his electorate.

Keith Hooper was appointed Chairman of Committees and Deputy Speaker in 1963 and served for a record term of nine years before his appointment on 20 June 1972 as Minister for Transport.

He was a member of the Australian Transport Advisory Council and chairman of the Queensland Road Safety Council. He was a keen supporter of the rail electrification scheme, the formation of the Metropolitan Transit Authority, and the linking of South Brisbane and Roma Street rail services with the cross-river bridge. As we all know, he took a very keen interest in these various projects. I am sure the cross-river bridge will stand as one of the many monuments to his outstanding work over the past five years in an exacting portfolio.

Keith Hooper was a great coalitionist. As Premier I treasure the memory of his friendship and loyal support of the coalition Government. He was a great fighter for the continuing partnership between the National and Liberal Parties and what it has achieved for Queensland over the past two decades.

Despite the heavy demands of his portfolio Mr. Hooper found time for a wide range of community service. He was past Australian and Queensland president and honorary life member of the Ex-Prisoners of War Association. He was a member of four subbranches of the R.S.L. Keith was foundation president of the Queensland Asthma Foundation, president of the Queensland Training and Placement Centre for the Blind, president of the Queensland School for Deaf

Children Parents and Citizens' Association, a member of the Masonic Lodge, and an honorary member of Lions International.

Because of his war injuries his interest in sport was limited to that of a spectator, but he enjoyed watching cricket and football.

The high esteem in which he was held in the community was reflected by the hundreds of representatives of organisations who attended the three, packed funeral services held last Thursday.

Keith Hooper will long be remembered by members of this Parliament. During his 20 years here he won the respect of every member. On behalf of the Government, my ministerial colleagues and, indeed, all members of this Parliament, I extend sincere sympathy to the widow, two daughters and other members of the family of this late respected member of the Parliament of Queensland, Keith Hooper.

Hon. W. E. KNOX (Nundah—Deputy Premier and Treasurer) (11.12 a.m.): I second the motion moved by the Premier and associate the Parliamentary Liberal Party with its sentiments. I think it would be true to say that I knew the late Keith Hooper for as long as any person here would have known him in public life. I share that, of course, with the honourable member for Sherwood, who was also closely associated with him long before he became a member of this House. Keith Hooper was elected to this Parliament on the same day as I was—3 August 1957. There are only three members still here who were first elected on that day, when we saw a tremendous surge of new members into the House. Apart from the Minister for Tourism and Marine Services and me, there is, of course, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

The late Keith Hooper rendered outstanding service to the Liberal Party over a very long period. Before he came here he was chairman of the Bowman area of the party, and a member of the State executive of the party. He was also campaign director for the seat of Bowman, which was then held by Mr. Malcolm McColm, and he was his campaign director on a number of occasions. He was a very proud and active Liberal at a time when it was not really fashionable to be a member of the Liberal Party in those difficult years. Indeed, in that period it was difficult to get people to work as assiduously as many people had to to found the party, and Keith Hooper was virtually one of the foundation members of the party in this State.

Keith Hooper devoted a great deal of his time and effort to the advancement of the party during a very difficult period. In 1957 he won the seat of Buranda, which had been held by the A.L.P. for many years. He rapidly established an excellent record of service to the people of that area, and subsequently to the people of Greenslopes, a seat which he represented from its inception in 1960.

As the Premier pointed out, he served a record term as Chairman of Committees and Deputy Speaker in this Assembly. Those who were here during that period will recall the fairness and impartiality he always displayed in his high office.

Following my appointment as Minister for Justice, Keith Hooper was chosen to succeed me as Minister for Transport in May 1972. As the former Minister, I was in a better position than most to appreciate the work he did in that portfolio in the subsequent years until his untimely death last week. He took a very keen personal interest in every aspect of the portfolio and he travelled extensively, not in fast, modern aircraft but on the Government rail coaches, which have served Ministers in this State for 80 to 90 years. Although they are far from the ultimate in luxury, Keith Hooper used those coaches frequently to enable him to gain a closer understanding of the problems of his department and of the many thousands of employees for whom he exercised ministerial responsibility and care.

He also played a key role in the suburban railway electrification programme, which is now well advanced. It is a great pity that he was not spared long enough to see this major undertaking completed. The electrification system will be a significant monument to his work as a Minister.

It is perhaps not generally appreciated today that Keith Hooper played a major role in the establishment of the Consumer Affairs Bureau in this State and in the implementation of the most comprehensive legislation available anywhere in Australia to protect the rights of consumers. As the Minister who was ultimately charged with the task of bringing in the legislation, I appreciate the work done by Keith Hooper when he was chairman of the Government committee that inquired into consumer affairs.

At that time consumer affairs was not as widely understood or recognised as it is today, and our late colleague did much to help us provide the people of this State with consumer legislation that is to their great benefit and has been used as a basis for legislation in other States.

Mention has been made by the Premier of the service which Keith Hooper rendered to his country during the Second World War. Those who served with him, particularly over the long period during which he was a prisoner of war, have spoken to me about his enormous courage and fortitude and his enduring faith. As a result of his terrible experiences as a prisoner of war, Keith Hooper had to endure great physical discomfort over the years, but that never prevented him from carrying out his demanding responsibility as a member of the Ministry and also as a leading citizen of our community. Indeed those of us in this House who knew him well were aware that he often had to retire from the chair in order

to receive medical assistance for his injuries, which caused him a great deal of pain and discomfort.

There would be few men who have served in this Parliament who could claim such a varied and distinguished record of community service as that which can be attributed to Keith Hooper. At the time of his death he was State President of the Asthma Foundation, the President of the Training and Placement Centre for the Blind and President of the Parents and Citizens' Association for the Queensland School for the Deaf.

It is found very often that persons who attain high office forget that they are also citizens. But Keith Hooper never forgot that he was a citizen. Many of the functions and duties that he performed in the community had absolutely nothing to do with his political career or with his position in this House or in the Executive Government. He simply did his duty as a citizen in matters that concerned and interested him, and he was completely dedicated to those causes.

He was also associated with numerous organisations in the Greenslopes electorate in an active and sincere way. It was a fitting tribute that so many of those organisations were represented at his funeral last Thursday.

This Parliament has lost a loyal and hard-working member and Queensland has lost an honourable and very sincere Minister. We regret his untimely passing very much indeed. At this time our thoughts are with his widow Betty, his daughters Barbara and Wendy and all the members of his family. I personally know many members of his family through their very active involvement in the Liberal Party over the years. We extend to them our sympathy.

My colleagues join with me in supporting the motion of condolence moved by the Premier and express our genuine sorrow and regret at the untimely sudden passing of one whom we respected so much.

Mr. BURNS (Lytton)—Leader of the Opposition (11.20 a.m.): I rise to associate the Australian Labor Party with the motion moved by the Premier. As a member who has been in the House for 5½ years, I am becoming more aware every time we reassemble like this that when we leave the House prior to adjournments, we should do so as friends because we can never be too sure who of those amongst us may not return. That was my immediate impression when I received a phone message early on Tuesday morning last that Keith had died. On three occasions in this Parliament I have been surprised by the sudden death of a colleague or friend, one of whom was elected less than 2½ years ago.

I am sometimes concerned that I do not know enough about the backgrounds of my colleagues. For instance, I did not know that Keith suffered as he did from asthma

or that he was enduring such problems when performing his duties in the community. I did not even know that he was a carpenter by trade. I have read about that only since his death. We sit in Parliament with other honourable members, we know Ministers through their dealings with us; but we do not know their history. I knew Keith as a kind, gentle man who did a good job and treated me fairly when I asked questions or wanted details from him. Only after people have gone do we discover the work done by them in the community, such as Keith's work for the Asthma Foundation and the Deaf School.

Somewhere along the line, probably at election-time, the work that he did or the knowledge that people had of him came to my attention; but it is unfortunate that often we really do not learn about a man until after his death. I was aware of some small matters relating to Keith, but he knew more about me than I knew about him. When I was a young lad I was an altar boy at the Holy Trinity Church at the 'Gabbra. When I was confirmed at the church he was a warden. I did not know that and he did not say anything to me about it until I had been in Parliament for about three years, when he said to me, "I remember when you were confirmed." At that time the Reverend A. S. Jull was the rector of the church. Keith and I spent some time talking about the church.

I can do no more than say that, to me, Keith was a gentle, honest and sincere man. Like all members of Parliament, he worked hard. His family suffered because of his parliamentary duties while he was alive and now they will suffer more through losing him. On behalf of my party and my parliamentary colleagues, I offer our condolences and sincere sympathy to his wife and family.

Hon. J. D. HERBERT (Sherwood—Minister for Community and Welfare Services and Minister for Sport) (11.23 a.m.): I do not normally make a practice of speaking to condolence motions but I must make this occasion an exception. I will not be speaking about Keith Hooper the parliamentarian. That has been done by others. I will make some comments about Keith Hooper the man. I knew him before he entered this House. I remember seeing him in his full brace while building a garage. He was perched on a cross-beam swinging a hammer. He had to wear a full brace as a result of the ill-treatment he received as a prisoner of war. I was introduced to him at an R.S.L. meeting by Dr. Clive Boyce, who was then the medical superintendent of the Goodna Special Hospital, but who is better known as the man who saved hundreds of lives, including Keith's, during their time as prisoners of war.

In spite of his disability, Keith led as nearly as he could a normal active life. His brace made him limp and gave him a great deal of difficulty. On many occasions Dr. Boyce told me that Keith should not be

working as he did in public life, that he should take a long rest to build up his strength. But Keith was not built that way. He said that he was a Minister of the Crown and that he would continue to do his job to the best of his ability, whether or not he was suffering pain. The work that he did for the disadvantaged ex-service groups will be a permanent monument to him. He worked for the smaller groups, the ex-P.O.W., the Blind, the T.B. and incapacitated groups, and others in different areas. He was always to be met at any sort of ex-service ceremony. On many occasions he represented the Government. The work he did in that area will probably remain a greater monument among the little people than the work he did, great as it may have been, as a member of Parliament and a Minister of the Crown.

Hon. F. A. CAMPBELL (Aspley—Minister for Industrial Development, Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs and Minister for Transport) (11.24 a.m.): I shall speak briefly but nevertheless very feelingly about Keith Hooper, having been president of the party at the time of the 1957 election when, on 3 August, he was elected to this Parliament. I have 25 years of recollection of a very fine friend and a very loyal and dedicated Liberal who gave sterling representation to the two electorates that he represented during his term of office. With others, I feel very heavy at heart today and very sad at the passing of Keith Hooper, our friend. I, too, offer my warmest condolences to his family and his wide circle of friends who are burdened by a similar feeling.

Hon. N. E. LEE (Yeronga—Minister for Works and Housing) (11.25 a.m.): I join with the Premier and Deputy Premier in this sad moment for us all and support the motion of condolence. He was a very good friend of mine for many years—in fact, before I entered Parliament. To me, he has always been a friend to all people. He was a very sincere and honest man. As his electorate adjoined mine, at all times I felt that I had a friend to whom I could turn. Naturally, that meant a lot to me when I was starting off in politics.

I shall always be indebted to Keith Hooper, for he was the one who encouraged me—in fact almost twisted my arm—to nominate for the seat of Yeronga. Out of 19 nominees, I was the fortunate one—or unfortunate; I am not quite sure at times—to be chosen for that seat. I am positive that had it not been for Keith Hooper I would not have been here today serving this great State of ours.

I have had the pleasure of sitting as the Government representative at the Deaf School for many years, when Keith Hooper was president of that association. Anyone who saw the amount of work that Keith did for those small groups alone would be very proud of him, as I am sure most people are. In those areas he performed duties far in excess of those expected of him as

a parliamentarian. I have no doubt that those onerous duties, combined with the effects of his illnesses, hastened the sad passing of our friend.

I say quite sincerely that his death was a very great loss to this Parliament and State, and I join with all of those who have expressed condolences to Betty, Barbara and Wendy and their families.

Mr. ALISON (Maryborough) (11.28 a.m.): Like the Minister for Community Welfare Services and Minister for Sport, I do not make a practice of speaking to motions of condolence. However, today I have a sincere desire to personally associate myself with the motion moved by the Premier and seconded by the Deputy Premier.

I first met Keith Hooper when I entered this Chamber in July 1971. I rapidly developed a very warm regard for him. He was, of course, Chairman of Committees at the time. I found that he was ever willing to listen to members and assist them. As a new member, I was rather bewildered by it all and was looking for guidance and assistance. Whenever I asked for it, I certainly received it from Keith Hooper. I found him to be a man of high Christian principles and ethics and also, in later years, a very hard-working Minister. In fact, I voice the opinion that if he had not been quite so hard-working, showing such little regard for his own health and welfare, he may well have been with us here today.

Reference has been made to one of the monuments to his community service, that is, the electrification of the Brisbane railway service. In Maryborough we have our own monument to Keith Hooper. I refer to the Senior Citizens Centre. As chairman of the committee sponsoring the centre, I approached Keith some three or four years ago in my search for a suitable site in Maryborough. It was through Keith's understanding of our problem that we were able to lease a part of the railway grounds and thus obtain an ideal site in the centre of the city. It is rather fitting that last night, at a meeting of the Committee on the Ageing, which is the sponsoring body of Senior Citizens, reference was made to our great appreciation of the efforts of the late Keith Hooper. He was held in very high regard, particularly because of his understanding of our problem in trying to obtain a suitable site.

Maryborough, of course, is an important rail centre. I had much to do with the late Mr. Hooper as Minister for Transport and I always received very sympathetic understanding. I might not have always got the answer I desired, but I know that he was doing his best. He had many friends in Maryborough, largely, I think, through the ex-P.O.W. Association. He never failed to visit his friends if the time he had available in Maryborough permitted him to do so.

I personally associate myself with the motion of condolence and extend my sympathy to Mrs. Betty Hooper and her family.

Mr. KAUS (Mansfield) (11.32 a.m.): I should like to associate myself with the motion of condolence moved by the Premier and seconded by the Deputy Premier.

As we know, Keith suffered in war as well as in peace. He suffered in peace from injuries received in a prison camp. He was the type of man who had courage and a strong spirit. He was also a humble man. We need many more people like him in the community. He prized honour and virtue above the external advantages of rank and fortune.

I first met Keith Hooper after the war through our association with the R.S.L., cricket, football and church organisations. I helped him when he was campaign director in Bowman. I worked with Keith in the Bowman electorate in helping Malcolm McColm. When I decided to move into politics, Keith was the gentleman who advised me. As a matter of fact he was responsible for my being here, firstly as the member for Hawthorne and, secondly, as the member for Mansfield. He was a very loyal Liberal Party member and loyal Government supporter.

I travelled all over Queensland with Keith. When I first entered Parliament, he advised me to see Queensland in a number of fact-finding tours by members. We did that. He also assisted me in gaining a knowledge of the procedures followed in this House. No matter where we went in Queensland, he was well liked and well received. He was a wonderful family man, and his family was a very close-knit one.

I therefore associate myself with the motion and express to his widow and family my deepest sympathy and sorrow in their loss.

Dr. CRAWFORD (Wavell) (11.34 a.m.): I should like to associate myself with the motion of condolence.

There are very few people in this world whom one admires for their possession of raw courage. Over my professional career I have seen many people who were prisoners of war in the hands of the Japanese. I have seen them collapse for both physical and psychological reasons. Because of his experiences in prisoner-of-war camps, Keith Hooper could have collapsed on both of those counts; but, as I said, he possessed raw courage as well as an ability and true human spirit which transcend adversity to overcome such disabilities. Those attributes defy description in words.

As a result of his courage, he involved himself in two types of activity, which one also admires. First of all, he worked for charities which helped small groups of people who were not necessarily being helped by the community at large—and these charities

have already been referred to—and secondly, as Minister for Transport he did his utmost to reduce the road toll in our community. I appreciated the fact that he was prepared to go round to his colleagues and say, “Have you any particular ideas on this subject because I really want to reduce the road toll?” He made this approach repeatedly to members of this Parliament, and I believe this was because of his real compassion and desire to help others. I believe that was why he carried out his ministerial responsibilities as well as he did and therefore, Mr. Speaker, I also wish to associate myself with the message of condolence to his wife and family.

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

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY; MINISTER FOR MINES AND ENERGY

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier) (11.36 a.m.): I desire to inform the House that in connection with the visit overseas of the Minister for Mines and Energy, His Excellency the Governor has, by virtue of the provisions of the Officials in Parliament Act 1896–1975, authorised and empowered the Honourable Russell James Hinze, M.L.A., Minister for Local Government and Main Roads, to perform and exercise all or any of the duties, powers and authorities imposed or conferred upon the Minister for Mines and Energy by any Act, rule, practice or ordinance, on and from 16 August 1977, and until the return to Queensland of the Honourable Ronald Ernest Camm, M.L.A.

I lay upon the table of the House a copy of the Queensland Government Gazette of 13 August 1977, notifying this arrangement.

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

CHANGES IN MINISTRY

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier) (11.37 a.m.): I also desire to inform the House that on 26 August 1977, His Excellency the Governor—

1. Accepted the resignation tendered by the Honourable Frederick Alexander Campbell as Minister for Industrial Development, Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs of Queensland, effective on and after 26 August 1977;

2. Appointed the Honourable Frederick Alexander Campbell to be Minister for Industrial Development, Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs and Minister for Transport of Queensland.

I lay upon the table of the House a copy of the Queensland Government Gazette Extraordinary of 26 August 1977, containing the relevant notifications.

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

PAPERS

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

Reports—

Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, for the year 1976-77.

President of the Industrial Court of Queensland, for the year 1976-77.

Department of Sport, for the year 1976-77.

Water Quality Council of Queensland, for the year 1976-77.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Orders in Council under—

Gladstone Area Water Board Act 1975.

Education Act 1964–1974 and the Local Bodies' Loans Guarantee Act 1923–1975.

Harbours Act 1955–1976.

District Courts Act 1967–1976.

Regulations under—

Fire Brigades Act 1964–1977.

Weights and Measures Act 1951–1972.

By-laws under the Harbours Act 1955–1976.

SELECT COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

Mr. AHERN (Landsborough) (11.40 a.m.): I present the annual report of the Select Committee of Privileges and move—

“That the report be printed.”

Ordered to be printed.

POLICE SUPERANNUATION ACTS AMENDMENT BILL

INITIATION

Hon. T. G. NEWBERRY (Mirani—Minister for Police): I move—

“That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill to amend the Police Superannuation Act 1974–1975 and the Police Superannuation Act 1968–1977 each in certain particulars.”

Motion agreed to.

REVOCATION OF STATE FOREST AREAS

Hon. K. B. TOMKINS (Roma—Minister for Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service) (11.42 a.m.): I move—

“(1) That this House agrees that the proposal by the Governor in Council to revoke the setting apart and declaration as State Forest under the Forestry Act of:—

(a) All that piece or part of State Forest 234, parishes of Kenilworth and Tuckehoi, described as portion 197, parish of Kenilworth, as shown on plan Mch. 3943 deposited in the office of the Surveyor-General and containing an area of 2.25 hectares—and,

(b) All that piece or part of State Forest 268, parishes of Berwick, Blackfriars, Holborn and Waterview, described as portion 99, parish of Waterview, as shown on plan Cwl. 2612 deposited in the office of the Surveyor-General; Parts ‘A’ and ‘B’, as shown on plan FTY. 619 prepared by the Department of Mapping and Surveying and deposited in the office of the Conservator of Forests, and containing an area of about 136 hectares—and,

(c) All that piece or part of State Forest 611, parishes of Beerwah, Canning and Toorbul, described as Areas ‘A’, ‘B’ and ‘C’ as shown on plan FTY. 836 prepared by the Department of Mapping and Surveying and deposited in the office of the Conservator of Forests and containing an area of about 26 hectares—and,

(d) The whole of State Forest 702, parish of Meunga containing an area of about 2 104 hectares—and,

(e) All that piece or part of State Forest 3, parishes of Bowarrady, Moonbi, Poyungan, Talboor and Wathumba described as Area ‘A’ as shown on plan FTY. 862 prepared by the Department of Mapping and Surveying and deposited in the office of the Conservator of Forests and containing an area of about 16 200 hectares—and,

(f) All that piece or part of State Forest 750, parishes of East Haldon and Townson described as Area ‘A’ as shown on plan FTY. 685 prepared by the Department of Mapping and Surveying and deposited in the office of the Conservator of Forests and containing an area of about 2 900 hectares—and,

(g) All that piece or part of State Forest 792, parishes of Conondale, Kilcoy and Monsildale, described as Area ‘A’ as shown on plan FTY. 878 prepared by the Department of Mapping and Surveying and deposited in the office of the Conservator of Forests and containing an area of about 1 740 hectares—

be carried out.

“(2) That Mr. Speaker convey a copy of this Resolution to the Minister for Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service for submission to His Excellency the Governor in Council.”

Motion agreed to.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

1. MORETON ISLAND LAND USE

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

(1) What is the current situation in relation to the recommendation of the most recent inquiry into future land use, mining, etc., on Moreton Island?

(2) Has any action been taken to implement any of the recommendations and, if so, which ones have been (a) approved and (b) rejected or deferred?

Answers:—

(1) Cabinet considered that there was a need for a closer examination of each individual mining lease, either granted or in process of being granted, and has established a committee to examine the leases from the point of view of a balanced development, taking into account reserves and critical environmental areas. Also, the report has been released to the public and comments are being assembled.

(2) No action has been taken to implement the recommendations of the committee of inquiry. The committee's findings and public comments will be considered by Cabinet.

2. BOONAH HOSPITAL

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

As the main structure at the Boonah Hospital is nearing completion, when will the building be available for occupancy?

Answer:—

I have been informed by the Manager of the Ipswich Hospitals Board that it is anticipated the new hospital will be available for occupancy in October 1977.

3. EMERGENCY SHELTERS FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Mr. Powell, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Community and Welfare Services and Minister for Sport—

Were Commonwealth funds provided to the Queensland Government to finance shelters set up to provide emergency accommodation for the welfare of women and children?

Answer:—

No Commonwealth funds were provided under a welfare programme for financial assistance for the provision of shelter for women and children in distress.

In June 1975 Commonwealth Government approval was granted for the funding from the Community Health Programme of women's refuges in Brisbane and Townsville.

Financial allocations approved initially were to offset expenditure incurred in the latter part of 1974-75 and for operating expenses in 1975-76. At no time was the Queensland Government consulted, nor was a recommendation sought from the Queensland Government regarding the allocations being made to these refuges.

The role of the Queensland Department of Health was merely that of an intermediary, processing claims for payment and following up with the respective organisations' requests for financial statements required by the Commonwealth Government.

The Queensland Government has held the view that the purpose of the refuges could not be considered to be providing a health-related service but rather a service of a welfare nature. In any case, the level of the block grant provided for the Community Health Programme in Queensland last year meant that the programme in Queensland had to be seriously curtailed.

It was my understanding that an inter-departmental committee at the Commonwealth level consisting of the Commonwealth Departments of Social Security and Health and perhaps some other Commonwealth departments was set up to report on the question of the funding of women's shelters.

The outcome of this committee's deliberations has not been made clear but the Commonwealth Minister for Health, the Honourable Ralph Hunt, M.P., released a Press statement on 17 August 1977 and said that up to \$1,000,000 had been set aside within the funds provided for the Community Health Programme in the Commonwealth Budget for the purpose of funding additional refuges to those which had already been approved for assistance. Preliminary discussions have taken place between Commonwealth and State officers but the matter has not as yet been finalised.

My department is aware of the needs of women in emergency circumstances and has for some years provided funds to assist voluntary organisations who provide shelter for women.

At the present time my officers are examining the financial implications of providing funding. I should make two points clear. The first is that, following the announcement by the Commonwealth

Minister earlier this month, the whole matter is the subject of discussion and consideration; the second is that anything that is done will have to be in accordance with the finance that is available.

4. HOME IMPROVEMENTS PTY. LTD. AND CLADDING CELUFORM

Mr. Powell, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Industrial Development, Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs—

(1) Is he aware of the company, Home Improvements Pty. Ltd., which markets a cladding material called "Celuform"?

(2) Will he investigate the bona fides of the company to see if it can substantiate its claim of warranty?

(3) Does the material give off toxic fumes when burning and, if so, will he immediately order its removal from the market and payment of compensation to persons who have purchased this material?

Answers:—

(1) No.

(2) Should the honourable member forward a copy of the company's warranty to me, I shall have it examined to see whether it conforms to the requirements as laid down under the Consumer Affairs Act.

(3) I arranged for the samples of the material furnished by the honourable member to be examined by the Government Chemical Laboratory. I am advised that the products of combustion from both pieces would be hydrogen chloride, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and smoke. Apart from the hydrogen chloride, the products of combustion are no more harmful than those derived from burning unpainted timber.

5. POLICE-ABORIGINES LIAISON COMMITTEE

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

(1) Is he aware of submissions by the Aborigines & Torres Strait Islanders Legal Service to the Criminal Law Inquiry suggesting the establishment of a Police-Aborigines Liaison Committee?

(2) In view of the present unease between Aborigines and police, what steps have been taken to establish such a committee?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) A meeting was held on 3 August 1977 in the Executive Building attended by the Commissioner of Police, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Assistant Commissioners of Police, Chief Superintendent of Police and Inspector Creevey, who met with the Aboriginal Advisory Council.

A mutually beneficial discussion ensued concerning the following matters—

(a) Calibre of officials appointed to take charge of reserves, and

(b) Necessary qualifications for selection and training of Aborigines and Islanders as police.

On 16 August 1977 a further meeting was held between Mr. Don Davidson, Pastor Harris, a legal aid representative and the Deputy Commissioner of Police.

As the honourable member should be aware, State Cabinet has appointed an expert committee to examine the findings of the Committee of Enquiry into the Enforcement of Criminal Law in Queensland and report on which recommendations should be adopted and the appropriate methods of implementing them.

6. CRIMINAL LAW PROCEDURES FOR ABORIGINES, DISADVANTAGED PERSONS AND CHILDREN

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

(1) Is he aware of recommendations by the Criminal Law Inquiry suggesting special consideration and procedures for Aborigines, disadvantaged persons generally and children?

(2) With particular reference to recommendations that it is the duty of a police officer to contact a member of the Aborigines & Torres Strait Islanders Legal Service when an Aborigine is arrested and that an education course be established to assist the police to be more aware of Aboriginal problems, does he support these recommendations and what steps have been taken to implement them?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) Consideration is being given to having suitable persons, for example, anthropologists or Aborigines, deliver lectures to police on Police/Aborigine orientated subjects with a view to achieving a deeper understanding and obviating any unnecessary friction between police and Aborigines.

However, as the honourable the member is aware, State Cabinet has appointed an expert committee to examine the findings of the Committee of Enquiry into the Enforcement of Criminal Law in Queensland and report on which recommendations should be adopted and the appropriate methods of implementing them.

Until this action has been completed, I am not in a position to comment further on the recommendations contained in the report of the Criminal Law Enquiry.

7. DISPLAY OF TOOWOOMBA TOWN PLAN

Mr. Warner, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads—

(1) When will the long-overdue town plan for Toowoomba be available for public inspection?

(2) What are the reasons for the delay?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) I am unable to advise the honourable member when the new town planning scheme for the city of Toowoomba will be available for public inspection as the matter at present rests with Toowoomba City Council.

The preliminary review of the draft town planning scheme was completed by officers of my Department of Local Government in December 1976, and comments arising out of such review were forwarded to the council on 15 December 1976 for consideration and comment in the usual manner. Representations from the council on the matters raised have not yet been received by the department. I am advised that the council has taken action to expedite the matter so that the new scheme can be placed on public exhibition as early as possible.

8. CLEAN-UP ALONG HIGHWAYS INTO TOOWOOMBA

Mr. Warner, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads—

As both sides of the main highway into and out of Toowoomba still resemble a rubbish tip and as he said that it was the Main Roads responsibility to clean that part of the highway, will he give instructions to have this part of the highway cleared of rubbish, particularly as Toowoomba will shortly stage its famous Carnival of Flowers Festival and will host thousands of visitors who will enter the city from this highway?

Answer:—

As I indicated in my answer to the honourable member on 5 April, the level of funds available for cleaning litter from this section of road is such that some buildup of litter will occur between routine cleaning operations. I am sure that one such routine clean-up will be arranged for just prior to the Carnival of Flowers Festival.

9 and 10.

[Lapsed]

11. EMPLOYEES AT BOHLE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Mr. Aikens, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Industrial Development, Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs—

At the latest date for which figures are readily available, how many persons were employed at the various industrial undertakings that have been established at the Bohle Industrial Estate, and what was the approximate estimate of the weekly wages paid to all persons employed there?

Answer:—

Recent figures indicate that 142 persons are employed by industrial establishments located on the Bohle Industrial Estate. The total of the weekly wages payable to the aforementioned persons is approximately \$26,000.

12. MONEYS PAID TO ALDERMAN REYNOLDS, TOWNSVILLE

Mr. Aikens, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Mines and Energy—

For one complete year, what fees, allowances and/or payments are paid by the North Queensland electricity undertaking to Alderman Reynolds of the Townsville City Council?

Answer:—

As a member of the North Queensland Electricity Board, Alderman M. F. Reynolds receives remuneration at the rate of \$2,500 per annum payable monthly. Should Alderman Reynolds be required to attend a meeting of the board held outside Townsville or to attend to business on behalf of the board outside Townsville, he would be entitled to be reimbursed for the actual out-of-pocket expenses he incurs for fares, accommodation, meals and the like.

13. PUBLIC CURATOR CONVEYANCING CHARGES

Mr. Marginson for **Mr. Wright**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General—

With reference to the 5 per cent increase in conveyancing fees recommended by the Queensland Law Society and applicable from 1 August, in view of the Government's repeated promise that there will be no increase in State charges this year, will the charge for conveyancing performed by the office of the Public Curator remain the same irrespective of increases by the private legal profession?

Answer:—

The Public Curator is a statutory corporation and as such his conveyancing fees are not classed as State charges. However,

in keeping with Government policy it is not proposed to increase the conveyancing fees this year.

14. FIRM, NEMA CONSTRUCTIONS

Mr. Marginson for **Mr. Wright**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

(1) How many contracts unable to be started or completed by Ireland Constructions were given to a firm known as Nema Constructions?

(2) How many of these contracts were let to Nema Constructions without tender but on a cost-plus basis?

(3) What is the total value of contracts let to Nema Constructions (a) arising out of the failure of Ireland Constructions and (b) during the last five years?

(4) Who are the directors and principal shareholders of Nema Constructions?

Answers:—

(1) One.

(2) None.

(3) (a) \$570,924. (b) \$17,506,927.

(4) The directors are William Alfred Stockwell, Necia Ann Stockwell, Lance Robert Lawlor and Alan Victor John Gourley. The matter of shareholders of the company does not come within the ambit of my portfolio.

15. ARCLINE POOLS, POOL AND OUTDOOR LEISURE CENTRE, GLAMARCHELL AND AUTOMOTIVE ENGINE RECONDITIONERS

Mr. Marginson for **Mr. Wright**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Industrial Development, Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs—

(1) With reference to a firm known as Arcline Pools, Sumner Park, Brisbane, (a) who are the directors or principals of this firm (b) when was it registered and (c) is it a "two-dollar" company?

(2) Is he aware that the address used is the same as that previously used by the firm that operated as Pool and Outdoor Leisure Centre, which went out of business leaving numerous pool owners with useless warranties and half-completed contracts?

(3) Who were the directors or principals of Pool and Outdoor Leisure Centre?

(4) When does his Government intend to act to prevent firms such as Pool and Outdoor Leisure Centre from voluntarily going out of business, leaving customers in financial trouble, and then soon afterwards starting again in the same business but under a different name?

(5) When will he act against firms such as Glamarchell and Automotive Engine Reconditioners, against which actions are repeatedly being brought successfully before the Small Claims Tribunal?

Answers:—

(1 to 4) These parts of the question should be directed to my colleague the Honourable W. D. Lickiss, Q.G.M., M.L.A., Minister for Justice and Attorney-General.

(5) A number of complaints have been received by the Consumer Affairs Bureau against Glamarchell Pty. Ltd. and Glamarchell Seamless Flooring, each operating from an address in Redcliffe. Several of these complaints have been referred to the Small Claims Tribunal for adjudication, and judgment in the majority of cases has been for the complainant. The persons associated with these concerns have now moved to New South Wales and the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs has contacted the New South Wales Department of Consumer Affairs regarding outstanding complaints.

I presume that when the honourable member refers to Automotive Engine Reconditioners he means Automobile Engine Reconditioners. With respect to Automobile Engine Reconditioners, the Consumer Affairs Bureau has received 86 complaints and of these 23 received full or partial redress, 15 were clarified, with the remainder being advised of their rights of access to the Small Claims Tribunal.

The Commissioner for Consumer Affairs advises that he has been informed by the registrar of the Small Claims Tribunal that the tribunal has received 76 claims against this firm from which 37 orders have been issued and five claims dismissed. The rest have either been withdrawn or are yet to be heard.

Mr. MARGINSON: On behalf of the honourable member for Rockhampton, may I ask that parts (1) to (4) of that question be referred to the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Wolston knows as well as I do that under Standing Orders he cannot make such a request. Those parts of the question can be asked again tomorrow.

16. NEW SCHOOL FOR YORKEY'S KNOB

Mr. Tenni, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service—

Has the purchase of land for the proposed new school at Yorkey's Knob been completed and, if not, will he make certain that this will take effect immediately so that the new school can be constructed in time for the beginning of the 1978 school year?

Answer:—

In terms of the Acquisition of Land Act a notice of intention to resume was issued on 12 August 1977 to the owners of an area of land required by the Education Department for a new school site at Yorkey's Knob. On the same day a monetary offer was made to the owners for the acquisition of the site.

Time of commencement of construction of the school will depend upon finalisation of the acquisition negotiations.

17. SMALL TOBACCO GROWERS

Mr. Tenni, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

As Queensland tobacco growers have been advised by the quota committee of a 9.6 per cent short-sell in their present crop and as this will make holders of 12-ton quotas and less not viable, will he urge the Commonwealth Minister for Primary Industry to increase the amount of Australian leaf in Australian-manufactured products immediately to avoid bankrupting small quota holders?

Answer:—

The level of the Australian tobacco leaf marketing quota has been the subject of continuing discussion between the Federal Minister for Primary Industry and myself. I have been concerned about the impact on the financial viability of all Queensland tobacco growers following the reduction in their individual basic quotas of 6.33 per cent in 1977 and 9.67 per cent in 1978.

However, agreement to such reductions was made by the Australian Agricultural Council and the Australian Tobacco Board only as a means of ensuring that a new period of tobacco stabilisation would be achieved from 1979. I am able to advise that negotiations on the terms and conditions of the stabilisation arrangements, including the percentage of Australian leaf used in manufacture, are being actively pursued.

18. INSTRUCTION BOOKLETS FOR LEARNER-DRIVERS

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

Is he aware that instruction booklets for learner-drivers are not available in northern police stations and, as it is necessary to learn road rules before obtaining a licence, will he assure me that back orders (some dated in March) will be forwarded immediately?

Answer:—

I understand that certain police stations had a temporary shortage of the Queensland Traffic Code Handbook. However, the Queensland Traffic Code has been updated and reprinted and sufficient copies

were supplied to the Commissioner of Police on Friday 12 August for distribution to police stations.

19. NEW YEPPOON HOSPITAL

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

(1) What is the estimated cost of the new Yeppoon Hospital?

(2) What is the date of completion and when will the hospital be opened for nursing facilities?

Answers:—

(1) The current estimate of cost is \$1,900,000.

(2) The Rockhampton Hospitals Board extended an invitation to me to officially open the new Yeppoon Hospital on 13 October 1977 and it has given me great pleasure to accept such invitation.

20. MALE WARD, BILOELA BASE HOSPITAL

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

When will the Biloele Base Hospital be allocated a new male ward?

Answer:—

The honourable member would be aware of the approval given for the replacement of the existing male ward and that I have previously informed him that construction is dependent on the preparation of satisfactory documentation and the availability of finance on completion of such documentation.

The Banana Hospitals Board has recently submitted amended sketch plans for a new male ward block and these plans are at present receiving consideration.

21. WOLFFDENE DAM

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

(1) Further to my question of 2 December 1976 regarding the Wolffdene Dam, has there been any change to the possible time factor relating to the construction?

(2) Is he aware that land is still being sold in the proposed dam area and houses are still being built?

(3) Will the property and home owners be compensated at relative market values when negotiations commence for purchase or resumption of land needed for the construction of this dam?

(4) Does the Land Act fully protect people who find themselves in this situation?

Answers:—

(1) No. Given the present forecasts of increases in population and the per capita demand for water for the Brisbane conurbation, an additional major water storage to follow Wivenhoe Dam is not expected to be required before the mid 1990s.

(2) Yes.

(3) It can be expected that valuations for the purpose of compensating owners whose properties are effected by the dam will be related to the market value of properties and homes in the area, on the basis used for the resumptions in the Wivenhoe district.

(4) The Acquisition of Land Act fully protects people who find themselves in this situation.

22. MABEL PARK INFANT SCHOOL

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

(1) Will the new infant school being constructed at Mabel Park be ready for the 1978 school year?

(2) What is the cost of the school, what grades and how many children will it cater for and how many children are estimated to attend at the start of the 1978 year?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) An expenditure of \$548,738 has been authorised for the construction of the new school. This school will cater for Grades 1 and 2 and it is anticipated that about 360 pupils will attend at the opening of the 1978 school year.

At 12 noon,

In accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 17, the House proceeded with Government business.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE—FOURTH AND FIFTH ALLOTTED DAYS

Debate resumed from 10 August (see p. 154) on Mr. Turner's motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER (Archerfield) (12.1 p.m.): It is quite obvious from the tenor of the debate so far that this must be an election year. That was particularly noticeable when I listened to the nervous nellies on the Government side. When they spoke I could almost feel the trepidation in their voices. It is also quite obvious from the tenor of their remarks that they are all indulging in parish-pump politics. They are making pleas to Ministers and thanking them for this and that. It is again quite obvious that they are

trying to boost their sagging electoral hopes. It is quite apparent that the political pendulum has swung and that they realise there will be electoral retribution when the next election is held—that half of the members on the Government side will be on this side of the House. When we look across to their side of the House, we think of the old adage. "We shall meet and we shall miss them when we see those vacant chairs". That will come true.

One hopes that during the current session there will not be any further instances of Ministers putting their hands into the taxpayers' till. I make it quite clear that the Opposition will not hesitate to expose this sort of rot, as it did in the previous sessions of this State Parliament. We were all witness to the disgraceful spectacle of emergency legislation being rushed through this House to save the political hide of the Minister for maps, who is so highly regarded that not one journalist in Brisbane was prepared to act as the Minister's Press officer.

Mr. GREENWOOD: I rise to a point of order. I find that remark offensive to me and ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: I withdraw it, Mr. Speaker.

In the first segment of my Address-in-Reply speech I want to refer to the smell that exists in the Queensland Permanent Building Society. It is quite obvious that the Queensland Permanent Building Society is regarded by other reputable societies as a cancer on the building society industry in this State. I am very pleased that the Minister for Works and Housing is in the House. I say this quite clearly to him: the sooner that society is cleaned up, the better. The Minister should stop procrastinating and stop protecting his bosom friend Mr. Lloyd Olsen, who is at present the chairman of directors of the Queensland Permanent. He should order an investigation by the Corporate Affairs Office or request that the Fraud Squad be brought in. To my mind, the Queensland Permanent directors are guilty of a campaign of deceit and plain straight-out lies to cover up mismanagement, incompetence, and downright dishonesty.

They have jacked up borrowers' interest rates to a figure that is among the highest in Australia. In some areas it is as high as 15 per cent. At the same time, the return to the average investor has been considerably reduced, as interest is now calculated on minimum monthly balances, in comparison with the practice of other societies in this State, which are still calculating interest on daily balances. The adoption of that method of calculating interest has given that society the highest operating margin of all building societies in Australia. To say, as this society has, that it achieved a surplus for 1976-77 as a result of efficient

management and attention to costs is blatantly misleading and downright dishonest. Its borrowers, who are currently suffering under incredibly high interest rates, are responsible for the allegedly small surplus, as the Minister well knows.

The management practices of that society were subject of a scathing report prepared by experts. Some of the changes recommended in that report have been made, but the changes most needed have been ignored in an endeavour to protect the jobs and reputations of the men at the top.

For example, the report recommended the appointment of a new managing director, but up to date that has not been done. How can the public and investors in the Queensland Permanent Building Society be expected to have any confidence in a firm whose chief executive is unqualified either in accountancy or in any other form of business administration. In fact, he is regarded as being hopelessly incompetent.

Mr. Frawley: Have you got any money in this?

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: I certainly have not. I have told the honourable member for Murrumba on previous occasions to make sure he gets his money out of that society.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! There is far too much noise in the Chamber.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: My advice—and I will repeat it for the benefit of honourable members—is that if anyone in this Chamber has money in the Queensland Permanent, he should get it out as quickly as possible, because this society is definitely on the rocks.

Mr. LEE: I rise to a point of order. As I understood the member for Archerfield, he said that he did not have any money in the Queensland Permanent. I accept that. But he had it in the Trades Hall society, which went broke.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: That is completely wrong; the Minister is talking off the top of his head. I was going to say something else, but out of deference to the Chair I will not.

As I was saying, this society has opened at least one new branch in Brisbane and has undertaken unnecessary promotional expenditure, at the cost of the borrowers. I am saying this while the Minister for Works and Housing is here. I have said to him on previous occasions that I regard him as the most incompetent member in the Cabinet. As far as the building society industry is concerned, he is a blot on it. He doesn't have a clue what is going on in the building societies. As I have said to the Minister on previous occasions, he is a disaster in that portfolio and, if the Premier was doing his job, he would remove him from the Cabinet forthwith.

This is what should happen. The Government should step in immediately—the Minister himself should do this, seeing he represents Works and Housing in the Cabinet—to halt this extravagant expansion while interest rates remain so high and borrowers are being forced to pay through the nose to cover these costs.

There has been a smell to this society since its take-over of the Sunstate and the Gold Coast Permanent Building Societies in 1974 and the ramifications attached to the sale of the Rix Building in Nerang Street, Southport, which was formerly owned by Alderman Rix of the Gold Coast City Council. The sale and the subsequent events surrounding the sale of this building constitute a public scandal, as the Minister well knows.

The last balance sheets of the Sunstate and Gold Coast Permanent Building Societies were never produced. The former members of those societies, which were passed over to Queensland Permanent under highly suspicious circumstances, certainly owe an explanation.

It is well known also that the Queensland Permanent Building Society never conducted a review of the books of those societies before racing into those mergers in its insane desire to become the largest building society in Queensland. When it found that it had inherited more problems to add to its own, it then put around the lie that it had stepped in to save the industry. That is a joke and the whole financial world knows it. It is time that the Minister, as a responsible Minister controlling building societies, shouldered his responsibilities and moved very quickly to end this financial tragedy which has affected the interest repayments of so many home owners.

I want to make a few comments on the annual report of this society for the year ended 30 June 1976. It is an affront to people's intelligence. The first few pages are devoted to meaningless nonsense about its alleged objectives and style of operation. It is nothing to be proud of. It is a thinly veiled attempt to soften up the reader before he comes to the bad news.

The directors' report again tries to mislead the reader. It is too long, it repeats itself and it is designed to put the reader to sleep in the same manner as the speeches made by the honourable member for Murrumba in this House put members to sleep. The report makes no mention of the fracturing of accounting ethics which has been undertaken to convey the position of an alleged profit when in fact the opposite is the case. I am glad that the Minister in listening because he knows that what I say is true.

The balance sheet discloses a perilous liquidity position.

I call on the Minister to act immediately to fully acquaint himself of the position and ensure that the shareholders in this society are fully protected. The report reveals a liquidity position of only \$15,500,000 compared with \$12,900,000 the previous year. As

the Minister well knows, that is equivalent to less than 10 per cent of invested funds. This is a scandalous situation compared with the average building society liquidity throughout Australia.

Mr. Jensen: They are only required to have 7½ per cent.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: That is true, but in some instances they haven't even got that.

As I was saying before I was so rudely interrupted by my good friend the honourable member for Bundaberg, the Government should immediately direct this society to suspend all lending until it has fully explained its liquidity prospects.

There are 18 notes to the accounts, which indicates the juggling that went on to touch up the accounts. In the notes, it is disclosed that in fact the society made a loss and not a profit as it has been claiming through the media. Note No. 3 shows an amount of more than \$51,000 overpaid to shareholders. This is an incredible situation. I will repeat it just to make sure that it sinks into the Minister's thick head.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member will not speak in disparaging terms and I ask him to withdraw that statement.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: I withdraw it, Mr. Speaker. So that it sinks into the Minister's head I repeat that \$51,000 was overpaid to shareholders.

Mr. Lee: You are a sewer rat; that's what you are!

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I ask the Minister to withdraw that remark. I ask honourable members to come to order and to refrain from making persistent interjections. The behaviour in the House and the tone of the debate during the past few minutes leave much to be desired.

Mr. LEE: I withdraw it, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: Whilst it is claimed to be legally owing to the society, the \$51,000 might not be recovered. In actual fact, the amount is a liability, dead set. I think that the Minister knows that.

Note No. 14 shows an amount of more than \$204,000 owing to shareholders by way of dividends from 20 to 25 June 1977, which is part of the financial year currently under review. The report says that the amount is not shown anywhere else in the accounts. If it were, it would have to be deducted from the so-called surplus of \$218,000. Even the Minister, with his limited knowledge of accounting, would realise that this would leave a surplus of \$14,000. If we take away the \$51,000 which has been overpaid to shareholders—which, I might add, they will not get back—the result is in actual fact a loss. The annual report is grossly deceptive and misleading and should be branded as such. In fact, that is what I am doing here today.

The report also confirms what I have been alleging in this House for ages—that this society cannot find its missing money. After nearly a year of searching, and at a cost of a staggering \$500,000, they report they have been able to find a paltry \$200,000. The auditors have quite rightly said that it will have to be treated as a loss if not found, and I will be interested to see if the Minister denies that. What is going to happen then—higher borrowers' rates to pay for it? That is what I suggest is going to happen in this society. To coin a phrase it is time the Minister and the Government got off their backsides and stopped these amateurs trying to clean up their own backyard. The professionals should be moved in before it is too late and more people get hurt. Under the Companies Act no public company would be permitted to conduct an investigation into its own mismanagement. It is tantamount to Caesar investigating Caesar.

The report finishes up by admitting that two of the directors are involved with firms receiving fees for work done for the Queensland Permanent Building Society. To my mind this is a pecuniary interest and a serious breach of trust. In fact, it has been going on in this society for years.

On previous occasions I have referred to two of the crooked directors, Lloyd Olsen and Don Postle, members of the Liberal and National Parties respectively. They have used their directorships to benefit themselves and associated interests. I want to refer to a question asked by me and an answer given by the Minister on Thursday, 10 March this year. Part (3) of my question reads—

“Are any of the directors involved with any business which benefits from the operations of the Queensland Permanent Building Society?”

Part (3) of the Minister's answer reads—

“Apart from Messrs. Olsen and Postle undertaking certain valuations on behalf of the Queensland Permanent Building Society, as also previously advised, I am not aware that the directors of this society are involved with any business which benefits from the society's operations.”

It is common knowledge that these two directors received \$15,000 each last year for valuation work carried out for the Queensland Permanent Building Society. If that is not a pecuniary interest, I do not know what is!

The managing director of the Queensland Permanent Building Society, Mr. Lloyd Price, hired a public relations firm to go round softening up the public for the blow. It was quite obvious that the Queensland Permanent Building Society managed to get the ear of someone in this Government. In addition, I think there has been a conspiracy with the media. I should add that I do not refer to the working journalists. I think the Minister or somebody else in this Government and the Queensland Permanent Building Society have

been able to get to the media and say, “Look, if Hooper exposes our society any further it is going to create a run on the society and we will go to the wall”. On previous occasions when statements have been issued there has been a conspiracy to hush up this scandal in the Queensland Permanent Building Society. The society is definitely on the rocks; the Minister knows it and Blind Freddy knows it, and still they do nothing about it. It is quite obvious, as I say, that somebody in the society has the ear of somebody in this Government or the Minister would have done what any responsible Minister would have done in the circumstances, particularly where there has been such a huge discrepancy, and given the investors a guarantee or otherwise insured that their savings would be safe. Obviously if the mismanagement and incompetence of the Queensland Permanent Building Society result in an inability to straighten out its books, the Government has an obligation to act as a guarantor as it allowed the society to go on trading without interceding at any level. I say quite bluntly to the Minister that he should immediately intervene and clean out this nest of crooks and incompetents who are at present controlling the Queensland Permanent Building Society.

I now want to refer to a shocking injustice perpetrated by the Government on tenants of Queensland Housing Commission homes. I want to refer to a letter sent to me in today's mail. It is a circular letter to tenants of the Queensland Housing Commission and it reads—

“Would you please operate on the enclosed rental payment book when making your next payment. Destroy any coupons remaining in your old book and retain the receipted butts as your record of payments.”

Then comes the crux of the letter—

“A recent amendment to the State Housing Regulations provides for the payment of rent fortnightly in advance. This action has been introduced in an endeavour to minimise the increasing cost of collecting rent.”

“You may already be paying your rent fortnightly in advance. If not, would you please do so commencing from the first payment in your new book. Your rent account should then be kept two weeks in advance.”

What a shocking imposition on the tenants of Queensland Housing Commission homes!

Mr. LEE: Mr. Speaker, could I ask for that document to be tabled, please?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: I will do so accordingly.

What a shocking imposition on the tenants of Housing Commission homes, who, in the main, are people on low incomes! It certainly is indicative of a shocking injustice to the tenants of the Queensland Housing Commission.

Mr. Lee: Did you type it out yourself? Who signed it?

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: I have said that I will table the letter.

Mr. Lee: Table it.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: I will table it. I am reading from it. As a matter of fact, if the Minister for Works and Housing does not know anything about it, I suggest that he is not administering the department correctly. Here it is; I am quoting from it.

Mr. Greenwood: You have read it. Table it.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: It will be tabled.

Most wage earners are paid on a weekly basis, not on a fortnightly basis, and this type of heavy standover by the Government of the tenants of Queensland Housing Commission homes will create additional hardship, particularly to tenants on low incomes and the poor old pensioners. The Minister should be ashamed of himself.

Whereupon the honourable gentleman tabled the document referred to.

I should like to mention also the serious problem of aged persons' housing in Queensland. I think that all honourable members will agree with me when I say that there is a pressing need for adequate housing at a reasonable cost for active elderly citizens who wish to maintain their independence and look after themselves. I realise that there are numbers of elderly citizens who are forced by age, senility or illness to enter the many well-run church homes or institutions or to go into private nursing homes. Many of the latter leave much to be desired, as I have pointed out in this House on a number of occasions.

I would now like to draw to the attention of the House and the Minister responsible for administering this department the options open at present to senior citizens in the field of housing. Let me refer briefly to rooms and flatettes. As pensioners need ready access to transport, medical facilities and shops, it is virtually impossible to obtain good, cheap accommodation for them. The inner suburbs such as West End, South Brisbane, Woolloongabba, Spring Hill, Fortitude Valley and New Farm all traditionally provided pensioner accommodation. In these suburbs the older-type homes could be subdivided relatively easily. However, this situation has now changed. In the suburbs I have mentioned, literally hundreds of houses have been demolished to make way for offices, factories, car parks, flats, home units and, of course, projects such as the South East Freeway.

I have always thought, Mr. Speaker, that it was crazy to have factories and office blocks in the inner-city suburbs, within walking distance of the city heart and people. I think we would all agree that people make the city alive and viable, and these poor people are pushed 8 to 10 miles out into the sticks. The elderly who are least able to cope are also forced to join the exodus from the city.

Some of the slum-lords in the inner suburbs have been quick to take advantage of the accommodation shortage. As soon as a rise in pensions is announced, the poor old pensioner's rent is raised by almost half of the increase. In a couple of instances brought to my notice, the rents were raised from the day of the announcement. The slum-lords did not even wait till the increase was actually paid. Unfortunately these slum-lords are not orphans in the practice. Some of the proprietors of private nursing homes are also very adept in timing fee increases.

The second option open to a senior citizen is the purchase of a unit from a charitable organisation. This avenue is not open to many poor old pensioners in our community today. They have difficulty meeting the requirements to enter homes of this type. The pensioner is usually required to make a payment of several thousand dollars to the charity concerned. A small weekly payment is then made, and on the death of the occupant the unit usually becomes the property of the charity, which then resells it in a similar manner. In some cases there is provision for nursing care if the occupant needs it. As I have said previously in the House, accommodation of that type would not be available to the ordinary battler, who would be quite unable to raise the deposit.

The third option open to the senior citizen is to obtain an aged-pensioner unit from the Queensland Housing Commission. This is not as easy as it may seem. In answer to a question from me last year, the Minister for Works and Housing said that at that time the waiting list for aged-pensioner units was 1,084 applicants for single units and 323 applicants for married units. However, Mr. Speaker, I should think that those figures are now much higher. Unfortunately, as so few units are constructed each year, it is almost easier to win the Casket than to obtain one, as the Minister for Works and Housing well knows.

In answer to another question on 11 August, the same Minister told me that only 91 pensioner units were built during 1976-77. In a large State like Queensland, with a population of 2,000,000 persons, it is a disgrace that only 91 units were constructed for aged persons. Certainly that number will not make much impression on the waiting list, as the Minister well knows. We should contrast our treatment of the aged with the way some other societies look after their aged.

The establishment of a massage parlour in my electorate, short-lived though it was, prompted me to make inquiries of a wider nature into Brisbane's body shops. This massage parlour called "The Seventh Heaven" was located at Begonia Street, Inala. It was owned and operated by a prominent member of the Algester branch of the Liberal Party, Mrs. Rhonda Findlay of 19 Ridgewood Road, Algester. The opening of the massage parlour in Inala showed up the double standards of this Government. I will lay any shade of odds that there is not a massage parlour operating at the moment in Kingaroy. Yet that woman was prepared to come into my electorate and ply her wares. No doubt she would have got away with it but for my kicking up a fuss.

Mr. Frawley: You're dirty on her because she charged you.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: As a matter of fact when I contacted the police to get evidence against that woman, we sent the honourable member for Murrumba in with a marked \$20 note. The \$20 note still has not been forthcoming.

I would like to place on record my appreciation of the prompt and efficient manner in which the officer in charge of the Inala Police District, Inspector Ron Edington, and the detectives of the Oxley C.I.B. carried out their duties in regard to this establishment. I would also like to place on record my appreciation of the sympathetic manner and in-depth reporting of television station Channel 9 in its handling of this very sordid situation. I would suggest to Mrs. Finlay that she stick to her own area when next she hangs out her red light. I am sure that the shopkeepers at the Algester shopping centre would welcome her massage parlour like they would a hole in the head.

One could almost call the massage racket in this city a cottage industry. Unfortunately it is in the hands of some of the nastiest criminal elements at large in this State. Undoubtedly the best known front man is a Roland John Short, who has managed to establish some friends in high places as well as indulge in his brutal tendencies. He is nothing but a standover thug. Short is well known to the police, and has a very heavy grip on massage parlours and vice dens in Brisbane and on the Gold Coast. He is the nominal owner of the Matador or Businessmen's Club at South Brisbane, which the police have raided twice in recent months. He also ran the gambling den at Koala Court in Surfers Paradise and a call-girl operation from some rented motel rooms a short distance away. He has the Penthouse Massage Parlour in the Valley, the Oriental Bath Massage Parlour in Logan Road, Mt. Gravatt, and visiting call-girl services including Charlies Angels.

This is quite an empire to be amassed by a 33-year-old man. His best known associate is a large, fat man, Alfred Douglas Efstathis,

who is known in the trade as Stacey. But his most despicable accomplice is a Maori with bullet marks across his shoulders known as Ron. He was formerly employed as a bouncer at the Sunnybank Hotel, where he was known for the merciless thrashings he dealt out to hotel patrons. He used to deliberately provoke drunken young men to make remarks and then he would give them a merciless thrashing. I have referred to his activities on a previous occasion in this House.

The unfortunate girls who work for Short live in daily fear of this man Ron. He forces them to perform sexual acts with him whenever the desire takes him, and metes out brutal thrashings to those who protest. He is the lowest of men and should be deported immediately to where he came from.

Mr. Lee: As hard as Kevin Hooper.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: His name is Norman Lee.

It is necessary to recount the police raid on the Matador Club. Honourable members will have read that this was a key club, heavily fortified, which advertised quite openly in the columns of the daily newspapers, pointing out its heavy security. Apart from gambling, such as Manila and black-jack—I am told that one could get the jack there, too—it offered pornographic movies, prostitution and all manner of obscenities. Every Saturday night it ran what it called "Swingers Night", and advertised in "The Courier-Mail" for participants. People even came down from Toowoomba, Warwick and Dalby—possibly Kingaroy, too—to attend these nights. Monday nights usually had another form of in-built entertainment. This was called "Strip Night". Every one of the \$100-per-key members who arrived with guests had to undress. According to information given to me, that was a house rule. The club contained sunken baths, lewd paintings of naked women and lavishly equipped private bedrooms.

The first raid was on 3 March this year, a Thursday night. When the police burst in—and it was quite a feat to knock down the steel and wooden doors—there was comparatively little money on the gambling tables and only three girls were on duty. I am reliably informed by one of the unfortunate girls who worked for Short at the Matador Club that usually on Thursday nights individual gambling games turned over more than \$1,000 and that at least 10 prostitutes were rostered from 10 p.m. Quite an army of police were involved in the raid, and they did an excellent job. I am not attempting to denigrate the activities of the police—as I say, they did an excellent job—but as a result of their raid only 42 men and eight women appeared in court.

As no V.I.P. members were in the club at the time of the raid, this leads me to suspect that they had been tipped off. My

inquiries show that Roland Short is well known to a senior commissioned police officer. He visited this police officer some days before the raid and after the activities of his club were exposed in "Sunday Sun". I believe that Short had a good idea when the raid would be made. I am sorry that the Minister for Police is not in the House to hear these comments.

One person the police missed in the raid either because he had just left or because he was not noticed in the long shadows of the club was a prominent member of the National Party. His wife is an even more prominent member, having gone on record as saying that women should get back to their rightful places in the kitchen and the bedroom. Her husband might agree with the comment about the kitchen; he certainly believes in going into the bedroom. This National Party member has been paying ever since for the friendly tip-off that kept his name off the charge sheet. He is a solicitor of sorts and has had the opportunity of appearing for Short and his friends after trouble they had with some of their other operations.

This National Party man is also well known to the night manager of the Matador Club on the night of the raid, Geoff Crocker, who tried to thump one of the policemen who was merely doing his job. Crocker is also in the massage game in his own right as the owner of a Valley massage parlour.

A few days after the raid the Matador Club was open for business again. This reminds me of the old days of the S.P. book-makers. They were raided one day, later paid their fine and were open for business again the next day. They were virtually paying a licence fee, and the same thing is happening in connection with the Matador Club. It was conducted just as before and again blatantly advertised for girls and club members in "The Courier-Mail".

The second raid is now history. The police are to be commended. However, the massage parlour business is apparently such a lucrative one that the loss of this South Brisbane operation is of little concern.

At about the time of the first raid major negotiations were taking place between Short and underworld contacts in Sydney. Honourable members will recall that early in March an international criminal known as "Big Vinnie" was in Sydney. Short and Efstathis—I will refer to him by his trade name of "Stacey"—flew to Sydney when "Big Vinnie" was in town. I am informed that they returned with more than \$100,000 towards the establishment of a super vice den in Brisbane or on the Gold Coast. Short himself is said to have put up a similar amount in profits from the Matador Club and his other vice enterprises. I am also informed that plans for the establishment of this new gambling and prostitution parlour, where the rules will be "anything goes", are well under way and that interstate operators will help get it off the ground.

One might wonder at the actual turnover of Short's establishments, so I will provide honourable members with an example. Membership of the Matador Club was \$100 cash, and the club had over 300 paid-up members. They were all allowed to take guests. Members also paid a heavy deposit of from \$50 to \$100 from which their drinks at the bar were financed. When they drank their deposit they had to throw into kitty again. As I said, the card games raked in more than \$1,000 per game. Bedrooms cost \$12, and a girl to go with the bed cost, as the honourable member for Murrumba knows, an additional \$40 and upwards, depending on the particular perversions of the customers.

Short and Stacey also allowed credit to the poor suckers who were having a bad night at the tables. Particularly after the police raid they began collecting their debts. The highest single outstanding sum that they considered was owed to them in unpaid gambling debts was \$5,000.

Their methods of collection were quite brutal if not novel. It was a case of "pay up or else!" One collection visit, which Short himself publicised, involved a late-night call on a club member who was in bed with his wife when the collectors called. Kerosene was poured over the bedclothes, and under threat of being set alight the unfortunate victim agreed to pay. Other debtors have also been hounded to the doors of their homes. I repeat: violence is not spared.

The sick minds reaping fortunes from organised vice in this city are quite ruthless, and this is where I believe the State Government is failing to play its role.

This State Government, which refuses to allow Queenslanders to buy magazines that are available in every other State, condones explicit advertisements for vice dens in the pages of our daily newspapers. Honourable members should look at these advertisements, some of which are disgusting. There is ample scope for the Government to act in this area. Unfortunately other advertisements are the gateway to vice for many young girls who are victims of nothing worse than being out of work. An advertisement for an attendant in a massage parlour, with no experience necessary, must be extremely tempting to a young girl who has been knocked repeatedly in attempts to find a decent job—and she then finishes up employed in a knock shop.

I am informed that many are country girls who come to the city seeking opportunity when it did not knock at home. Initially they go to an interview in desperation, clutching the slim hope that perhaps the job may not be as degrading as they have heard; but in the hands of men like Short the word "degrading" is an understatement. He makes a practice of testing the abilities of applicants during the so-called interview—no co-operation, no job! It is no good the honourable member for Murrumba looking lascivious; he would not have the constitution to carry out the duties required.

There is another area in which any concerned State Government could act to check the spread of vice. Massage was once the province of people trained in physiotherapy, but it is no longer so. If the State Government chose to license masseurs and masseuses and specified adequate training and qualifications, it is quite clear that many clubs would be thrown out of business overnight. I am pleased that the Minister for Justice is taking a keen interest in what I am saying. I hope that he will act on it.

Mr. Lee interjected.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: I am talking to the butcher, not the block.

When framing any legislation of this nature, suitable provisions could be inserted to allow the rubbers, who play an important and legitimate role in our sporting clubs, to continue operating.

It is vital that the Government provide the law-enforcement agencies with adequate means to clean up the streets of our cities. It cannot continue to keep its head in the sand in the hope that the problem will go away. The terms "massage parlours", "health clubs", or whatever they are called, are nothing but euphemisms for brothels. Some honourable members, because of their cloistered upbringing, think that brothel is the name of the soup of the day in the Parliamentary Refreshment Room.

Mr. W. D. Hewitt: It's a far cry from the day when Sam Burmister used to run a massage parlour.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: Things were a lot different then.

Back-door prostitution, like illegal gambling, prohibition and illegal drugs, attracts the most undesirable types in our community, who are eager to make huge profits from the exploitation of the weaknesses of others.

Mr. Greenwood: The Labor Party's policy is to decriminalise it—to make prostitution legal.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: That is not the Labor Party's policy at all. The Minister does not know what he is talking about. Not only is he the most junior Minister on the Government benches, but he is also the most dense.

I am very pleased that the Minister for Works and Housing is in the House, because I wish to refer to a massage parlour—a brothel—that is operating in his electorate. I refer to the Golden Hands massage parlour located in a small shopping centre close to the entrance of the Moorooka station.

Mr. Lee: Say that again.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: The Minister knows where it is; he has had first-hand experience.

I might add that children of tender years pass by this massage parlour, and embarrassed young mothers when doing their shopping have to stand outside.

Mr. Lee: You keep out of my electorate.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: The brothel in this electorate is represented by an absentee member, the Minister for Works and Housing. The Minister should face up to his responsibilities to his constituents and do something about it.

If any member of the Government is contemplating visiting the Golden Hands massage parlour, my advice to him is "Don't", because numerous instances of V.D. have been traced to it.

I shall now refer to a statement made by the Minister for Health that appeared in "The Courier-Mail" of 16 August 1977, in which he said that V.D. was the State's biggest single health problem, that 25,000 cases were reported annually and that the number of cases was increasing rapidly.

Mr. Hartwig interjected.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: The honourable member may have got treatment but I would not know.

The Minister estimated that the real figure was 10 times the number he gave and he urged doctors to report all cases of this disease so that sources could be traced. This is another instance of the Government's double standards. While one Minister complains about the increase of V.D., another Minister condones it. One Minister has an acknowledged source in his electorate, but no action is taken.

Mr. Lee interjected.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: We will see how active the Minister is, but I hazard a guess that nothing will be done.

Finally, I want to talk about the swimming-pool industry. With summer coming on, the swimming-pool crooks will be out looking for business again. As there has still not been any attempt to license swimming-pool builders, the result will be the same this year as it has been in previous years. As the Minister knows, all that is required is a minor amendment to the Builders' Registration Act. It could not be said that by introducing it he would be creating a precedent. His Tory counterparts in New South Wales amended their relevant Act when they were in office.

If the Minister was doing his job correctly and looking after the people, he would introduce amending legislation, and I have brought that to his attention on numerous occasions. The progress payments made by these poor unfortunates will be lost. The poor old home buyer will be left with the usual half-finished hole in the ground. The Government, of course, is just not interested. What makes the matter so frustrating is that it would require only a minor amendment to the Act to bring that industry under control—control that is sought, I might mention, by a reputable section of the swimming-pool industry—and to safeguard the interests of the consumers.

Mr. Speaker, as I have a few minutes left before my time expires, I want to refer to the recent quashing of a gaol term imposed on Alexander Beattie, formerly managing director of Congo Pools, for breaches of the Contractors' Trust Accounts Act. For the benefit of honourable members I point out that he is a real chip off the old baton. He is the wasteful son of Superintendent Mark "Basher" Beattie of dong-a-demonstrator fame, who is well known to most Government members.

Briefly, the charges were that Beattie did not pay into a trust account sums received as advance payments by people wanting pools installed. Beattie pleaded ignorance. He said also that his solicitor had not told him of the Act. The magistrate quite rightly sentenced him to gaol. In fact, quite a number of pool buyers who lost their money and had to pay out large amounts to have their pools completed applauded this decision. However, the Court of Criminal Appeal inexplicably upheld Beattie's appeal. The judges felt that there was a slight degree of guilt and said that there were many circumstances which favoured the imposition of a reasonably light sentence.

I wonder what their reaction would have been had a member of the legal profession, like the Minister for Survey and Valuation, been defending Congo Pools. I agree with a number of pool owners who have contacted me to express disgust that, if Beattie is innocent through ignorance and as a result of lack of advice by a solicitor, then the solicitor must be in error. I know that it is heresy to suggest that a legal eagle could make a mistake or that he would tender wrong advice to his client. Nevertheless, I call upon the Minister for Justice, in the name of what passes for justice in this sorry State of Queensland, to have this matter examined forthwith with a view to having Beattie's solicitors struck off the roll for a breach of practice.

Mr. ALISON (Maryborough) (12.38 p.m.): It is with pleasure and honour that I rise to take part in the Address-in-Reply debate and to confirm the loyalty of my electors to Her Majesty the Queen. However, before I commence my constructive comments I feel compelled to make some criticism of the remarks of the previous speaker, the honourable member for Archerfield—and I almost choke when I use the term "honourable" in that context. The address we heard from him could only be described as a disgrace. The honourable member displayed an intimate knowledge of prostitution, massage parlours, call girls, gambling crooks and shysters—you name it and he seems to be in on it or to have a very intimate knowledge of it.

Mr. Jensen: It outstrips his knowledge of building societies, doesn't it?

Mr. ALISON: It certainly does.

It is quite obvious that if the A.L.P. ever assumed office—and Heaven forbid that that should happen—and the leader of the A.L.P. wanted to give the honourable member for Archerfield a portfolio, it would have to be as Minister for Prostitution and Gambling.

Mr. Frawley: They used to have shares in it. When the A.L.P. was in Government, it owned half the brothels in Brisbane.

Mr. ALISON: That is my understanding, too. What amazes me—it has been mentioned here this morning and I am quite sure it is correct—is that in the last election campaign the decriminalising of prostitution was announced as A.L.P. policy. I am sure that that is a fact. Of course, the honourable member for Archerfield wants it both ways—or three ways; I am not sure which.

I wish to make a couple of observations on his comments which, to my mind, should be looked at by the Privileges Committee. I mention his continuing vendetta against the Queensland Permanent Building Society. It makes one wonder why such a vendetta has been carried on over the years. I wonder whether the honourable member for Archerfield is being put up to it and being paid for it, or whether at some time he was knocked back on an application that he made for a loan from the Queensland Permanent Building Society. Honourable members have a right—indeed a duty—to air in this House matters of State, electoral and general concern if things somewhere are going bad. The honourable member for Archerfield makes these wild statements in this House under privilege. If they are factual, why doesn't he produce a case to the Minister in control of this matter? But, as I understand it, the honourable member will not do that. I think that the Committee of Privileges should have a look at this continuing vendetta waged against the Queensland Permanent Building Society.

Mr. Lee: He was very, very silent when the Trade Union Building Society went broke. He was told to shut up about it.

Mr. ALISON: That was quite marked. As the Minister for Works and Housing pointed out, when all the kerfuffle about the five building societies was going on, the honourable member for Archerfield was muzzled because the Trade Union Building Society was involved. Now that that is all over it is open slather and one wonders just why this vendetta is being carried on. Perhaps the Committee of Privileges could get to the bottom of it.

I now come to what I really want to talk about today. Some five or six weeks ago we in Maryborough had the honour of a visit from His Excellency the Governor (Sir James Ramsay) and Lady Ramsay. They spent a day and a half there on the occasion of the centenary celebrations of the Maryborough Central State School. His Excellency took time off while there to look at some of our industries. The following day, Saturday, he attended the Maryborough

Central State School centenary celebrations. I say in all sincerity that I was most impressed with His Excellency and Lady Ramsay as very gracious and sincere people with a desire to serve the State. I am quite sure that in every respect they will carry out their duties very well.

I should like to offer a few comments on the future and potential growth of Maryborough. Unfortunately, over the last couple of years my electorate has had bad publicity, none of which has been our making. In 1974 we lost the shipyards because the then A.L.P. Federal Government renegeed on a promise to sustain the yards and even to go it alone regardless of what the State Government did. As a matter of fact, it was quite interesting to hear one of the A.L.P. members tell Mr. Gough Whitlam last Saturday in Maryborough what he would do to Mr. Charlie Jones if ever he returned there. Mr. Jones was the former Federal Minister for Transport who started all of this problem and renegeed on his promise. I do not know Mr. Whitlam's reply to that remark.

To people who did not know better, the implication was that because the shipyards closed, Walkers Limited would go down the plug-hole and out of existence. That is absolutely incorrect. The closure of the shipyards was an economic necessity if the company was to remain viable. By closing the shipyards the company stayed viable and it has been going very well ever since.

Late last year and early this year Maryborough received bad publicity as a result of the ridiculous and immoral decision of the Federal Government to stop sand-mining on Fraser Island. The lies told by the so-called conservationists in the South, and around here to a lesser extent, also gave a very bad impression of my electorate and the surrounding district. However, it is not all bad news. I am quite confident that sand-mining will be resumed, with its resultant benefits, and that we will be able to retain our island in all of its glory.

Be that as it may, there have been two very significant happenings over the past eight months. The Government can take a bow in regard to both of them. The first was the adoption of the recommendations contained in the report of the Coastal Lowlands Land Use Committee. This was an inter-departmental committee set up by the State Government to investigate that area of vacant Crown land, and the land generally, running from Elliott River, which is south of Bundaberg, to Boonooroo Point, which is just south of Maryborough. I shall deal later with that report in greater detail. The second report was that on the Lower Mary River Irrigation Project, and it was adopted by the State Government some four or five weeks ago.

The adoption of these reports is of tremendous significance not only to my electorate but to the entire State of Queensland. In particular, it augurs well for my city of Maryborough and the surrounding district. An inter-departmental committee of officers of the Lands Department, the Primary Industries Department and one or two other State Government departments commenced the coastal lowlands study in November 1972, and the recommendations of that committee were that in this area 37 600 ha of vacant Crown land be set aside for forestry, 26 700 ha be set aside for nature conservation, 8 000 ha be set aside for agricultural purposes and 3 800 ha be set aside for urban purposes.

The 37 600 ha set aside for forestry is nearly all contained in an area within 30 km just north of Maryborough, with a small patch between Maryborough and the existing Tuan forest, which is also quite close to Maryborough. The area of 8 000 ha to be set aside for agriculture was previously vacant Crown land situated between Maryborough and Hervey Bay. The only benefit anybody got from it was a bit of illegal grazing. One of the reasons for the relatively slow development of the city of Maryborough and the surrounding district is that this great tract of land containing 76 100 ha has been virtually frozen. I am sure honourable members will agree that is a sizeable portion of land and, as I have said, this is why we have not had the development we would normally have had around the city of Maryborough.

Mr. Hartwig: Do you think we should give it to the environmentalists?

Mr. ALISON: No. We have had a neckful of the environmentalists. They have done pretty well out of it in getting 26 000 ha——

Mr. Hartwig interjected.

Mr. ALISON: Thanks to the environmentalists, we lost about 600 jobs around the Maryborough, Tin Can Bay and Gympie areas. So "environmentalist" is almost a dirty word where I come from. We should see immediate benefits in that 4 000 ha of the 8 000 ha to be set aside for agricultural purposes has been leased to Fielders Limited for the purpose of conducting feasibility studies into the growing of cassava, a plant from which starch is produced. I have no doubt that these feasibility studies will be highly successful and also that they will be concluded a lot sooner than most people think. This will bring another industry to the district and further benefits will no doubt flow from it.

Maryborough can now rightly call itself the "timber town" of Queensland. I intend to make a submission to the city council, the chamber of commerce and the development board that we conduct a campaign to highlight Maryborough as the "timber town". Maryborough can rightly assume this title

because of the 37 000 ha just to the north of the city which is to be set aside for forestry, combined with the softwood forestry plantations of Tuan, Toolara and Como just to the south. With this new area we will have 105 800 ha devoted to softwood forestry plantations within 35 miles to the north and south of Maryborough. This total of 105 800 ha of forestry area is made up of 37 600 ha in the new area to the north of Maryborough, 34 000 ha in the Tuan forest, 18 600 ha in the Toolara forest and 15 600 ha in the Como forest area. Of this total area, there are still 65 000 ha to be planted. Well over half is in the new area, with 14 000 ha still to be planted in Tuan, 2 000 ha in Toolara and 4 000 ha in Como. I mention these facts in order to make the point that Maryborough can justly be called the "timber town" of Queensland, with a greater area of softwood plantations around it than any other city or town in Queensland.

Two of the largest timber mills in the southern hemisphere are situated in Maryborough. We also have a hardwood timber industry, with 50 per cent of our supplies coming from Fraser Island.

While it occurs to me, I might mention another matter for which the State Government can justly take a bow. Recently, as a result of submissions made with my assistance, the State Government has granted the two mills concerned the right to take timber from Fraser Island for the next 20 years, the volume and the area to be nominated by the Forestry Department, with an option covering another 20 years. That gives the timber mills security, and it is very pleasing to see this at a time when people wish to get onto the bandwagon of conservation and the environment.

In 1982 a pulp mill is to be set up somewhere in the Maryborough-Gympie region to take the timber from the softwoods forestry plantations, and I am aware that a feasibility study is being carried out at present. Again, this will lead to tremendous development in Maryborough and the surrounding district.

On the agricultural side, I have mentioned already that 4 000 ha of the new 8 000 ha area have been leased to Fielders Ltd. for cassava growing.

Let me now make a couple of comments, Mr. Deputy Speaker, on the Lower Mary River irrigation project, the report on which was adopted recently and the scheme approved by State Cabinet as viable. In 1971 the Maryborough and District Promotion Bureau asked that a feasibility study be undertaken of an irrigation scheme for the Mary River/Tinana Creek area. Mr. John Jurss was the manager of the bureau at the time. The investigation was begun in 1972, and the report sets out that the scheme would serve 6 528 ha, of which about 5 220 ha would be irrigated annually when fully developed. It would stabilise production on some 109 existing cane farms, with an

assigned area of 3 264 ha. When the scheme is fully developed there could be a 100 per cent expansion of cane assignments in the Mary River/Tinana Creek area. The present cost of the scheme is estimated to be \$11,700,000 and when it is fully developed there will be a gross increase in annual value of sugar production of about \$8,910,000.

It is of interest to refer to the statement by Mr. Beattie, Commissioner of Irrigation and Water Supply, and Mr. Elton Burns, Acting Director-General, Department of Primary Industries, at the beginning of the report, in which they say—

"The scheme is economically sound and the use of irrigation would show substantial gains to individual landholders."

As I said, the estimated capital cost is \$11,700,000, made up as follows—

Works	Item (\$)
Mary River Barrage	2,800,000
Mary River Pumping Station and Diversion Channel to Tinana Creek	3,000,000
Tinana Creek Barrage	1,100,000
Relift pumping stations and reticulation works	4,200,000
Construction and Permanent Staff Accommodation	600,000
Total	<u>\$11,700,000</u>

It is suggested that the construction programme be over seven years, with expenditure up to \$2,500,000 annually.

It is interesting also to turn to the concluding remarks in the report, which state—

"Apart from the need to look further at matters of water quality and fish migration if the scheme proceeds, no environmental difficulties have been recognised that would suggest the scheme should not proceed.

"The storages behind the barrage would provide additional opportunities for the conduct of water sports and recreation generally.

"The scheme will ensure sugar production from the project area is placed on a stable base with resultant significant economic and social benefits to the Maryborough district."

Of course, the barrage would also provide water for the proposed wood-pulp mill and other industries. Only about 16 per cent of the water from the Borumba Dam, west of Gympie, is now being used, so there is plenty of room to expand the use of the water from that dam which would serve the Mary River barrage near Maryborough. Within the last fortnight the Premier approached the Prime Minister, seeking Federal Government finance for this scheme—and rightly so. I am delighted that the Premier did that.

Something that Maryborough has needed to stabilise itself and confirm itself as the regional centre of the district is a big name shopping complex. While I would say in all sincerity that we would have as good a regional shopping centre as any I have seen, nevertheless Maryborough has lacked a national name shopping centre complex. As a result people from Maryborough do tend to go to other centres, and people in the surrounding district, who would normally and traditionally be coming to Maryborough to shop, tend to go elsewhere.

I am delighted to be able to say that within the last 10 days something else has happened. Woolworths have announced a big project to build a shopping complex at Maryborough. This will fill Maryborough's vacuum in not having a national name shopping complex. Woolworths have a shop in Maryborough now, but my point is that the sophisticated, modern-day shopper looks for a big name in a big shopping market. The fact that we will have one will bring people into Maryborough from the district and keep people in Maryborough. Woolworths will not be the only business to reap the benefit. I am confident that, with increased trade coming in, smaller shops and stores that are able to provide goods and services at the right price will also benefit.

One good thing that has flowed from the Fraser Island sand-mining debacle has been the decision to upgrade the road from Maryborough to Tin Can Bay. It is a forestry road running from the Maryborough-Boonooroo road through to the road from Tin Can Bay to Gympie. I am delighted that the State Government has allocated funds to upgrade this road to tourist standard. When it is completed in the next two or three years, we will have an all-weather road from Maryborough through to our nearest surfing beach, Rainbow Beach. It only requires the completion of the missing link from Tin Can Bay through to Noosa to have a coastal tourist road all the way from Caloundra to Maryborough.

I know this will bring tremendous benefits to the city of Maryborough and its sister city Hervey Bay. Instead of stopping at Noosa, which now is the northern end of the Caloundra-Noosa tourist road, caravanners and tourists will be inclined to travel further and have a look at Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach, and then move further on to Maryborough and Hervey Bay. That is one of the very few benefits that have resulted from the Fraser Island sand-mining fiasco, which I will have something to say about shortly.

The city council is proceeding with quite a large showgrounds, racing and sports complex. Its cost will be something of the order of \$1,500,000, and the State Government has allocated \$600,000 of the Federal Government's compensation money towards the cost of the project. It is going to be well equipped, with a full-length race-track, showground facilities and sporting facilities. We have

already formed the Maryborough Turf Club and made initial approaches to the Q.T.C. for registration, and also to the State Government to receive recognition and registration as a racing club when the facilities are available to conduct a race-meeting. The turf club—I am a member of the committee—is conducting a feasibility study at the present time, and I confidently expect that that study will be completed over the next couple of months.

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

Mr. ALISON: Before lunch I was referring to the feasibility study conducted by the newly formed Maryborough Turf Club. The work done so far indicates that such a club is feasible. The committee conducting the study has obtained facts and figures from various provincial and country race clubs and in the light of the income, expenditure and attendance figures provided it decided to act on an estimated attendance of 1.5 per cent of the total population of the area at what we confidently expect will be weekly race days.

Within a 30-mile radius of Maryborough there is a population of at least 40,000, and we confidently expect that at least 600 persons will attend the race meetings—provided, of course, we have the facilities. I am quite confident that with funds allocated by the State Government from the sand-mining compensation money, the plans drawn up by the Maryborough City Council will be implemented and that we will have these facilities.

We hope to place the emphasis on making the race days family days and not merely days for hard-core punters or persons who are wrapped up in racing. If clearing has not already started, I expect that it will commence very soon, and I am quite confident that within two years we will see racing at Maryborough.

I know, of course, that the Bundaberg Race Club, 70 miles away, is not happy with the prospect; nor is the Gympie Race Club, 60 miles or so to the south. Be that as it may, Maryborough has the edge in that it is the centre of the Wide Bay/Burnett region, which has a population of 120,000. Whereas Bundaberg has very little population to its north, Maryborough is surrounded by a large population in the Wide Bay/Burnett area.

Whilst talking about benefits from sand-mining, I should like to say that I have not been terribly impressed by the performance of some of my Federal Liberal colleagues, who let themselves be snowed by this dreadfully biased inquiry set up by the Whitlam Government and by the so-called conservationists in Melbourne and Sydney.

Mr. Houston: What particular members are you referring to? You are not putting a cloud over them all, are you?

Mr. ALISON: As I said before, I am not greatly impressed by their performance at all. However, I am even less impressed by the performance of the Leader of the Opposition in this House in the matter of sand-mining. I know for a fact that two former workers in the sand-mining industry are waiting for him to come back to Maryborough, one with a bucket of Fraser Island sand, the other with a bottle of minerals taken from the island. The one with the bucket wants to tip it over the Leader of the Opposition, but I told him that I did not want to see any violence in Maryborough and that he should simply present the bucket to the Leader of the Opposition so that he can hang it on his mantelpiece as a reminder of the fact that in Maryborough he is considered the greatest hypocrite in 1977.

Let me trace his performance in this matter. In May 1971, while he was Federal President of the A.L.P., the Leader of the Opposition presented himself in the Mining Warden's Court in Maryborough and spoke against sand-mining on Fraser Island. It was, of course, his right to do that and I do not hold that against him. Whilst the battle was on, he was running with the hares and trying to hunt with the hounds—having five bob both ways. By his silence he tried to make it appear that he supported sand-mining on Fraser Island. But we know better than that.

Mr. Lane: His past is catching up with him.

Mr. ALISON: It is.

We know that he actively aided and abetted conservationists through the Australian Conservation Foundation. I do not know how well he knows Jack Munday, the red-hot Communist or Mosley, the other Left-winger, but I know that he actively aided and abetted the conservationists to persevere with their so-called "Save Fraser Island" campaign. When the battle was on, the Leader of the Opposition was absent. In all, 600 workers' jobs were involved, with about 400 in the Maryborough-Hervey Bay area and another 200 in the Gympie-Tin Can Bay area, but nothing was said by the Leader of the Opposition until the battle was over. He came to Maryborough and made a great noise about being terribly upset and asked what the Federal Government intended to do about it. He shed crocodile tears wherever he went. I understand that some A.L.P. members put him right on a few things. More recently in July, he made a second trip. The "Maryborough Chronicle" carried the headline "Burns Raps Sand Mining Decision". The article read—

"The Leader of the Queensland Opposition (Mr. Tom Burns) savagely attacked the present Federal Government's decision on Fraser Island after a visit to the island yesterday".

I had to remind my Maryborough people—that is, if they needed any reminding—of the true position in a Press statement of my own, which appeared in "The Maryborough Chronicle" of 27 July, in these terms—

"The notion of State Opposition Leader Mr. Tom Burns 'savagely attacking' anyone over the Federal Government's ban on sandmining on Fraser Island would send Maryborough people into gales of laughter, the Member for Maryborough (Mr. Gilbert Alison) said last night."

That went over pretty well but I doubt that the Maryborough people needed any reminding of the stand taken by Mr. Burns.

Mr. Frawley: You know that they call him the cut-lunch commando.

Mr. ALISON: Yes.

I would have thought that the A.L.P. generally outside the city, as well as inside the city, would have taken a keener interest in the workers' jobs. In the city this matter was non-political. People of all political persuasions were fighting hard to save the industry because they knew what it was all about. But we did not get much help from the Leader of the A.L.P. He was working against us and he will be reminded of that periodically, particularly if he comes to Maryborough. I challenge him now to state clearly in the House whether he will help us in our efforts to get the sand-mining industry back, or whether he will continue with his battle through the conservation groups to fight against us.

Mr. BURNS: I rise to a point of order. I accept the challenge. I will help them if he will stop leaning over backwards to help the Tories in the South.

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

Mr. ALISON: Typically, that is five bob both ways.

The proof will come later on when we get fair dinkum about getting our industry back. We will see where the honourable member for Lytton and the A.L.P. stand on the issue of jobs for people of Maryborough, Tin Can Bay and Gympie. Will he forsake his conservation bodies, the red-hot Comm Munday, and Dr. Mosley and for a change fight for the workers on a fair-dinkum basis?

Mr. Burns interjected.

Mr. ALISON: Having said that, I will deal with some of the things happening around Maryborough.

Mr. Burns: You are a dingo now.

Mr. ALISON: I take up that allegation about being a dingo and repeat my challenge to the Leader of the Opposition to come to Maryborough and tell us where he stands

on Fraser Island sand-mining and what he will do when we mount our campaign to get back jobs for the workers. Let him say this now and in Maryborough rather than have five bob both ways.

The Leader of the Opposition came to Maryborough, but he came when the battle was over. His coming was pointless. When the battle was on we needed his assistance and that of everybody else. He would have been welcomed (even as Leader of the Opposition) with open arms, if he had come up then, but he did not. He came when the battle was over. We do not have to worry about his performance because the A.L.P. members in Maryborough know where he stands.

However, let me get back to a few constructive comments on what is happening in Maryborough. I was delighted at the announcement recently by the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads that the Granville Bridge over the Mary River is to be widened. That matter, of course, is of serious concern to the residents of Maryborough and other people who use the bridge. There will be a greater use of that bridge in time to come.

Earlier in my speech this afternoon I mentioned that the road from Tin Can Bay to Maryborough is to be upgraded to tourist standard. That development itself will result in a lot more traffic crossing the Granville Bridge. It amazes me that there have not been deaths on the bridge, which is used by heavy transports carrying cane. We have just been lucky.

I was delighted also with the statement of the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads that he will be opening a Main Roads Office in Maryborough towards the end of September. At that office residents from Maryborough and surrounding districts will be able to arrange for the issue of registration labels and number-plates.

I sum up all of this by saying that Maryborough has a tremendous future, in spite of all the knockers and the lack of support from the A.L.P. for anything constructive for the workers. Maryborough has a tremendous future. Today I have referred to only some of the more important projects that are under way. If anybody has a bob to spend, whether it be on real estate or some other form of investment, the place to go is Maryborough, a city with one of the most equable climates in Australia.

For all of this tremendous development that has taken place in Maryborough we have to thank the initiative of private enterprise and also this State Government, which has created the right conditions and conducted two very important studies—the lowlands coastal study and the irrigation scheme study. We can thank the State Government for persevering and providing the funds in the

first place. However, we must see, particularly with relation to the irrigation scheme, that funds are made available to bring the scheme fully to fruition.

There is just one more point I would like to make, and that relates to the great need for additional State Government office space in Maryborough. I have been waging a battle of sorts with the Public Service Board. I have not been fair dinkum with them as yet, but I am about to be. The State Government office space as it is is completely inadequate. In the main, any space that is available is out of date and provides in most cases such cramped conditions for the employees that frankly I am amazed they do not go on strike from time to time. I refer in particular to the Forestry Department office, part of which has been filched over the last couple of years. Firstly there was the Children's Welfare Service. That section has now moved into a new office. but part of the Forestry office has now been taken over by the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement and the Queensland Fisheries Service. It is not as though the complement of workers in the Forestry Department there has decreased. Nor am I aware that it has increased, but I know that it will be increasing, for sure, because of the tremendous developments that I mentioned earlier will be and are taking place.

Mr. Jensen: There was a decrease in the last few years, wasn't there?

Mr. ALISON: No, I do not think so. I think the number has remained static. I am quite confident, however, that the complement will increase. There is just no justification for filching part of Forestry Department office space for the use of the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement and the Fisheries Service.

We have the ridiculous situation in the Labour Relations Department that the industrial inspector and his staff are in one of the State Government buildings while the apprenticeship advisory officers are in a building about two blocks away, in office space rented from private enterprise. This creates problems in administration and ought not to be tolerated. A month or two ago Public Service Board inspectors visited the area, but I am afraid we did not see eye to eye on many things. However I repeat that I am about to get fair dinkum with them.

Let me offer my suggestion in brief, without going into all the details. I do not wish to harm those on the private-enterprise side of things who are letting out office space to State Governments. The way out of this problem is quite clear to me. The two State Government office buildings situated on the corner of Wharf and Richmond Streets should be redeveloped. I do not know the

ages of those buildings. They are the court-house and the old S.G.I.O. building. My guess is that the court-house would be about 100 years old and the S.G.I.O. building is probably 50 or 60 years old. The buildings should be pulled down one at a time and the sites redeveloped.

Mr. Jensen: What about the conservationists?

Mr. ALISON: That is a danger. We might have a bit of a battle there. They might want to keep the court-house. As far as I am concerned, all of the conservationists should be put into the court-house and it should be blown up.

As I said, the way out of the problem is to pull the two buildings down one at a time and redevelop the site with one building covering the whole area, with parking beneath it. This would provide space for the State Government officers who are already in the area as well as for the additional Government officers who will have to be appointed. This scheme would provide all of the facilities necessary to cope with the tremendous development that will take place in Maryborough over the next five or 10 years.

Mr. LANE (Merthyr) (2.32 p.m.): I am pleased to join in this debate and make my contribution to the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply to the Opening Speech delivered by the Governor in this building a few weeks ago. I reaffirm to Her Majesty the Queen the loyalty of the people who live within the boundaries of the electoral district of Merthyr.

I record the pleasure expressed locally in my area at the appointment of the new Governor (Sir James Ramsay). History will record Sir James as the happy Governor of Queensland. I have never met a man who smiles as much or has such a happy disposition. He will do a great deal in this State in his very pleasant and outgoing manner. Already the people are talking about it. His Excellency outlined proposals and items of development for the future of this State. I think they should have the acclaim of all honourable members.

I should like to spend some of my time paying tribute to a Government Minister on a bold initiative taken in recent weeks in respect of the proposal to build a multi-lane traffic tunnel beneath the bed of the Brisbane River. On 19 July this year, on his return from overseas, the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads announced in the newspapers that a multi-lane traffic tunnel might be built beneath the Brisbane River to ease traffic congestion in the city and the Valley. He said he was convinced that a scheme of this nature would work. It is a scheme that demands bold initiatives and determination to go ahead and surmount the obstacles in the path of such a proposal.

The Minister suggested in his announcement that the tunnel could be built by private enterprise, which would be given the opportunity, over a number of years, of reaping a toll from it to repay it for its capital outlay. In this way very little expenditure would be required by the Queensland Government or the Queensland taxpayers. I commend the Minister on this proposal, and promise my support for it.

The Minister did not mention any precise location but I think it is clearly understood that the tunnel would be provided at the most suitable location between Hamilton and the mouth of the river to link traffic from both the north side and the south side.

The rapid growth of Brisbane, with an accompanying increase in traffic volume, has led to great traffic congestion, particularly at the Breakfast Creek Bridge, which is in my electorate, and along Kingsford Smith Drive. The wall of steel that proceeds along the roadway there, up Ann Street and through the Valley is probably the worst example of traffic congestion in our city. The Minister's announcement was followed by comment in the Press just a few days later that the Deputy Commissioner of Main Roads, Mr. Andrews, would be going overseas later this year, probably in October, to investigate the financing and operation of tunnel systems. Indeed, there is a great deal to see around the world in this regard.

Underwater tunnels for pedestrians, trains and motor vehicles are to be found in many parts of the world. Those countries avoid the use of high-level bridges over navigable waterways, and in populated areas where tunnels are usually found they mean less demand than bridges on available surface space. In North America alone there are 20 underwater vehicular tunnels, each over 3,000 ft. in length. The longest of these underwater tunnels is the BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) tunnel in San Francisco, California. This tunnel crosses under San Francisco Bay and is 3.6 miles in length. In fact, there are 23 miles of vehicular tunnels under water in the United States and Canada alone. The city of New York alone has four new tunnels, two under the Hudson River and two under the East River, each of which is over a mile in length, and in fact two are nearly two miles long. It is interesting to note that three of these tunnels were completed prior to the Second World War.

The Holland Tunnel under the Hudson River was built to carry vehicular traffic from New York to New Jersey in 1927, years before I and many other members were born. I mentioned this tunnel because it was the world's first vehicular tunnel as well as being a subaqueous tunnel. The problems of ventilation of noxious gases from internal combustion engines was also solved in this tunnel with the use of high

capacity fans in ventilating buildings at each end of the tunnel. Air was forced through a supply duct below the roadway and exhausted through a duct above the ceiling.

Of course, many subaqueous tunnels were built prior to 1927. The first was built under the Thames River and was completed in 1841. It was 370 m long, 12 m wide and 7 m high. It was brick lined and took nine years to complete. Yet in a city the size of Brisbane we have not one tunnel although we have a great waterway travelling through the centre of the city.

In early years tunnels were built by the shield method of construction, which was later perfected with the use of compressed air and air locks to provide safe working chambers for the men. Since then engineers have developed various methods of machine mining of tunnels, including the use of a mechanical mole or rotary excavator. This machine literally bores its way through the ground. This method is most successful where the ground conditions are favourable, and in some parts of the world tunnelling speeds of up to 700 ft. per day have been achieved. These fast moving moles, as they are called, now use a laser beam which automatically guides their steering electronically.

These methods that I have described—the shield, with its various adaptations, and the mole—are true or traditional methods of tunnelling, that is, excavating from the inside with the overlaying material left in place and then lining as necessary to support the adjacent ground. But throughout the world since 1950 the trend has been towards the use of immersed-tube tunnels, especially for estuary crossing. Large prefabricated sections, constructed either of concrete or steel, are built on shore and then floated out and sunk into a trench in the river-bed. This is really an adaptation of the dry land cut-and-cover procedure often used in subways, and I know members would have seen subways under construction in various parts of the world.

The immersed-tube method is becoming a preferred alternative to the older method of construction of a subaqueous tunnel under compressed air with the "Greathead" shield method. The major advantage with the immersed-tube method is that once the new section has been connected, interior work is conducted in free air, thus avoiding the high cost and major risk of operating a large shield under high air pressure. Furthermore, the immersed-tube method is usable in water deeper than is possible with the shield method, which essentially is restricted to less than 100 ft. depth of water by the maximum air pressure at which the workmen can safely work.

The immersed-tube method was first developed by an American engineer for the construction between 1906 and 1910 of the Detroit River twin-tube railroad tunnel connecting Detroit, Michigan, and Windsor,

Ontario, where it was successfully used for the 2,665 ft. river-crossing portion. A structural assembly of steel tubes was prefabricated in 262-ft. sections, with both ends temporarily bulkheaded or closed. Each section was then towed out and sunk in 60 to 80 ft. of water, onto a grillage of I-beams in sand at the bottom of a trench previously dredged in the river-bottom clay. After being connected to the previous section by locking pins driven by a diver, the section was weighted down by surrounding it with concrete. Next, after removal of the temporary bulkheads at the just-completed connection, the newly placed section was pumped out, permitting completion of an interior concrete lining in free air. These basic principles proved so practical that, with subsequent refinements, they still form the basis of the immersed-tube method today.

After use on a four-tube New York subway crossing under the Harlem River between 1912 and 1914, the method was tried for a vehicular tunnel in the 1925-28 construction of the 3,545-ft.-long 37-ft.-diameter Posey tunnel at Oakland, California.

Because these and other experiences have indicated that the problems encountered in building large vehicular tunnels could be better handled by the immersed-tube method, it has been preferred for subaqueous vehicular tunnels since about 1940. While shield tunnelling continued in a transition period between 1940 and 1950, subsequently nearly all the world's large vehicular tunnels have been constructed by the immersed-tube method, including such notable examples as the Bankhead tunnel in Mobile, Alabama, two Chesapeake Bay tunnels, the Fraser River tunnel in Vancouver, British Columbia, the Maas River tunnel in The Netherlands, Denmark's Limfjord tunnel, Sweden's Tingstad tunnel and the Hong Kong cross-harbour tunnel. A number of members of this House would have had the opportunity of using the Hong Kong cross-harbour tunnel.

The world's longest and deepest application to date is the twin-tube subway crossing of San Francisco Bay constructed between 1966 and 1971, with a length of 3.6 miles in a maximum water depth of 135 ft. The 330-foot-long 48-foot-wide sections were constructed of steel plate and launched by ship-building procedures. Each section also had temporary end bulkheads and upper pockets for gravel ballast placed during sinking. After placement of the interior concrete lining at a fitting-out dock, each section was towed to the site and sunk in a trench previously dredged in the mud in the bottom of the bay. A tower mast at the forward end of each section was used for survey alignment. Before sinking each section, gravel bedding was placed at the bottom of the trench and carefully levelled.

With diver guidance, the initial connection was accomplished by hydraulic-jack-powered couplers, similar to those that automatically join railroad cars. By relieving the water

pressure within the short compartment between bulkheads at the new joint, the water pressure acting on the forward end of the new section provided a huge force that pushed it into intimate contact with the previously laid tube, compressing the rubber gaskets to provide a watertight seal. Following this, the temporary bulkheads were removed on each side of the new joint and interior concrete placed across the connection.

In Europe since then there have been some innovations even to these procedures. Most applications of the immersed-tube procedure outside the United States have been by a Danish engineering and construction firm, Christiani and Nielsen, starting in 1938 with a three-tube highway crossing of the Maas River in Rotterdam. While following United States technique in essence, European engineers have developed a number of innovations, including pre-stressed concrete in lieu of a steel structure (often consisting of a number of short sections tied together with pre-stressed tendons to form a single section 300 ft. in length); the use of butyl rubber as the waterproofing membrane; and initial support on temporary piles while a sand fill is jettied beneath.

An alternative to the last approach has been used in a Swedish experiment on the Tingstad tunnel, in which the pre-cast sections were supported on water-filled nylon sacks, with the water later being replaced by grout injected into the sacks to form the permanent support. Also, the cross section has been greatly enlarged. The 1969 Schelde River tunnel in Antwerp, Belgium, used pre-cast sections 328 ft. long by 33 ft. high by 157 ft. wide. This unusually large width accommodates two highway tubes of three lanes each for a total of six lanes, one two-track railroad tube and one bicycle tube. What a great day it would be if we could cycle from one side of the Brisbane River to the other beneath the river-bed!

Thus, the immersed-tube method has become a frequent choice for subaqueous crossings, although some locations pose problems of interference with intensive navigation traffic or the possibility of displacement by severe storms. I suggest that neither of these is matter for consideration in Brisbane. The method is being actively considered for many of the world's most difficult underwater crossings, including the long-discussed English Channel Project.

I have dealt with some of the alternative methods of tunnel construction in some depth so that members who have not had the time to research the subject as I have will understand the relative simplicity of such construction and the advantages to the community of crossing the Brisbane River beneath the water rather than over it with a bridge. The extent of the overseas experience with tunnels also serves to illustrate just how far behind we are in

our thinking in this country towards solving the problem of traffic congestion. This problem has been aggravated by the fact that our capital city is situated on a major river, which has to be spanned by one method or another to allow the free flow of land traffic with its payloads of passengers and goods so essential to our commercial and everyday life. I share the Minister's view that a river crossing in the form of a tunnel at the downstream end of the Brisbane River is the answer to many of our traffic problems.

Urbanisation and growth in this city have meant a loss of scarce surface area for vehicular ways, and major traffic disruption has been caused during construction above the ground. This is another reason why it is essential that ways to bypass the city of Brisbane and the Fortitude Valley be found. This can be achieved only by another river crossing. Already our roads are blocked with heavy traffic from Brisbane's port facilities on the northern side of the river at Pinkenba and Hamilton. Containers from the existing container terminal are required to be transported via Kingsford Smith Drive, Breakfast Creek Bridge, Ann Street, Fortitude Valley and the Story Bridge to their destination on the southern side of the Brisbane River either at railhead or warehouse. What a ridiculous situation!

It will be little improved by the establishment of the new port of Brisbane on the southern side of the river. Goods that are unloaded there and are intended for destinations in Queensland north of the Brisbane River will have to be taken across the Story Bridge and through Fortitude Valley. The problem will not disappear; its direction will merely be reversed.

A river crossing downstream from Hamilton would offer the one simple solution, and a tunnel is the most obvious and practical method of crossing the Brisbane River. I commend the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads for his personal commitment to this concept. He is a man with bold initiatives and I know that he can have his will put into practical effect by his departmental officers.

The suggestion of a tunnel as a means of crossing the river is not a new one. My predecessor, Mr. Sam Ramsden, first raised it as far back as October 1961. His advocacy for such a proposal continued right up till his resignation from the Queensland Parliament in 1971. I might add that one of the major reasons for his resignation was that he did not get satisfaction from the Government on his proposal. Despite massive discouragement from the then Treasurer (Sir Thomas Hiley) and some of his Cabinet colleagues, Mr. Ramsden persisted with his advocacy. His suggestion was for a tubeway to be built by private enterprise and to operate on a toll system, so that posterity would pay its share of the construction costs. He claimed that loan money, which normally would be used for such a project, could be left free for other developmental work.

Initially Mr. Ramsden attempted to secure the support of the Labor-controlled Brisbane City Council for his proposal, but this was rejected in 1962 by the then Lord Mayor, Alderman Jones, who opted for a vehicular ferry instead, a river crossing with all the congestion at its loading points that is now being experienced.

Mr. Ramsden did not let the matter rest there. He made extensive inquiries from overseas experts, including Canadian and Dutch companies with vast experience, and was eventually able to secure the public support of the Queensland Employers' Federation and the Brisbane Development Association for this proposal.

Sir Manuel Hornibrook gave his support, saying—

“There is no doubt that Brisbane needs a tunnel under the river to handle traffic congestion in the city.”

This famous local engineer estimated in 1964 that such a traffic tunnel would cost approximately £7,000,000 or \$14,000,000. He claimed that the tunnel would have to be at least 50 ft. under water to allow for future shipping. He went on to say—

“But no matter what type of rock or soil is found there, the tunnel could be built.”

In fact, tunnelling in rock would not have to be carried out. Inquiries that I have made reveal that most of the tunnelling would take place in silty sand and mud. Test bores that have been sunk show that at a depth of something like 80 ft. beneath the existing river-bank such a tunnel would pass through fine, silty sand.

I have had prepared a diagram showing a cross-section of the Brisbane River and its banks and indicating quite clearly what an easy task it would be for engineers to tunnel under the Brisbane River at a safe depth to avoid future dredging and shipping operations. With your permission, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will table this diagram of the geological structure of the bed of the Brisbane River. It shows that the tunnel would pass through soft, silty sand.

Mr. Moore: Ask that it be incorporated in “Hansard”.

Mr. LANE: I will content myself with tabling it so that members who are interested in the commercial future of Brisbane and its traffic problems can study the diagram.

Whereupon the honourable gentleman laid the diagram on the table.

I believe the information set out in the diagram to be soundly based. Obviously, however, a proper feasibility study would be required. In fact that is exactly what the former member for Merthyr, Mr. Ramsden, advocated in 1964. He urged the expenditure of something like £80,000 or \$160,000 on such a study. If one reads past “Hansards”

of the Queensland Parliament one will see how many times the Government was called on to carry out such a study as a basis on which world tenders could be called for the construction of a tunnel. Mr. Ramsden's calls for the preliminary technical data to be gathered were ignored.

Public support for Mr. Ramsden (who by this time had become known as “Mr. Tunnel”) mounted and he was able, as an individual, to bring a number of world experts to Australia from Canada and the Netherlands. All of them advised favourably on the construction of a tunnel but strongly urged that a feasibility study be carried out prior to tenders being called. They explained that no company could be expected to tender for construction without basic technical data and that no company would be prepared to spend \$160,000 or \$200,000 on preliminary investigations on the off chance of securing the construction contract. The point was made that in any case the cost of the study would have to be added to the final contract price.

This sound advice was ignored by the Government and on 12 December 1964 tenders were called for either a bridge or a tunnel in the lower reaches of the Brisbane River. It was obvious that no reputable construction company would tender seriously without a feasibility study being undertaken and the results made available to potential tenderers. At that time Mr. Ramsden suggested, as a compromise, that interested tenderers should be allowed to form a consortium to pay for the independent studies, with the Government contributing towards the cost of the exercise. I hope that the same mistake is not made by the present Government in any consideration of this matter.

As predicted, no serious tenders were received despite extensions of time for tendering. When that was announced in 1967, the Government was once again criticised by development associations, which pointed to the handling of the matter so far as tenders were concerned. I ask the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads to take previous experience into consideration as he moves towards what he has committed himself to, that is, the construction of a tunnel at the downstream end of the river.

Mr. Moore: Hinze's highway.

Mr. LANE: I would be very happy to have it called “Hinze tunnel” in recognition of a Minister who is prepared to adopt a bold initiative.

When such a tunnel is built, a great deal of work will be required in handling the “muck disposal”, as it is called. Traditionally the muck is removed from the site by pump, barge or land vehicles. It can be used very successfully in reclamation work. I suggest that it could well be used in reclamation work associated with the development of a new Brisbane Airport. Such

an airport was designed in 1972 by a former Federal Government, which committed itself to construction of the airport. On economic grounds it has reneged on the proposal. The construction of the tunnel, which would make silt, sand and other materials, available, would make it much easier to resite the Brisbane Airport closer to the bay and the mouth of the Brisbane River. These materials could be used to raise the ground to the necessary level.

Noise at the airport associated with landing and take-off of aircraft causes considerable inconvenience and, indeed, pain, to surrounding residents. Resiting of the airport is essential. A bridge rather than a tunnel at the downstream end of the river would cause problems owing to aircraft flight paths while the aerodrome is situated in its present location.

If the Minister continues with his proposal, I wish to make one comment at least in respect of the siting of the tunnel. I would hope that any work carried out would avoid unnecessary interference with the Royal Queensland Golf Club, which is near the mouth of the river. It is Brisbane's oldest club and the one with most traditions attached to it. It is a wonderful course enjoyed by many people who live on the north side of the Brisbane River. I believe it would be possible to construct a tunnel so that there would be no interference with the course itself.

Another obvious advantage of a major construction project at this time is the employment that would be generated by it. Obviously, men and machines—and all the necessary back-up materials—would have to be made available for such a big construction task. Such a project would provide a great deal of employment.

I conclude my contribution to this debate by once again committing myself to support the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads in his proposal to proceed with the construction of a tunnel at the lower end of the Brisbane River. It is my hope that most members will join with us in fostering such a proposal for the benefit of all Queenslanders.

Mr. HALES (Ipswich West) (3.2 p.m.): I thank you for your indulgence, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: He realises it's your last Address-in-Reply speech.

Mr. HALES: In reply to the not-so-honourable member for Archerfield—I wouldn't count on that if I were him. I would not place my last dollar on it. If he puts his all on a wager such as that, he will be financially bankrupt as well as bankrupt of original ideas.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Oh, haven't you improved!

Mr. HALES: Yes, I have improved. Perhaps I have learnt from the member for Archerfield.

At the outset, I speak of the allegiance of the electors of Ipswich West to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, particularly in her jubilee year. I also offer congratulations on behalf of my constituents—that is, the electors and the schoolchildren of Ipswich West—to Sir James Ramsay on his appointment as Governor of Queensland. As the member for Merthyr has said, our new Governor will be known as the happy Governor. He will become known as one of Queensland's great Governors—a well-loved Governor of the ilk of Sir Henry Abel Smith.

Although I did not speak on this morning's condolence motion following the death of the former Minister for Transport, I place on record my condolences to his wife Betty and his family. Keith Hooper was a personal friend to me over the last few years. Recently I brought some of the older members of my family to Parliament House to meet Keith once again. As schoolboys, they were friends at Maroochydore. I remember the polite manner in which Keith met them and his pleasant demeanour over lunch. He will be sadly missed, not only in this Parliament but around Queensland in general. He was highly regarded by all who met him.

The Commonwealth of Nations has a significant role to play in the affairs of the world. Certain member countries of the Commonwealth of Nations do not recognise free and democratic rule. I cite Uganda in this case. Uganda seems to be the exception to free and democratic rule. Regardless of the Ugandas in this world, the countries of the Commonwealth of Nations will continue to influence the remainder of the world in the right and proper manner to the total benefit of all mankind.

The system of government which we have in Australia is not perfect; nor is any other form of government, democratic or otherwise. Certainly I believe that our system is superior to total socialism or total Communism. As I travel the world, as I have done, I can understand certain deprived countries turning to either socialism or Communism, more in frustration than for any other major reason. I have been in many countries like that.

I invite anybody in Australia who has a Communist philosophy to travel to places like Hungary and have a look at some of the situations over there. I am sure that he would return to Australia knowing that it is the best country on God's earth and would fight to retain the system that we have in Australia.

Mr. Turner: Do they have many demonstrations in those countries?

Mr. HALES: I shall accept that interjection from the honourable member for Warrego. I doubt very much that Hungary or Chile

have any demonstrations as we see them in Australia. I doubt that there would be any demonstrations in Uganda, either. I doubt very much that there would be any demonstrations in Russia. There might be a few in China but I believe there would rarely, if ever, be any in eastern European countries.

Our Westminster system of government has survived many major upheavals. One recent classic case was the elections in India and Sri Lanka. The riots in Sri Lanka and in India and the emergency that was declared by Indira Gandhi in India point up the great case for the Westminster style of government. Other countries of the world should take stock of this and lean towards this free and democratic rule coming through the ballot-box.

The decisions of the electorate in India and in Sri Lanka were upheld and not only justice but also fair and equitable democratic government evolved from those elections. This proves not only to me but to all other thinking people that our system of government in the Commonwealth of Nations—and that means in Australia—through free, democratic vote is the best available today.

While most of us here would wholeheartedly agree with what I have said, there are some in this community who would not. I personally believe in a free and democratic vote in elections of Governments and I also believe that should happen in union elections. I believe in a free, democratic, secret vote in the election of trade union officials. About two or three years ago, I would have been very sceptical indeed if someone had proclaimed to me that there was a definite Communist threat in this country through the trade union movement. At that time I was not very much involved in politics and as one who simply read newspapers I did not see all of the things that are happening today. Although I am still sceptical of the Communists' ability to capture and control the trade union movement entirely, I believe that those Communists who are in control of unions pose a definite threat to our society.

The majority of unionists do not support the Communist ideology. But when elections of union officials are rigged or subverted in the manner in which Norm Gallagher, the Builders Labourers Federation Federal secretary, was re-elected, it is time for concern for this nation. The position of Federal secretary was advertised in a very small weekend newspaper advertisement, which was located in a obscure spot. Three organisers of that same union nominated for the position in addition to Norm Gallagher. The three nominations were ruled invalid.

Mr. K. J. Hooper interjected.

Mr. HALES: The three nominations were ruled invalid, and the honourable member knows it. One was ruled invalid simply because it was posted to the union office and not to the union's post office box. That

seems a very small reason to rule a nomination invalid, but then it seems to me that it does not take very much for the Builders Labourers Federation to rule a nomination invalid, and if Opposition members had any courage they would be saying the same thing. The outcome of it all was that those three organisers do not now work for the Builders Labourers Federation. They had the temerity to nominate against Norm Gallagher. We might be looking to have free, democratic and secret elections for union officials, but I do not think it is likely to happen in the Builders Labourers Federation. We will never see a free, democratic and secret election in a Communist-controlled union. It appears that if one rubs up a Communist union official the wrong way one ends up in trouble. The Gallaghers, Halfpennys, Mundeys and Carmichaels seem to be the voice of the trade union movement, but I know that the overwhelming majority of unionists do not support those Communist union officials.

What this country needs, and needs quickly, is for the Federal Government to pass legislation requiring compulsory union ballots as suggested by our Premier. Then, and only then, will we have decent union representation. I have been told time and time again by unionists and former unionists who have been very good friends of mine for years and years, "What is the use of going to union meetings, particularly mass meetings? The union officials have them rigged and engineer acceptance of resolutions that they want." Many unionists are frustrated by the present system. One has only to look at the article in the "Telegraph" today which suggests that a union official may be charged. It also states that Fred Whitby has said a strike will be called and that there will be a rally at the Roma Street forum. We know from previous examples what will happen. A very small percentage of workers will turn up there and some union official will organise the acceptance of a motion to go on strike. There would be many, many unionists who would disagree with that. We all know that.

I would like to endorse the remarks the Prime Minister made recently when he wanted to investigate an allegation by a South Australian unionist that another unionist who nominated against him had not been in that union for seven years and therefore could not hold office. What rot to keep a man out of a union office if he has not been a member of the union for seven years. I would say that is a travesty of justice. It is up to popularly elected Governments—and this State Government and the Federal Government are popularly elected Governments—to give the lead to rank and file unionists. It is also up to Governments in this day and age to introduce legislation providing for union ballots which show a true and proper reflection of the opinion of the rank and file. It is then and only then

that moderates in the rank and file will have some chance of gaining control of their union. I would like to see the Federal Government introduce such legislation and I would hope that the State Governments would follow suit. This country has a serious problem with its industrial image, particularly with our major trading partner, Japan, and until some sense of responsibility is injected into those unions which have had a bad strike record—I might add that not all unions have had a bad strike record—then this country's economy is at risk, and certainly our high standard of living is at risk.

Recently I have spoken to a number of unionists who have been fortunate enough to save enough money to return home to England, having come from there many, many years ago. I spoke to Elwyn Harris, a friend of mine, who spent seven weeks in England and Scotland. It took him two weeks to work out that Australia is a better place than England at the moment. He may not have thought that many years ago. I refer also to a Mr. Harlow, who did the same thing, and to Mr. Thomas, a coal miner. I might add that he is a well-paid coal miner. Coal miners on the West Moreton field are well paid, as they deserve to be. Mr. Thomas returned to England and found that the conditions under which coal miners work there are not nearly as good as the conditions in Australia, and I congratulate the union concerned for getting such good wages and conditions for the workers. It is very rare to find coal miners on strike in the West Moreton area, and they should be given credit for that.

It seems to me to be very fashionable for international magazines to highlight stupid and nonsensical causes of strikes in Australia. For example, "Time" magazine mentioned an instance in which workers on the gas pipeline from Central Australia to Sydney went on strike because there was no chalk for their billiard cues. That is the type of publicity Australia is getting world wide through magazines such as "Time" and it is not doing us any good.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. HALES: I should have taken from the "Sunday Mail" the full-page advertisement by Mr. Burns, the Leader of the Opposition in this Chamber, telling the Premier that Bob Hawke had come to Queensland twice to talk to him and the Premier would not talk to him. I wonder who the A.L.P. think Bob Hawke is—some god that they have put on a pedestal, some god that they think can fix everything? Apparently Mr. Hawke thought he could come to Queensland and force the Queensland Government to stop a criminal case against Mr. Zaphir. Again I ask members opposite: who do they think Mr. Hawke is? Do they think he can come here and force

the Queensland Government into some type of fix? That will never happen, because I know that the Government of Queensland believes in fair play. Everybody is entitled to fair play, and if somebody does something wrong under the law, he should be charged under the law, whether or not he is a union official. I mentioned earlier that Hugh Williams might be charged also. If he has done something wrong, he deserves to be charged.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Are you judge and jury?

Mr. HALES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will not worry about the interjections from the incompetents on the other side of the Chamber.

I have never been one of those who condemn everything initiated by Governments of a political persuasion other than my own. I sincerely believe that even the Whitlam Government did some good for the community, although its misdeeds overshadowed its achievements. I think that most people would be of that opinion; some, of course, would not.

I should like to quote from the "Little Red Book"—not "The Little Red Schoolbook"—that I am sure members of the A.L.P. were given while they were in China or bought while they were in Hong Kong. I paid 50c for my copy in Hong Kong. It contains the thoughts of Chairman Mao, and I should like to read to honourable members one of those thoughts which indicates the Communist philosophy—

"We should support whatever the enemy opposes and oppose whatever the enemy supports."

In my opinion, that is not very commendable. None of us does everything wrong; none of us does everything right. If that is the Communist philosophy, perhaps that is the one that our friends on the other side of the Chamber look at. I believe that no Government can do 100 per cent right and no Government can do 100 per cent wrong.

Because there are industrial problems, I wonder whether the Queensland Government should look at worker participation in industry on a voluntary basis and set up some type of advisory board within the Department of Labour Relations, perhaps along the lines followed by the South Australian Government. In saying that, I do not denigrate some initiatives of other Governments, including Governments of political philosophies different from mine. We can all learn from one another. I am mindful of the principle that every man is superior to me for in some way I can learn from him. I believe that each and every Government in Australia and throughout the world can achieve something by learning what other Governments have done.

Let us look at the benefits that have been reaped in countries like Austria, the Netherlands and West Germany where there is now not the adversary relationship between labour and management, and where the percentage of strikes per capita is very low indeed compared with Great Britain, Italy and Australia. In Sweden major productivity gains have occurred under worker participation or, as it is called there, co-determination. In short, the major benefits that have accrued in Western Europe are fewer strikes, minimal industrial unrest and greater productivity. If those benefits are not the real way out of our economic malaise, then I do not know what is.

Every economist in this nation and abroad urges greater productivity as the one way to overcome inflation. Australians can achieve that performance. We have achieved excellent productivity in the past, but it is now and the future which we should be concerned about. Just doing nothing but hoping that bad industrial relations will vanish never works. We need some positive and practical attitudes towards seeking industrial peace and harmony. I believe that we can achieve that industrial peace and harmony by means of worker participation.

The future of Australia is more important than all our base desires for wealth and power. We are the guardians of Australia for future generations, and as such guardians we need to be responsible. There will be sceptics and detractors on both sides of industry who, no doubt for their own personal reasons, will condemn the suggestion that we should have worker participation in Queensland, but if it works in Western Europe why should it not work in Queensland? I am cognisant of the words of a man who lived 2,000 years ago and said, "Man shall not live by bread alone." I believe the basic problem to solve in industry is how to secure maximum satisfaction for all engaged in an enterprise by the elimination of major and minor causes of conflict and friction so that all concerned can contribute their best performance. That is what we should all be striving for—the best performance possible by every individual in industry in Australia. We have achieved great productivity gains in past years. We doubled our G.N.P. in the 60's, and I believe we can do it again. All we need is some type of course towards peace and harmony on the industrial scene. I believe that the worker of Australia is looking for that. I believe that co-determination or worker participation in industry is one way to achieve it.

Mr. DOUMANY (Kurilpa) (3.24 p.m.): I rise to support the motion so ably moved and seconded by the honourable members for Warrego and Belmont, and to express on behalf of the constituents of Kurilpa continuing loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen.

I should also like to reiterate and reaffirm my faith in the parliamentary system, in its efficacy and its capacity to meet the needs

of our democracy in this country, provided our spirit is willing and provided we get co-operation from all sections of the community. It is quite evident that that co-operation and that spirit does not lie in the violent, miserable and dirty demonstrations that we have seen in the streets of this nation over the past few years, particularly the last few days. We don't want these scruffy individuals who are paid to demonstrate on any cause. We don't want people who are paid to perform like monkeys in a circus—and the worst type of circus at that.

Mr. Frawley: They ought to apologise to the monkeys.

Mr. DOUMANY: Indeed they should. At least the monkeys do it by instinct; these people do it deliberately with malice. Pelting the Prime Minister of the nation with rubbish shows that there is no dignity left in that segment of the community that supports that type of demonstration. Office-bearers in the trade union movement, particularly in the Left-wing radical section, actually called for violent demonstration. They predicted it, saying that blood would run in the streets. Is that sort of irresponsible, unco-operative leadership what we want in this nation? Not at all! Are we getting any response from the top level of the A.L.P. in our attempts to deal with this problem? None at all! On the contrary, it is encouraging demonstrations of that type.

Occasionally we hear some terribly indignant noises from Mr. Hawke. But he is just as explosive, just as troublesome, just as mischievous and just as irresponsible as Munday, Halfpenny, Carmichael and their ilk.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: What about Elliott? You forgot him.

Mr. DOUMANY: Yes, I forgot Elliott V. Elliott. He is probably the quintessence of irresponsibility and culpability in this country. As long as we allow such people to run wild and as long as we accept the dictum that, like giving freedom to the Press, we should give freedom to the trade unions to do as they like with our community, the country will never get off its knees.

But enough of that; let me deal with something more substantial. It is remarkable that over the past three years of this Government's term of office it has been able to maintain Queensland on an even economic keel. In 1974-75, in the face of some of the worst government in Canberra that this nation has ever seen, by a Government that takes the cake for mismanagement, the Queensland Government managed the affairs of this State so capably that its Budgets were balanced and the growth rate in the State's population maintained. Queensland is still the most attractive State for Australians to live in, and that is proved by

the fact that people from other States are coming here to live. Queensland is still the State that is attracting new business; it is still the State that promotes confidence in the future. It is a compliment to both the present Treasurer (Hon. W. E. Knox) and his predecessor (Sir Gordon Chalk) that, through their sound economic management, the economy of Queensland has been kept in excellent condition. Throughout this period, however, the industrial relations situation has been anything but helpful.

Just to digress for a moment from Queensland—it is amazing how voluble A.L.P. members are on the matter of individual rights and civil liberties. I did not hear one voice on the Opposition side raised in support of Noel Latham in Broken Hill. I did not hear one voice raised from the so-called protagonists of democracy and individual rights, from these defenders of liberty. They are not game to open their mouths on this issue. The Barrier Industrial Council is, of course, the high priest of union autocracy in this country. That is where all the radicals go to receive their blessings when they are in Australia. Of course, when they travel overseas they go somewhere else. In Australia they go to Broken Hill to be blessed and to be given renewed vigour.

When we look at the five-month dispute between Noel Latham and the Barrier Industrial Council, we see that in the end the Supreme Court forced a compromise. It recognised that this man had rights. But it is a travesty that a person has to risk being crushed into the ground and losing his livelihood simply because he is responsible and tries to do his job; simply because he takes the stand that he is there to be productive and those whom he is supervising are also there to be productive. The first time Latham attempted to enforce his principles he was sent to Coventry. It is dreadful that at no time has the A.L.P. in this State or in the Federal sphere defended him. It is a travesty!

At the moment Queensland is experiencing its own cases of intimidation and harassment by zealous union officials. This gentleman Mr. Williams, whose photograph appears on the front page of this afternoon's "Telegraph", appears intent on following the Zaphir way. I understand there are quite a few more of the same ilk who take every opportunity to harass commerce and honest businessmen. That is the sort of thing that squashes productivity to the ground and makes it impossible for the nation's economy to pick up. We cannot condone it.

Whenever the long-haired fraternity who go onto the streets to throw dirty material at the police have their hair pulled by the police, lo and behold all the civil-liberty-loving A.L.P. members and their supporters scream for blood and allege that the police are brutal. But when an owner-driver truckie's livelihood is threatened by a blackmailer—and I use that word bluntly because this is sheer blackmail—there is nary a squeal.

Since the A.L.P. is affiliated with the Trades Hall and derives so much of its funds from the Trades Hall, it would be quite irrational for Opposition members to say anything critical because their livelihood depends on the maximum number of members being virtually skull-dragged into the movement. They need the maximum membership and I do not blame them for being so zealous as they depend on union dues. A couple of weeks ago it was shameful to hear of casual workers at the Royal National Association show, many of whom were unemployed and had just managed to get a couple of weeks work, being forced to pay up to \$30 in union dues for the privilege of earning \$70 or \$80 over a few days. That was a disgusting situation.

Mr. Lindsay: Did Mr. Burns have to pay union dues for being a ring-master?

Mr. DOUMANY: The honourable member can answer that better than I. He was watching.

The R.N.A. had its arm twisted. If it refused to co-operate with this abominable system, the Exhibition would not have gone on. We would have had secondary, tertiary and quaternary boycotts of services at the showground. That is the technique of the radical minority in the trade-union movement. I do not say that all trade unions operate in this way. Probably 90 to 95 per cent of the trade-union movement works outside this dreadful system and actually deplores what is happening. But we have so much disruption, with threats of intimidation and industrial blackmail, that the whole trade-union movement is looking black and dirty. It is a disgrace that this should be allowed to continue.

I give a recent example. A constituent of mine who runs a particular facility in one of the leading city hotels told me of a stop-work meeting to be held the next day, which she was directed to attend. Her attendance would have meant closing the facility. She did not want to close it down because a lot of people use it during the day. I had to tell her quite honestly that, rather than follow her principles, she had better consult the management of the hotel, because she could bring the wrath of the gods on their heads and the supply of beer could be cut off. That is the sort of thing we are up against. Anyone who wants to exercise his principles as a faithful employee is very, very quickly forced, in the interests of the employer, on whose livelihood depends the livelihood of the employees, to abandon any honest attempt to resist this sort of irresponsibility. That is happening right throughout the community and it is a disgrace.

Until we can get some sense into the heads of the people who are operating in this way (I have doubt that it can be done except by the most decisive amendments to the Act); until we get them to take a responsible attitude; until they recognise that

the cake that this economy provides us with is limited by the effort we put into it; and until we can convince them that we can only take out slices that are commensurate with what is in the cake, there is no room for all the expansive projects and all the great programmes that we will hear about from the A.L.P. at State and Federal level. Of course, they are always inclined to have the most expansive attitude to government—let Governments grow ad infinitum and to hell with those who have to pay the taxes.

Tied to this abominable attitude to industrial relations is a feeling that a business—that is, the employer—can pay anything for the privilege of having somebody on the pay-roll. In the last few days—though in fact it has been continuing for some time—we have had illustrated a most disgraceful case. For eight weeks a strike affected the Melbourne operations of a company by the name of Costain (Australia) Pty. Ltd. Just recently the Arbitration Commission issued an order that the company should pay five weeks' salary and wages to workers who had been on strike over that period—five weeks out of eight weeks of strike! The deal was that, if the building workers received five weeks' pay to cover the period they were on strike, they would graciously go back to work and give up the strike. Isn't that blackmail? That is blackmail spelt with a capital B. Does anybody know what was the cost of that five weeks? A quarter of a million dollars!

As a result, Costain would then have to write into their books an additional cost of \$250,000, for which they would get no production whatsoever. It would mean that all their forward contracts would have to absorb that cost and other people would have to pay an inflated value for the work done by that company. The gravity of it all would be obvious to us if we were to aggregate costs of this sort exacted from companies on a continuing basis. This is only one instance (admittedly a grand instance) but it is going on all the time.

In the building industry apparently building contractors are constantly forced to submit to blackmail to keep work going. Consequently, when they bid for business they build in the cost of that blackmail. It is an escalating factor. If we were to think for one moment why things are getting so expensive and why inflation continues to escalate, we would see that this must surely be an enormous contributing factor. However, I deplore the fact that an Arbitration Commission found it possible and justifiable to order the payment of five weeks' pay while men were on strike. If there is anything more disgusting than that, anything more irrational, anything more destructive or more corrosive of the national good, I would like to know what it is.

In the radical segment of our community, and unfortunately extending into the ranks of the A.L.P. generally, there is a jaundiced attitude to profit and to private enterprise. It is as if "profit" was a dirty word and a disease, and private enterprise was something evil that clutched at the bowels of the community. In point of fact, all of us depend on the production of private enterprise for the stream of prosperity from which to draw taxation and the other revenues on which Governments operate. We depend upon it for the wages and salaries of the people in the work-force which sustain their families. We depend on the profitability of private enterprise for its continued operation. There is nothing wrong at all with profit, provided business operates within reasonable rules and provided companies that derive profit live within the bounds of reasonable practice.

I was delighted to see in the last couple of days that Comalco has had a long-awaited lift in its profits. As was disclosed in "The Courier-Mail" this morning, we now have hope for the smelter at Gladstone. This should, I trust, please the honourable member for Port Curtis, since it means great prosperity for his constituents and also for the nation.

Yet, because Comalco has had a profit rise from \$8,000,000-odd to \$20,000,000-odd in the six months to 30 June, we will hear the old call from the Hawkes and the Carmichaels that this company is ripping it off, that it is a foreign-owned company, that it is a multi-national. And there are those other supposed apparitions of evil, the multi-nationals—the great mysteries of evil. What nonsense!

Look at the assets employed by Comalco and look at what the profits mean. The assets of Comalco, at the last count I could find today, amount to somewhere between \$470,000,000 and \$500,000,000. The present rate of inflation is somewhere round 10 to 12 per cent. If that is considered to be a reasonable rate of return, it would be reasonable for this company to strive for a profit of \$50,000,000 a year. There is nothing exploitative about that; it would merely be giving to its shareholders a fair return that would maintain interest in that company as an avenue for investment.

The new higher profits have not reached that level; they are still below \$50,000,000 in a year. Yet we will still get the cries about a multi-national raking it off. These people who cry in this yelping fashion time after time forget just how long is the gestation period of an enterprise of that size. They forget the fluctuations in the commodity markets. They forget the times when they are in trough.

A Government Member: They would not know what they are.

Mr. DOUMANY: That is so. They would not know what a commodity market is.

They forget the times when the going is rough and when these companies have to absorb the punishment. They forget the risk that the original investors take in committing their funds and saying, "Here, take my life's savings and invest them." Those funds do not come from some mythical giant. In the end, they are collected from a vast array of people.

Mr. Turner interjected.

Mr. DOUMANY: As the honourable member for Warrego says, from superannuation funds, from pension funds and from insurance policies belonging to people in all walks of life.

This is the fallacy in the A.L.P. and the Left-wingers attacking big business all the time. They forget that big business is, in effect, the aggregate effort of a lot of little people. It is the function of a lot of individuals and their fortunes. It is an insult to the intelligence of the community to expect them to listen to this drivel day after day every time a company shows a recovery from a period of depression.

Even B.H.P. and Esso have been attacked over their problems in recent times. What nonsense is this? On its steel enterprise B.H.P. runs at a bare minimum of profit and but for its astuteness, its good judgment in entering into that venture and putting risk capital into Bass Strait, it would not be able to offer anything like even a reasonable return to its shareholders today. It would not be able to institute major new capital investments and big programmes of expansion to replace expensive equipment in its various facilities. Yet as soon as that company starts to see some benefit out of its prudent and wise investment the cry goes up, "They're raping us". I say this sort of thing has got to stop.

We have to get some common sense back into the system. Just to point out something that might interest honourable members opposite, there is an article in today's "Australian Financial Review" entitled, "Wran proposes investment by Japanese in New South Wales". A Labor Premier seeing the wisdom of multinational investment! This is the same Labor Premier who, until he assumed office a few months ago, was quite prepared to join in the tremendous attack on multinationals, to go to conventions in Perth, Surfers Paradise and Gosford and join the miserable, yelping rabble who continue to cry out about this dreadful social evil that afflicts this nation whilst it brings prosperity to so many people. And yet he has come face to face with it.

Mr. Row: It brings employment as well as prosperity.

Mr. DOUMANY: That is right, and he has a very big employment problem. He has one of the sickest States in Australia. Places such as Newcastle and Port Kembla are in

dire straits and Neville Wran, an A.L.P. Premier, has recognised that he has to look at the reality of finding investment funds because without them he cannot stimulate his economy; he cannot give his economy the necessary boost to get it going. He is in Japan now and he is going to send his Energy Minister, Mr. Hills, over there in three months' time. If honourable members read this article in the "Australian Financial Review" they will see that the New South Wales Premier sees nothing wrong at all with multinational companies for foreign investment. In fact, he sees wisdom in attracting such investment. I think this is tremendously significant. I would hate to hear any more criticism of the Queensland Government when it is attempting to maintain the tremendous momentum in project development we have enjoyed in this State by encouraging foreign participation.

Mr. Turner: Like Norwich Park.

Mr. DOUMANY: Just like Norwich Park. We have encouraged foreign participation and Mr. Wran is following our example. I hope he succeeds because it is in the interests of Australia as well as New South Wales.

Persistent and chronic attacks have been made on private enterprise. The honourable member for Archerfield is one of the arch-priests of this counter-productive philosophy. He hates the building societies and over weeks and months now since I have been in this place he has attacked them. Does he not realise that permanent building societies have been an enormous boost to home-ownership in this State? Does he not realise the contribution these institutions have made in harnessing the funds of thousands upon thousands of individual savers and deploying them so that others can buy homes? But no; he persists in a most irresponsible fashion in trying to bring them down.

I do not say for one moment that as a Government we can condone any malpractice in the operation of a building society, just as we cannot condone any malpractice in any area of business, but it is another thing for the honourable member for Archerfield to continually attack and try to pull down an industry—and that is what he is trying to do—that is serving scores of thousands of Queenslanders both young and old. It is an industry that is part and parcel of our private-enterprise democratic way of life because home-ownership is one of the prime objectives of any democratic Government.

Mr. Turner: Not of the A.L.P.

Mr. DOUMANY: Not of the A.L.P., although very recently Mr. Uren, who was the arch-priest of the housing policy of the Whitlam Government, has been espousing home-ownership. I think that, like the wolf in "Little Red Riding Hood", he is showing his big grey claws under the cloak.

Mr. Powell interjected.

Mr. DOUMANY: Yes. Just as Mr. Whitlam recently tried to dress up socialism in Perth, Mr. Uren has decided that he should try to dress up the A.L.P.'s housing policy so that it is a little more attractive to the community.

Mr. Gygar: Isn't he the man who said that the A.L.P. would not let people buy their own homes, that they must live in rental accommodation?

Mr. DOUMANY: Yes. As the honourable member for Stafford has pointed out, Mr. Uren had some scheme of economic rental, if I remember rightly, not only to dissuade people from entering into home-ownership but to penalise those who already had homes and teach them a lesson for being little capitalists. That is the sort of philosophy with which we are confronted.

Of course, Mr. Uren is a long way away. The honourable member for Archerfield sits in this Chamber with us, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and embraces these philosophies with tremendous zeal. Sometimes I am afraid that he will burst his boiler over the building societies. I assure him that the building societies will survive his attacks because they are an honourable institution in the community.

I could not let the opportunity pass without saying a word or two about the A.L.P.-controlled Brisbane City Council. It has obstructed private enterprise at every turn. The travesty of justice at the moment—and this is something that disgusts me—is that we, as a fairly benevolent Government, are permitting the council to operate a proposed town plan that we all know is full of holes while it is finally dealt with by the Honourable R. J. Hinze, Minister for Local Government and Main Roads. In the interim, the council is knocking back valid proposals for development and obstructing commonsense economic development in this city by individuals, businesses and corporations.

Recently a very good scheme was put forward by an investment group for the building of apartments across the river at South Brisbane. Glory be! After all the money that the Government is putting into the cultural centre and the revival of South Brisbane, it is only logical that we should be looking for greater investment to make that a more attractive area. It is an excellent area with enormous potential. It is another North Sydney, just across the river. What happened? The council said, "No. It doesn't suit our criteria." What criteria? Alderman Ardill has set himself up as a little tin god on criteria. He obstructs every valid proposal that is put forward. We have all seen the dreadful demands made by the council—thousands upon thousands of dollars demanded for things that will never happen, such as changes in footpaths, roads, or water reticulation—simply as a means of raising money

for a bankrupt and spendthrift local authority. That is what the A.L.P. City Council has been, and very shortly the interest burden is going to catch up with it and crush it.

I should like to move briefly to the subject of housing in summing up the performance of the Government in the last three years. Despite all the allegations made by the A.L.P., the Government of this State has done a great deal for private home-ownership in the last three years. We have seen the introduction of a scheme to stimulate the purchase of homes by Housing Commission tenants on very easy terms, and many tenants have taken advantage of that and become home owners. We have seen the release of \$20,000,000 by the Minister in charge of housing to assist those in the grey area to buy homes—those people who are not eligible for the concessional money offered by the Housing Commission and are finding it difficult to meet the terms and conditions of the commercial market.

Mr. Hales: At 7½ per cent.

Mr. DOUMANY: As the honourable member for Ipswich West points out, it is at 7½ per cent. It is an excellent scheme and many young couples have taken advantage of it. At present Queensland's pool of unsold spec-built homes is the lowest in Australia on a per capita basis. South Australia, which has about half Queensland's population, has a pool of unsold homes about three times the size of that in Queensland. That shows how much the Government of Queensland has stimulated the purchase of homes. But a lot more remains to be done. For instance, a lot more remains to be done for the aged citizens, but that effort is dependent on the Commonwealth Government, because it is Commonwealth money that lubricates that area. Unfortunately not enough money has come in from the Commonwealth to give Norm Lee the chance to do what he wants to do—and I know he wants to do it.

I would like to see greater facility in the lending of money to people who want to buy and renovate older homes. Amongst the financial institutions there is still a very old, traditional and conservative view about the criteria for lending money. Unfortunately they discount very heavily homes that are 40 or 50 years old, irrespective of the quality of the area they are in and the services available to people in that area. We need to have a more enlightened view taken about money lent to buy and renovate older homes. A lot of old homes in the older suburbs are under-utilised because young couple cannot get into them with their young families.

Mr. Powell: You realise that the State Government has stimulated the building industry by giving 80 per cent of Government contracts to—

Mr. DOUMANY: I am well aware that there has been an enormous, deliberate effort to stimulate private enterprise in the building industry in this State. It is a credit to the Housing Minister that he has done such a good job over the last 2½ years.

I turn now to the subject of transport. First of all I offer my condolences to the family of the late Keith Hooper. It is a great pity that he will not see the fruits of his labours over the last couple of years in the completion of the first electrification project, and the cross-river rail link. On the south side, where my electorate of Kurilpa is situated, we are looking forward with great anticipation to the cross-river rail link. We are looking forward to the enormous improvement in rolling-stock, which is inevitable because when the new electric train rolling-stock comes into operation on the Ferny Grove-Darra line that will enable a lot of the present better-class rolling-stock to be used in our area.

I am anxious to see the Government take very early positive initiatives for the electrification of the main line serving the southern suburbs. I would also like to see initiatives taken to provide a loop around from the bay through Sunnybank, to give the south side the ramifications of a railway line which it needs so urgently. We have an enormous growth rate on the south side and quite frankly we need a proliferation of the rail system without delay. Undoubtedly rail is one of the most important methods of passenger transport in a metropolitan city. Along with the very significant developments that are taking place at the moment, I trust that we will see new initiatives in the coming year.

I would like to see greater use of the river, and I would like to see a concerted effort to build more bridges. I am not speaking only about the reaches of the river beyond the Story Bridge down to the mouth but in the western areas of the river such as Yeronga, Dutton Park and Long Pocket. Those areas should be linked. Many people who have to travel across vast areas in that particular segment of Brisbane find it very inconvenient not to have enough bridges across the river. We need more bridges urgently. That is another area of initiative for the Department of Transport.

I should like to end on the subject of law and order. It has become a little bit unfashionable to talk about law and order these days because many of the avant-garde people say that such a subject is of little importance as it takes care of itself, particularly when the demonstrators are out on the streets throwing refuse at the Prime Minister. They say that there is no need to worry about law and order. I compliment the State Government for taking a very firm stand on law and order. I would hope that we do a lot more than that. I would hope that we pour a lot more resources into the Police Force. The Police Force

should not be measured by economic criteria alone; it has to be measured by what the community needs. Despite the efforts of the Minister for Police, a lot of aged citizens who are fairly helpless and many people who are living alone are fearful for their safety because of the activities of a rabble that abounds in the community. Those in it are a minority group, but they are there like the rotten core of an apple. They need to be stamped on. That is the only way to deal with them.

We need to put more resources into the Police Force. In particular I would like to see suburban police stations strengthened and their hours of operation extended to a 24-hour basis. As I have said before in this Chamber, I would like to see the police brought back into the community. We need them to come back into the community, where they belong. They are part of the community, not a race apart.

I would like to think that the bombing a few months ago of the Mt. Gravatt Police Station was the last occasion on which such a disgraceful thing happened. It is a measure of our lack of attention to law and order as a community, not as a Government, that that sort of thing can happen. I commend the Government for taking such a firm stand and I hope that economics do not come into the Minister's thinking too much over the next few months as he tries to put more resources and more manpower into the Police Force.

I commend the Minister for Police on his efforts to meet the wishes of animal-lovers. Over the past few weeks some positive initiatives have been taken in this direction and I hope that we will see them in the House in the near future.

Mr. Newbery: It will be in the House quite soon.

Mr. DOUMANY: I am very pleased to learn that. Our respect for each other can be measured by the way that we treat dumb animals. If we treated them as some of us are apparently treating one another, things would be bad for them indeed.

I am privileged indeed to have participated in this Address-in-Reply debate and to have had the opportunity of supporting the motion moved by the honourable member for Warrego and seconded by the honourable member for Belmont.

Mrs. KIPPIN (Mourilyan) (4.2 p.m.): I rise to associate the residents of my electorate with my pledge of continued loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen. This expression really echoes the loyalty that was very clearly displayed by a vast majority of Queenslanders on Her Majesty's recent visit to Queensland.

Together with all members of this side of the House, I express my pride and pleasure at receiving the Queen's Silver

Jubilee Medal. I was most interested to learn that recipients of the medal can wear it on any occasion they choose.

I offer my congratulations to His Excellency Sir James Ramsay on his appointment as Governor of Queensland. I know that the people of North Queensland are looking forward eagerly to the visit of Sir James and Lady Ramsay early next month.

North Queenslanders have always given our Queen's representative a rousing welcome. In fact the warm and enthusiastic welcome that Sir John Kerr received when he visited Innisfail last year made national headlines. He did not receive rousing welcomes everywhere, but it was typical of North Queenslanders that they should be so generous to such a person.

I can assure Sir James and Lady Ramsay that Far North Queensland is a delightful part of our wonderful State. I am sure that they will find the Far North Queensland amateur races, which they will be attending towards the end of their tour, a most entertaining event. These races are a good example of the sport of kings, which is followed today by so many Queenslanders.

I wish to review in hindsight the sale of the Innisfail tramway. When the sale of this 42 km of narrow-gauge tramline, which is used solely for the transportation of cane and sugar, was first announced, the Labor Party spokesmen in North Queensland squealed like stuck pigs. They did that before they even had time to think or to find out what the facts were. The A.L.P. shadow Minister for Transport (Mr. Ray Jones) was outraged at the fact that the Government could contemplate the sale of one of the Railway Department's more viable and profitable lines. However, if he had made even a quick reference to the department's annual reports, he would have seen that over the last three years that stretch of line had incurred a loss of more than \$752,000.

The A.L.P. candidate for Mourilyan (Mr. Peter Moore) predicted that the Government would also close the Innisfail main line depot and that 105 people would have to leave Innisfail. Time has shown that 42 men were affected by the sale of the tramways. Both the Commissioner for Railways and the Minister for Transport gave their assurance that they would not contemplate the relocating of the main line depot in conjunction with this sale. The two critics were proved wrong.

Mr. Aikens: Talking nonsense like that is typical of the member for Cairns.

Mrs. KIPPIN: We find that is common to a lot of A.L.P. members.

Mr. Jones: You sold them down the drain.

Mrs. KIPPIN: I knew that this would wake up the honourable member for Cairns, who has been sitting here asleep for the last hour.

The A.L.P. members of the shire council also hopped on the bandwagon and predicted the collapse of the economy of Innisfail. However, even the local newspaper, which is well known for its usual A.L.P. bias, admitted only last month that, despite the sale of the tramway, the agricultural show enjoyed record attendances accompanied by a record spending spree by the people of the district.

One half of the Labor brigade castigated the Government for breaking the news before Christmas and spoiling the festivities of the workers, while the other half complained that they should have been told sooner. It is very hard to satisfy these people. The honourable member for Cairns accused the Government of a shady deal because it had not released the details of sale before negotiations were finalised. He suggested that the line should be put up for tender. I ask who would want to buy a railway line—

Mr. Jones: Why not?

Mrs. KIPPIN: I will tell the honourable member precisely. Who would want to buy a railway line that was losing over \$300,000 a year other than the people who used it to transport their sugar-cane?

Mr. Jones: There has been a loss of \$88,000,000 overall.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Miller): Order! The honourable member for Cairns will have an opportunity to put forward his point of view. At present I am trying to hear the honourable member for Mourilyan.

Mrs. KIPPIN: In earlier days this tramline was very profitable but in the past few years the wages of railway workers have increased by over 125 per cent. It is very hard to keep up with such increased costs.

The A.L.P. spokesmen really showed their true colours when they advocated that the Government should not sell the line but should reduce the losses by increasing rail freights. Imagine the A.L.P. advocating rail freight increases when not so long ago the Leader of the Opposition said in Townsville that freights should be lowered! I suppose what they think depends on the occasion.

The honourable member for Cairns (the shadow Minister for Transport), Mr. Peter Moore (the A.L.P. candidate for Mourilyan), Mr. Delacey (the A.L.P. candidate for Barron River) and our shire chairman (Mr. Roy Dickson) all advocated increased rail freights for the cartage of sugar despite the fact that the two mills purchasing the line already paid the highest rail freights of all sugar mills in Queensland.

In the past three years a definite threat has been made that much of the sugar-cane transport would change to road transport if rail freights increased much more. Our Labor friends did not seem to realise that if the transport went to road there would be no use for the tramway.

Now that the tramway has been transferred to the mills and the A.L.P. melodrama has subsided temporarily, it is interesting to review the whole situation. Actually 31 men have been displaced. Many had already applied for and received transfers of their choice. While some may have been a little inconvenienced, to my knowledge none have suffered hardship. That is most significant. The change has been facilitated by most generous displacement terms offered to the railwaymen by the Commissioner for Railways on a Cabinet recommendation. I have been told by a number of railwaymen that they were more than satisfied with the terms. In fact, many of them are more than happy that they have now made the break. Some of them said that they had been in the one place for quite a while and the opportunity for promotion into higher-paid jobs has given them a new lease of life. A couple of the men who were from local families have in fact obtained positions in the mill. No longer do they face the possibility of transfer that confronts all Government employees. A few men have remained, but I am sure that the Railway Department will solve their problems satisfactorily before too many months pass.

I turn now to the subject of job opportunities. The mills have employed an extra 37 men this season to run the tramway. A transport company that carries sugar from the South Johnstone Mill to the Mourilyan Harbour has purchased more vehicles and has put on seven extra drivers. Really, then, the job opportunities in the district have improved. The Innisfail district will see very little change in its economy, and that statement has been supported by most of the business houses in the area. They cannot notice any changes at all that could be attributed to this Government decision.

The railwaymen who have been wanting to leave the district entirely have managed to sell their homes for most satisfactory prices. One concern we had was that some of the people would have to leave the district and sell their homes on a depressed market. That certainly has not been so. Housing is pretty short in all the North Queensland centres, and most railwaymen have sold their houses at quite good profits. Some who intend to retire in the district have rented their houses and have all been able to secure good tenants.

While the railway debate raged, very little attention was paid to the attitude of the cane farmers, who indirectly will be footing the bill for this line. It is significant that none of them were concerned enough to object publicly. On talking to farmers around the district now that we have seen the cane harvesting season under way for a couple of months, I have found that they are more than happy about their purchase. In fact, the sugar mills had approached the Government on a number of occasions since 1964 to buy the tramway. They have always

maintained that they could cut their costs if they owned the tramway themselves. That certainly seems to be so this year.

The farmers now have better control over scheduling cane bins. Of course, if there is any sort of wet season in our area, harvesting must be done on Sundays and at night as well. If there was a rush on, the farmers had difficulty getting sufficient bins. Now, bin pick-ups are easier to organise, as the mills are working around the clock also. In addition, the timetables for mill employees are a little more flexible.

It is easier for farmers to negotiate directly with the mill for more pick-up points. Over the last couple of years there has been quite a large expansion in our area, and farmers have been asking for more pick-up points. In the past, those applications had to go to the Railway Department regional office in Townsville for consideration. A Railway Department fellow had to come up and review the situation and then make a recommendation. Of course, that all took time. Now it merely entails a phone call to the mill, and the next day an inspector considers the problem and the whole situation is made much simpler.

Innisfail residents are finding that side benefits are to be gained from the transfer of the tramway. The section of tramway which ran through residential areas of the town from the railway station to the cane-fields has been pulled up, as there is now no need to take the locos back through town. In fact, this was known as the taxi run, because that part of the line carried empty locos all the time, running railway employees backwards and forwards. Over the last few years residents along that line have petitioned the Government to remove the line. It was interesting to note, when I checked that petition, that a number of A.L.P. supporters who made a lot of noise about the sale of the railway had protested about the tramway. In my opinion, their protests were very shortsighted. The tramway has been quite a traffic hazard, running past the fronts of many homes. It also went past the high school. Not only the parents of high-school students but also the drivers of the trains were concerned about this because, on a number of occasions, they have had very near misses with school children on their bikes.

The sugar mills have in fact advised the council that, now that the line has been pulled up, it would allow the lineway to be transformed into a bikeway for the students who have to ride their bikes between the business section of the town and the school. This is urgently needed as not only parents but also train drivers were concerned about students on bikes.

In addition, this section of the road is part of the Bruce Highway and all of the heavy transports from the South have to pass along it. I have had quite a number

of complaints about children riding three and four abreast on the road. They do not realise it when a truck is coming behind them and it is most difficult for a driver to negotiate not only the oncoming traffic but the bike riders as well.

Probably one of the most interesting proposals to arise out of the transfer of the tramway is an idea for a new tourist attraction. The principals of Mourilyan Mill and Innisfail motel operator Mr. See Poy, Junior, have put their heads together to plan a complete guide through the sugar industry in our area. For one-half of the tour people will be transported along the tramway in one of the old-fashioned steam locos. This will be of immense interest to not only children but also their parents, who many years ago used to travel in this sort of transport to picnics in the area. These men envisage that a day-long trip will cover the cane-fields, the Nerada tea plantation and an inspection of sugar mills. Then people will be taken to the bulk-terminal facilities at Mourilyan. This will all be travelled by train.

But first the tourists will be given an outline of the whole industry when they visit the Innisfail Sugar Museum, which is situated on the Bruce Highway at Mourilyan. As well as a museum, it is a tourist information centre for the whole of North Queensland. The museum was opened quite recently by the Premier. We hope it will be transformed into the tourist gateway to North Queensland. Tourists can obtain information there about the Johnstone area as well as information about the whole of North Queensland. I envisage that it will become a very busy place in years to come.

Back to the tourist venture. From Mourilyan Harbour, tourists could proceed by boat to Innisfail. Our harbour, our coastline and our river system not only are beautiful but also have a most interesting history in the cane industry. In the olden days, all of our cane had to be transported up and down the river from Goondi to the harbour.

In hindsight, I am sure that my stand in supporting the Government's decision to sell the tramway has been vindicated. I am still convinced that this decision was in the best interests of my electorate as a whole. I am willing to stand by that decision.

Before closing, I should like to touch on another problem which influences my electorate considerably. It is the problem of the proposed closure of the Herberton Hospital. It is to be closed as an acute unit because a large base hospital is being established only 12 miles away. I am sure that it will provide better health facilities for the whole of the Atherton Tableland. Quite understandably, the Herberton people are disturbed at the prospect of losing an asset to their town. We have had numerous discussions in the area. I am quite sure now

that everyone agrees that the Herberton Hospital should be retained as a geriatric unit. I am quite convinced that once we build a new out-patient centre in this area, it, worked in conjunction with the remaining part of the hospital as a geriatric unit, would well provide Herberton with more than adequate health facilities.

The only problem I face here is that other parts of the electorate are concerned that Herberton may be getting more than its fair share of health facilities. This, of course, is not the case, but confusion has arisen from an election promise made in 1975 by Mr. Whitlam. Honourable members will all remember that a Federal election was held in that year. Mr. Whitlam raced up to Herberton and promised the people one of the beautiful health centres that were Labor's dream in those days. Very few of them have ever materialised, mainly because it is quite impracticable to have health centres, with all the specialist facilities that were envisaged, situated in a rather isolated area which does not have a large population to support it. It would be very nice to have one of these health centres in a country centre but I am afraid it is just not feasible. Some people in the electorate do not realise that the promise made by Labor back in 1975 will never be honoured.

While still in Government Mr. Whitlam sent two or his advisers up to Herberton and they called a large public meeting. These two medical men invited the people of Ravenshoe over to Herberton and then outlined to the people of the district just what this health centre would contain. Once they had the people quite enthusiastic about the proposal, they then asked them where they thought it should be built. Of course, they created the situation they were looking for. Neither town could agree just where the health centre should go. These two Federal health men then slipped out from underneath and left quite an impossible situation. They divided the people of the area even though they had never had any intention of giving them what they had promised. This resulted in a most unfortunate situation, but in the past couple of years I have managed to get it sorted out and I think most people understand just what our plans are and can see the urgent need for geriatric facilities in Herberton.

Mr. ROW (Hinchinbrook) (4.22 p.m.): It gives me a great deal of pleasure to enter this debate and to compliment Sir James Ramsay on his appointment as Governor of this State. I would also like to congratulate him on his Opening Speech. I want to join my constituents in an expression of loyalty to the Crown and to the concept of sovereign Statehood, democratic freedom and free enterprise.

Queensland has been a prime example of a stable State and its people, its industries and its potential bear living testimony to

the successful development of a vast region under the free-enterprise system. Queenslanders continue to value their sovereignty and independence. It pleased me to learn that His Excellency and Lady Ramsay plan to visit my electorate in the very near future, and I can assure them of a warm and loyal welcome from my constituents.

In his Opening Speech His Excellency referred to the many legislative measures which this Government proposes to enact in the current session. I wish to add my assurances of an objective and genuine effort in bringing down legislative measures which will be in the best interests of the people of Queensland.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking my many and loyal colleagues, Cabinet Ministers and members of the Government, and members of Government departments for their co-operation and advice and for their sympathetic and helpful response to my representations on behalf of my electors in the past. There are, of course, certain exceptions which I dare say will generate further efforts not only by way of representation but also by way of probable rationalisation and adjustment of the services which the Government renders, and I will refer to some of these later in my address.

I pay a particular tribute to the leaders of our coalition Government. I pay tribute first to the Honourable the Premier for his courage and forthright attitudes, his loyalty and tenacity, and his defence of law and order and justice. I admire his intestinal fortitude in always standing up to be counted. The fact that he treads on a corn or two in the process is probably a blessing in disguise. There is nothing like a bit of quick chiropody to remove nagging pains.

I also pay a sincere tribute to the Deputy Premier and Treasurer and leader of the Liberal Party, the Honourable Bill Knox. I have found him to be a loyal and genuine person who holds the integrity of the Government above party-political considerations, and I admire the foresight and the ability that he has shown in the various Cabinet portfolios that he has held. It is men of his calibre who have kept Queensland in the forefront of stable political leadership. I pray that that stability will continue.

I now pay a tribute, on a sadder note, to the late Keith Hooper. Mr. Hooper was one of the first Ministers of this Government to pay an official visit to my electorate after I was elected to this Assembly in 1972. He was the first Minister to invite me to join his committee on a tour of south-western Queensland. His interest and his action demonstrated to me that he was a man of high standing and a man of the people, and that fortified my early endeavours to acquire a more complete knowledge of the modus operandi of this coalition and the things that were necessary for successful participation

in the affairs of this House. For that I pay a tribute to him and add my expressions of condolence to his widow and family.

While speaking of leadership in public affairs, I should like also to pay a tribute on this occasion to another man who is no longer with us but who left an indelible mark on the development of this State. I refer to the late William Garbutt, O.B.E.

Mr. Garbutt's life, together with the lives of several other notable Queenslanders, was tragically lost earlier this year in an aviation accident. He served with distinction in the field of local government and had a record term of office as chairman of the Hinchinbrook Shire Council, which, of course, is in my electorate. There would be many members of this Government and in the Public Service of this State with whom Mr. Garbutt had direct association. He enjoyed the highest reputation in the cattle industry. He had a strong interest in horse-racing and for many years was president of the North Queensland Amateur Turf Club, as well as being president of the Herbert River Jockey Club for many years. He was also president of the North Queensland Local Government Association for a very long term, and president of the Herbert River Pastoral and Agricultural Association.

He was the representative of the Hinchinbrook Shire on the Townsville Regional Electricity Board and was chairman of that board for many years. Tragically, it was whilst returning from his last official duty with that organisation, which was replaced by the new North Queensland Electricity Board, that the fatal accident occurred in which he and several others lost their lives. He was a close and lifelong friend of a member of my family and a former member of State Cabinet—Sir John Row, now retired. Many in this Chamber will remember him as a former Minister for Primary Industries. On behalf of my constituents I wish to place on record a tribute to Mr. Garbutt as a great and loyal son of Queensland who will be sadly missed and always remembered by many.

Earlier this year the Far North of Queensland suffered severely from flooding. That, plus the depressed state of the pastoral industry, the fall in world sugar prices and contractual market problems with Japan, has caused an unfortunate wave of apprehension to sweep among North Queensland communities, including my own electorate. Nevertheless, like true Queenslanders, the people generally have responded philosophically to these set-backs. I counsel my colleagues in this Parliament to respond equally well towards assisting the electorate in general to overcome these problems by recognising each fellow member's particular electorate needs and in making a concerted effort, particularly at ministerial committee levels, to produce equity in services to the whole State.

I was rather surprised recently to read the comments of the Leader of the Opposition in this House about what he claimed to be the curtailment of rural amenities by the present Federal Government. He seemed to entirely overlook the fact that these amenities were taken away originally by a Government of his own political leaning. It was during the short regime of the Whitlam Government that the rural communities of this State and, indeed, all States of Australia, suffered the greatest loss of privilege. I was surprised that he also referred in sarcastic terms to what he claimed to be the lack of interest of this Government in the present sugar problems, particularly the contractual arrangements with the Japanese. It was only 18 months or so ago that Mr. Burns and his colleagues were applauding the fact that their great white chief in Canberra had carried out the enactment of letters of agreement between the Japanese and the Australian authorities in relation to sugar. Now where do they stand?

Mr. Powell: That is probably why we are having the trouble.

Mr. ROW: I agree. But where do they stand on these issues? They play politics like mad and use people's emotions and feelings to try to gain political capital. This is one of the worst features of the activities of Opposition members in this Parliament. If they knew what sugar-marketing was all about and if they would get down to making reasonable, constructive suggestions we might benefit from their presence here. I was greatly surprised to hear condemnation of the Queensland Government's activities in regard to sugar. Mr. Uren in the Federal sphere said that the A.L.P. have no intention of honouring international contractual arrangements about some other product that this country has decided to export. Once again where do they stand? Apart from playing politics they don't seem to have any policies at all.

The Opposition spokesman for rural industries in this Parliament surprises me greatly from time to time with many of his utterances. It might surprise the House to know that that honourable member would not have more than two sticks of sugar-cane in his electorate. He represents the electorate of the city of Mackay. All he has concerning the sugar industry in his electorate is the exporting port which was provided by the Australian sugar industry. He has endeavoured to point out that it belongs to the people of Queensland. It is vested in the Corporation of the Treasurer, but the money was provided by the sugar industry over many years. The current development and redevelopment of the major sugar ports in the State are being financed also by the sugar industry, not from the public purse. Incidentally, I compliment the Corporation

of the Treasurer and the sugar industry for their foresight in promoting the development and redevelopment of our sugar ports.

The Opposition spokesman on primary industries should do his homework before he makes any more irresponsible statements concerning the sugar industry in Queensland. It has demonstrated its capability of conducting its affairs in a most responsible and effective manner. It does not always run to the Government for assistance. The marketing arrangements of the sugar industry are handled by highly competent marketing agents, who resent political interference in times of crisis. They are charged with the responsibility of entering into and honouring contracts. If some of the so-called political experts on the Opposition side do not shut up, they will prejudice the future of our sugar industry. The sooner they realise that, the better for all concerned.

I thank the Premier for his immediate response to approaches made to him during the emergency that arose as a result of floods early this year in the North. On Monday, 7 March, the town of Ingham and its surrounding districts were flooded by waters from the Herbert River. The towns of Halifax and Lucinda, both of which are in my electorate, were cut off by floodwaters from the same river. The Tully River and other coastal streams were in flood, causing severe dislocation to communications and isolation. Fortunately, the town of Tully which is situated on rising terrain, was not inundated. It was, however, cut off by rail and road. Similar problems arose in electorates to the north of mine, such as Mourilyan and Mulgrave.

Ingham was inundated and the State Emergency Service was fully activated. I record my appreciation of the response and dedication to duty of the shire officers, police and other designated officials of the State Emergency Service. My remarks also apply to many other persons who volunteered their services, such as boat owners and those with high-clearance vehicles. As well, the ambulance, the fire brigade and hospital services stood by to handle emergency cases. The Armed Services provided aircraft, vehicles and a radio communication network, which proved to be of inestimable value during the emergency. Likewise, the electricity supply authority and Telecom linesmen and technicians worked round the clock, at times at great personal discomfort and with scant regard for personal safety, to restore power lines and lines of communication. They carried out the almost impossible feat of replacing power poles partly submerged by floodwaters.

Unfortunately a tragedy occurred, that involving a small child who came into contact with a live power line. In spite of very quick action on the part of a helicopter crew to obtain assistance for him, he did not respond. I express my sympathy to

the people involved, particularly the parents and the men who made such sterling efforts, which, unfortunately, were not successful. I am sure that their efforts will be remembered for a long time.

During this great flood emergency there was no panic at any stage, but some discrepancies were revealed. I shall refer to some of them in the hope that the Government will take steps to rectify them. We suffered from a grave communication shortage. Telephone communications to essential services like the police were inadequate. The police station at Ingham did not have a teleprinter. In this day and age such equipment is essential. Fortunately commercial teleprinters were available and they were swung into service, but this took a bit of organising. These shortcomings present difficulties in emergency situations.

I am pleased that the Minister for Police responded immediately to my request that teleprinters be made available at police stations in major country centres. I remind him of his promise and trust that he will see it is carried out. The Police Force suffers from a shortage of funds. I hope that in the Budget the Treasurer provides increased funds for the Police Force. By no means is it a lack of dedication that curtails the police in these situations; it is rather a lack of facilities attributable to a shortage of funds.

I commend all members of the public who responded so well to the disciplines that had to be imposed on them so that the operation could be carried out effectively. People were trained in a few minutes to man the loading facilities for helicopters. This was a remarkable operation and a credit to all concerned.

After the floods, debriefing sessions were held under the auspices of the State Emergency Service. I am pleased to say that the State Director of the service made himself or his officers available immediately to attend the debriefing meetings. I am also very pleased to say that subsequent to the debriefing meetings we got an immediate response from the State Emergency Service in the form of equipment that we lacked to cope with the situation. Boats and other things that were needed were placed in service immediately. It could be said that it is easy to be wise after the event, but it is rather a matter of being wise because of the event. The response from the service was very heartening.

Once again I thank the Premier for his prompt action in this emergency situation. On 7 March he was attending a meeting of Executive Council in Brisbane and I was able to contact him direct by phone. He arranged immediately for the appropriate authorities to declare a state of emergency in the seriously affected areas and he arrived as soon as it was practicable to get his aircraft into the vicinity of the flooded

areas. He then made an on-the-spot personal inspection and arranged for briefing of the various public authorities that were required to assess the emergency requirements and relief funds that were needed.

One disappointment I have to report is the slow response of the Federal Government in providing funds. Guide-lines are laid down by the Federal authorities on the provision of money at times of emergency after natural disasters. It was made apparent in North Queensland this year that the guide-lines ought to be revised. The inadequacy of the provisions set out in the guide-lines became very obvious, and my personal opinion is that there needs to be an expansion of at least 50 per cent under the principles laid down in the guide-lines to cover any future disaster. As it happened, the guide-lines resulted in our receiving only about half what we actually needed.

I am pleased that the Premier made direct representations at Prime Ministerial level in an endeavour to have the situation rectified, the outcome of which is not yet known. The State Government's provision of Federal funds for the relief of personal hardship for primary producers and small businessmen was very acceptable. Unlike what happened a few years ago in Brisbane after the Australia Day floods, no public fund was set up in North Queensland. We had to rely on official arrangements, where unfortunately discrepancies were apparent. I hope that these matters will be looked into.

I was very pleased with the response of State Government authorities in making special loans available to primary producers. The existing guide-lines on loans were extended so that longer periods were allowed for repayment in certain cases where it was thought to be justified. Generally speaking, the Queensland authorities and the people as a whole responded very well in a situation that was very nasty.

One aspect of natural disasters that I would like to comment on is insurance cover. This proved to be very poor indeed. It would appear that flood insurance in flood-prone areas is almost prohibitive in cost. It seems that where the risk is high the companies do not want to accept responsibility. Consequently, the premiums are extremely high. I think that that is grossly unfair. Members will recall that in the past strong representations have been made for an equalisation of premiums for storm and tempest insurance. People in North Queensland pay a great deal more in premiums than do people in the South; yet it is not unusual for disasters resulting from natural causes to affect the southern parts of the State. The insurance industry should be encouraged to take a long look at its obligations. If people could get adequate flood insurance at reasonable premiums, bearing in mind that they are in flood-prone areas, there would not be all the post mortems and all the problems of restoring assets where there is no private cover.

One of the Queensland Government's contributions to the North Queensland wet belt is the provision of adequate planning and design of drainage requirements through the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission. Of course, that also applies to flood mitigation. When we talk about floods, we have to consider in the broad sense all the ramifications of drainage. I am happy to report that the Queensland Government has responded very well in the past couple of years to the efforts of the Northern Sugar Industry Productivity Committee, which has been set up in North Queensland. It is based mainly on the sugar industry but I hope it will attract the interest of other industries. It has endeavoured to attract the interest of all rural industries in the North that are subject to excess water problems.

I am pleased to say that the representations from this committee to the Government, particularly those through the Minister for Water Resources and the Treasurer, have resulted in a considerable amount of assistance and funds for an overview study to be made by a professional engineering and surveying company as a basis for future control and flood mitigation.

I hope that the members of this House will support any representations made from time to time by members representing flood-prone electorates for this kind of Government provision of funds, especially for basic research. I think we can rely on the population to respond. There is nothing like success to breed success.

We are still concerned in the rural areas of Queensland—I speak mainly of the North because it is my locality—about the drift of families from the more remote districts in the State, particularly, with a consequent decline in community integrity. It is indeed an alarming situation. I constantly seek ways and means of rectifying this situation through the activities of the Government.

One of the things that I have sponsored on many occasions in this House in this type of debate is the reforestation programme in North Queensland. We have a Commonwealth-State forestry agreement which seems to have been bogged down for a considerable period. While there is a fairly static level of activity in softwood plantations and reforestation in North Queensland and in general forest management carried out by the State Department of Forestry, we need a great deal more activity and an injection of funds, particularly from Commonwealth sources under the Commonwealth-State forestry arrangement, to promote employment and the restitution of our wood resources. There is still a heavy demand on timber resources in this State, and they are being depleted.

I also say a word in defence of the wood industries in North Queensland and their endeavour to rationalise their operations in

order to survive under the inflationary pressures that every industry has experienced over the past several years. I counsel the Minister for Forestry to prevail upon his department not to impose too heavily on the wood industries in the level of royalties and such like, which might place a further burden on them. They are endeavouring to meet a very critical market, with great competition coming from products of other types. If we are to see our building industry prosper as it should, we must see that the wood industries maintain their proper place in the building industry. If they are not allowed to remain competitive, they will not, and we will end up with another ailing industry that could be providing a great deal of employment and stability in this State.

No doubt the coast-based agricultural industries have been more fortunate than those in more remote and inland regions. I refer particularly to the grazing industry, although even the stable sugar industry has a high-cost economy. It does not take very much adversity to tip the scales in the wrong direction. All of the industries that are regarded as stable are stable only to the extent that they can continue to maintain their present levels of operation. I hope that this cost/price squeeze, particularly as it relates to the high cost of labour, will stabilise itself. We hear a lot of criticism of the Federal Government's present efforts to stabilise the economy but I am afraid that, unless some method can be found of curbing inflation, particularly that part caused by wage rises—I do not say that in any derogatory sense to the wage earner, because he is entitled to a living the same as everybody else—then industries in this country will price themselves out of world markets. The only remedy is for all of us to pull in our belts to some extent. This is what the Federal Government is trying to do, and yet it is being criticised for doing it.

Public amenities such as postal services, telecommunications and associated services are still being curtailed, and this is causing concern in our rural areas. I have prevailed upon my Federal member to try to persuade his Federal colleagues to at least maintain the present level of these public services. There seems to be a general trend these days to determine their continued existence by their profitability, and if a public telephone somewhere does not pay for itself it is removed and so another link in the chain of communication is denied to people in rural areas. I believe this is wrong. People generally must be prepared to support their fellows in country areas in the provision of necessary amenities in order to keep people in country areas.

A lot has been said lately by the Opposition spokesman on primary industries about the further development of the sugar industry into such ventures as the production of power alcohol because of the current scare

about the shortage of fossil fuels that is looming, together with the increased cost of these fuels that such a shortage would bring about. In reply to that, I must agree with the recent statement of the Minister for Mines and Energy that such things can only be done on a long-term basis, and whilst we do agree that these ventures should be considered as possibilities, I do not think we should stir up a great deal of unfounded hope that producers will suddenly find a bonanza in a new industry that is yet untried or which, because of our high cost structure, would be unprofitable. There are certainly places in the world where crops like sugar-cane can, one might say, be sacrificed in the interests of producing some other commodity, but it would be unreal to suggest that the sugar industry can afford to grow sugar-cane for a couple of dollars a ton, and that is all they would get if they grew cane for power alcohol production.

I would like to see an industry developed using the material that we presently discard. I have said before, having looked at these things in some overseas countries, that there should be a great deal of research, particularly Government-sponsored research, into the development of a by-products industry. We are probably one of the most wasteful countries in the world when it comes to by-products. We do not reprocess any of our chemical or other industrial waste. We throw them down the drain and I think it would be worth while looking very carefully into the possibility of developing a by-products industry as a sideline to our existing industries.

I must mention also the potential of the tourist industry in North Queensland and the lack of facilities at present available, particularly in marine services. It has long been planned by this Government and the Department of Marine Services that facilities for small boats should be provided at various places along the Queensland coast, and yet we see only a few of these facilities being developed at present. There is great potential there. Thousands of small boats are on the register in Queensland, particularly north of Brisbane, for which in many instances there are no proper harbour or servicing facilities. I counsel the Department of Harbours and Marine to give serious consideration to development of that type.

I am disturbed that some activities of other Government authorities cut across such development. I refer particularly to the activities of the Beach Protection Authority. In my opinion, although the Government was well justified in setting up the Beach Protection Authority in an endeavour to preserve the State's coastline in certain areas, I think it is now cutting across the development of other services.

I conclude by again expressing my support for the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Mr. LOWES (Brisbane) (5.1 p.m.): As member for Brisbane, I am privileged to pledge the loyalty and affection of the people of Brisbane for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Further, I am able to pledge their support for the continuance of constitutional government in this State.

Speaking on this motion gives me the opportunity to welcome to Queensland His Excellency Sir James Ramsay and Lady Ramsay, who, despite the short time that they have been here, have endeared themselves to the people of Queensland and have already travelled extensively through the State meeting the people. This viceregal appointment for Sir James is, I believe, a fitting tribute to a man who has given meritorious service throughout his life.

On the other hand, it is with somewhat mixed feelings that I congratulate Sir Zelman Cowen, the Governor-General designate, on his appointment, because although I believe that, again, it is a fitting tribute that a man of his stature should be appointed to such a high position as Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, Queensland will suffer a loss by the removal from this State of Sir Zelman and Lady Cowen. It is a profit to the Commonwealth; it is a loss to Queensland that they should leave this State.

1977 has been the annus mirabilis. The highlight, of course, was the visit in March this year of Her Majesty the Queen and Prince Philip. This gave to the people of Queensland a great opportunity to show their loyalty and to manifest that by way of displays and speeches of welcome to Her Majesty and to Prince Philip. Of these I think the most outstanding was the ceremony that took place in the electorate of Brisbane on the south bank of the Brisbane River when Her Majesty named the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Fountain. It was a beautiful day and the people of Brisbane, and indeed the people of Queensland, turned out in force to welcome Her Majesty and by such a display to pledge to her their loyalty.

The ceremony was performed under the canvas canopy that had been erected over the site, a canopy designed by a Queensland architect, the architect for the whole of the community centre, Mr. Robin Gibson.

I am informed by him that the canopy was designed from some thoughts he had of the tents that were used at Agincourt. When one thinks of Agincourt, one tends to think of the glory of war. One thinks of the tapestries depicting Agincourt both before and after the battle, the paintings of the panoplied princes, and the poetry that has been written to enshrine that battle. One tends to carry thoughts of there being some glory in war. Of course, those who have been more recently involved with war realise that there is very little glory in it. I realised this recently when, as a member of the parliamentary delegation, I visited Korea and at Pusan inspected the United

Nations Memorial Cemetery where I found the grave of a former Army friend of mine, Joe Quinlan, who came from Brisbane.

I felt a great sadness in that cemetery some thousands of miles from Australia when I found the grave of a former friend, but the sadness was countered by the fact that during the rest of the tour I learnt that such a sacrifice was not in vain. His had not been a futile sacrifice at all, because in Korea we found that those thousands of men who had given their lives had given them for a good purpose. We found that a population of some 35,000,000 people had been saved from invasion from the north by the Korean Communists supported by their allies the Chinese Communists. Those 35,000,000 people in Korea are now free to live the life they wish to lead. They have a fierce desire for freedom, which they exercise, and because of the protection they were given by the battles of the early 1950s they have now been able to forge a way of life that is a great credit to them all.

The people of Korea have developed a very large steel industry. They have developed a motor vehicle industry which would put the Australian motor vehicle industry in the shade. They have an electronics industry of world standard and a shipbuilding industry which is the largest in the world. It may be glib to say that South Korea has the largest shipbuilding industry in the world, but when one goes to Ulsan and sees just one shipyard with its immense size and enormous capabilities, one realises what being the world's largest shipbuilding nation really means.

It is not an industry that was built up over a period of many years. The Ulsan shipyard was built after 1970. The first contract for a ship was obtained before the building of the shipyard commenced. Now it is a yard with four dry docks, one of which is sufficiently large to take a 1 000 000 tonne ship. At the present time, of course, the very large container ships are not so popular, and that dock is not being used for the construction of very large container ships but rather is being used for the construction of as many as four ships at a time. At the time we were there 54 ships were in the course of construction. A ship is launched every week of the year. That is only one of the major shipyards in South Korea. That is the sort of industry that is carried on there. In 1972 South Korea's Gross National Product had a growth rate of 7 per cent; it has risen in four years to 15.2 per cent.

South Korea carries on a very sizeable trade with Australia both in exporting to us and importing from us. South Korea exports to Australia in the vicinity of \$99,300,000 worth of goods a year, mainly textiles and electronic equipment. On the other hand she imports from Australia goods to the value of \$215,000,000 a year, most of which are natural resources, particularly coal and sugar

from Queensland and iron-ore from Western Australia. We have a developing meat market in Korea. At this time when Australia's meat industry is in dire straits the Korean market is one that might well be developed.

South Korea is a country that Australia might well take up with on a partnership basis. South Korea has by way of natural resources a large work-force; Australia, and Queensland in particular, has natural resources of coal, iron and sugar. We might well enter into a partnership with South Korea, using its natural resources of manpower and our natural resources of minerals.

For a long time proposals have been put forward that Queensland should open a trade commissioner's office in the Far East. Japan is the country that has been most talked of, and at times we have heard conjecture as to who might be the first person to fill such a position. It seems to me that, instead of setting up a trade commissioner's office in Japan, Queensland should seriously consider setting up such an office in South Korea, which, I believe, possesses greater potential than Japan as a market for Queensland's exports.

On our visit to Japan I felt almost inferior because there I found people living in an affluence which was equal to if not greater than ours in Australia. They are as well housed and educated; their health is as good as ours; their living standards are as high as ours. Without a doubt, their working conditions are as good as ours.

It was something of a surprise to see the industrial relations that exist in Japan because shortly before our delegation left for Japan we heard Mr. Fred Nicol of the Storemen and Packers' Union claim on his return to Australia from Japan that Japanese trade-unionists were being ripped off. From what we saw in Japan at first hand and from what we learned from the employees themselves, they are quite happy with the conditions under which they work. Those conditions are as good as those that exist here.

For example, I doubt whether any companies in Australia treat their employees to mass international air travel, such as Japanese companies do. This happens regularly. Japanese companies charter aircraft to take their employees around the world on holidays, and not merely for the purpose of sending them out to learn more so that they can come back and be more productive. We saw nothing in Japan to suggest that the Japanese trade-unionist is worse off than his counterpart in Australia. It ill becomes Mr. Nicol to make such adverse comments.

While talking about trade-union leaders—in Fiji we found that Australia has established a very doubtful reputation. I understand that a gentleman by the name of Norm Docker periodically visits Fiji from

Sydney and inculcates into trade-unionists in Fiji some of the ways that he has learned in Australia. Unfortunately, his visits are followed by further industrial unrest. Australia has nothing to teach the Fijians about industrial relations and industrial affairs.

From South Korea our tour took us to Hong Kong. There, together with the leader of the delegation, Mr. Hinze, I inspected several tunnels that have been constructed on the island. I was interested to hear the honourable member for Merthyr speak today of the need for more tunnels in Brisbane. The Minister was impressed, as were all of us, by the standard of the tunnels in Hong Kong. It was interesting to compare the cross-harbour tunnel with the one that leads to Shai Tan. The Shai Tan tunnel is an older tunnel and is not provided with the ventilation that is necessary. When driving through it, we had to wind up the windows of the vehicle to prevent exhaust fumes from entering it. On the other hand, the cross-harbour tunnel was more modern and it was not necessary to wind up the car windows to keep out fumes. Obviously it is possible to construct ventilated tunnels for the expulsion of exhaust fumes. I also understand that it is possible to build tunnels to overcome the risk caused by carrying flammable materials, which, I understand, is the main objection to a tunnel at the mouth of the Brisbane River.

The move for a tunnel or bridge at the mouth of the river has been on for some years. With refineries on both the north and south sides of the river mouth, and with the need to transport many heavy products across the river, the necessity for a bridge or tunnel has been accentuated. When the port of Brisbane is established on Fisherman Islands a bridge or tunnel will be even more desirable.

The electorates represented by the honourable member for Merthyr and me have a common boundary along Ann Street and the Story Bridge. Most of the heavy traffic proceeds along Ann Street in the Valley and across the Story Bridge. Only a week or so ago the honourable member for Wolston asked a question about the risk involved in moving heavy traffic, particularly that which carries flammable products, through the city. The effect of heavy traffic on main arterial roads is visible in Queen Street. Between Albert Street and Edward Street, outside the Regent Theatre, Queen Street is so badly corrugated that it would vie with the old western highways before they were bituminised. Something must be done, and done very quickly, to reduce the volume of heavy traffic passing through the city and Fortitude Valley.

Coming back to the Brisbane scene, we have much to learn from what is to be seen overseas, particularly the tunnels constructed in Hong Kong. I have no doubt that people in Queensland and elsewhere in

Australia have the expertise necessary to construct tunnels. Those of us who have been to the Snowy Mountains area and seen the tunnels driven through the solid rock can well imagine that contractors such as Hornibrook and Thiess could construct a tunnel through the alluvial soil at the mouth of the Brisbane River. No doubt water creates different problems but I am sure that they could be overcome easily. Construction of a tunnel is a matter of urgency.

In 1975, during my first Address-in-Reply speech, I referred to the abolition of estate duty. That was nothing new; many people had earlier recommended its abolition. However, when I spoke on that subject I suggested to the Treasurer of the day that the loss caused by the abolition of estate duty might be compensated for by increasing conveyancing duty which at that time stood at 1½ per cent. It appeared then that a means of offsetting the loss caused by the abolition of estate duty would be an increase to 1½ per cent or a maximum of 2 per cent.

The Treasurer of the day followed my recommendation to some extent in that he did abolish estate duties and he did increase the conveyancing rate. Unfortunately, to my mind, he increased it by making it at a rate that varied according to the value of the property. This, in my philosophy, is another form of wealth tax. For that reason I regret that the rate of duty was changed to a variable rate. It has been done, and I understand that now the income from the conveyancing duty compensates for the loss of estate duty.

If I was successful in the recommendation that I made in that Address-in-Reply debate, I hope that my recommendation in this debate that a tunnel be constructed at the mouth of the river is adopted as soon as possible.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, as this will be the last Address-in-Reply speech to be made on behalf of the electorate of Brisbane, which has been redistributed out of existence, I am pleased to have been able to represent the people of Brisbane and to support the mover and seconder of the motion presently before the House.

Mr. DEERAL (Cook) (5.21 p.m.): It is indeed an honour to rise on behalf of my constituents to speak on this Address-in-Reply debate, to support the affirmation of loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen and to welcome Sir James and Lady Ramsay to Queensland.

I do not want to take up the valuable time of honourable members by outlining developments that have occurred since I became the member for Cook. Most members have visited my electorate and have seen what has been achieved. I would like to see more done for the Far North, but it will take money, time and common sense. The matters that I think are important enough to be

raised in this debate while I have the time are tourism, the tobacco industry, mining, police, and Aboriginal and Islanders advancement (which takes in the Aboriginal Advisory Council, the councils on reserves, the Aboriginal Commission that was formed recently and the N.A.C.C., when its elections are held some time in October).

Tourism in my area must be encouraged. I know that the Government is well aware that tourism is one of the most promising developments in the North, and it is a must. Anyone who has been to Cairns and seen the development that has taken place there—and the honourable member for Cairns will back me up in this—will have observed that Cairns is becoming commercialised. I hope that, with organised tourism, we will still have the foresight to protect the environment that is now part of our beautiful North.

On my visit up North in the last fortnight I have seen that many of these things are not being done. What is happening in the North would make any member of the House feel disappointed. I hope that with more control given to the police and to the Fisheries Service we will ensure that our North is protected so that our children and their children will be able to enjoy the benefits that are there for all of us.

I have a little of the tobacco industry in the Mutchilba-Dimbulah part of my area. When I visited that area I found the farmers were very depressed about the decision made by the Commonwealth Government. I do not think that we could do much about this. But if common sense is used here, we will see our tobacco farmers in the northern area again happy and contented with what they are doing in developing our northern area. There are a lot of things that can be done in this area with irrigation. I hope that the Government will have the foresight to see that we get alternative crops for these farmers to develop in my area and the Mareeba area.

I now deal with the police. What has happened has been very disappointing. I am sure that my northern colleagues will back me up in what I say about what has happened to the hard-working, genuine police that we have in the North. It is an area which is very tough to travel in. The work that these men and women are doing must be commended.

Last week I went into the Bloomfield area. The road passes near the beautiful Cedar Bay area. I was with the local sergeant from Cooktown. We saw about 50 people, and 28 of them were young girls, walking down towards Cedar Bay with their bags and swags on their heads. Perhaps we should have promoted more of these young people to go into Cedar Bay. I hope that we can get some good people to go into that area because it is another area where we can promote tourism. By the time those young ladies come out of that area with its leeches, and no tucker, they will be a few pounds lighter.

The sergeant said to me, "I wonder why this is happening." I said, "One of the things is this: my great grandparents used to do this. They used to walk around with swags balanced on their heads a century ago. I think we are going through a cycle now where the people of today are looking around for something different." I say the North has something different to offer as long as we develop it in the right way, again using common sense.

The police there need our support in quite a lot of things, such as better roads into this area and better transport both over the roads and by sea. I hope that following my representations to the Police Commissioner we can get transport that will suit this area. I hope that we can get a police boat based in Cooktown and in Weipa to service this whole far-flung area.

Now I want to speak on Aboriginal affairs. I do not want to go too much into detail because, as I said, the State Minister for Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement has announced an Aboriginal Commission and it has been formed now. Our people already have an Aboriginal and Islanders advisory body and they have already got councils on communities and reserves.

As I said, elections will soon be held for the N.A.C.C. I have been disappointed at what has taken place in the past. A number of organisations were supposed to be working for the same cause and yet they failed even to come up with a common aim, although their whole purpose was to do just that. I hope that the Aboriginal Commission which was formed of a cross-section of people will come up with something concrete whereby we can change the course of the Aboriginal people because I am sure those honourable members who have travelled in my electorate, which takes in most of the Aboriginal communities and the islands, have seen that something must be done, and must be done now. We have come so far and are now almost at a dead end. Our people are going round and round in a mad circle and getting nowhere. We cannot afford to spend taxpayers' money allowing this to happen and I hope that the organisations that are to be formed will contain men and women who are not selfish but have the foresight to see that the Aboriginal people do not develop as a separate nation but work as Australians to develop Australia for Australians.

The N.A.C.C. is a Federal body and from my experience I can say that there was no co-operation whatever between it and other Aboriginal bodies. I hope that when the elections are over, that the N.A.C.C., the Aboriginal commission, the Aboriginal and Islanders advisory committee and all the Aboriginal people will realise that we are not working to get away from the rest of the Australian people and that the things we hear and the statements we read on uranium mining are not what the black man wants.

I hope that this body will work towards a common aim so that we can say, "Now, look, this is it. Work well done."

Mr. MULLER (Fassifern) (5.33 p.m.): Once again I am privileged to participate in this debate. Obviously, of course, this is due to the good graces of the tolerant people of the electorate of Fassifern. Also at this stage I wish to renew my pledge of loyalty to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and I also wish to associate the people of my electorate with that pledge.

I wish to sincerely congratulate the mover and the seconder of this motion. I listened with interest to the comments of both these men. They are comparatively new members and I was much impressed by their comments. I feel that should they continue to progress in the way they have indicated they possibly have a bright future in this Chamber. However, it is not my intention during this debate to waste my time on niceties, if such be the term. It is my purpose, of course, to bring to the notice of this Assembly some of the problems which I believe are both concerning and disturbing the people of Queensland. As you know, Mr. Speaker, these problems are many and varied at the moment, but I think if we analyse our attitudes and summarise the views of the persons for whom we are concerned, basically we can boil them down and place them under two headings.

Firstly, the public are concerned about the economy; secondly, they are interested in having a Government that will introduce policies capable of correcting major ills. I realise that that is a very broad statement, but if members are to make worthwhile comments I think these two subjects must be analysed.

The people of this country have been concerned about the economy for some time. Over the years we have all heard much about inflation and about methods of correcting it. Up to date, the majority of those who have participated in the debate have not put forward anything very effective and the people of this country are becoming very disturbed.

Basically the problem boils down to the fact that Australia now has the distinction of having the highest cost of production in the world. In looking for a solution to this problem, regrettably we must come back to the participation of the work-force. I have said on numerous occasions in this House that I believe that the workers of Australia are equal to and in some instances—only in some instances—better than workers in other regions of the world that I have had the privilege of visiting. Nevertheless, we are all conscious of declining productivity and I should like to place the blame for this at the feet of two groups of people.

First, the radical element in the trade union movement is playing a very significant part. Members of the A.L.P. may be a little concerned about my comment because they have had an unholy alliance with them. The radicals must be an embarrassment to members of the A.L.P. at the moment. This is one of the major problems and, if I may repeat the words used by the honourable member for Kurilpa earlier today, at the moment the solution is still very obscure. However, it is a problem that greatly concerns the people of Australia.

As recently as last week I became aware that some of my constituents who have been associated with the A.L.P. for over 30 years and have been union representatives have resigned from unions. The reason for that is the radicalism within the unions that is affecting the work output of people with whom they have been associated for a very long time. A number of people who have had close affiliations with the A.L.P. and with unions and have given a lifetime of service in their employment have become disturbed and disgruntled and have in fact submitted their resignations. I see that the honourable member for Archerfield is taking notes of my comments. I know that he, personally, is very conscious of what is influencing some of the persons to whom I refer.

Regrettably, there is another influence at work within the community, and it seems to be world wide. I refer to the influence of radicals who seem to think that they have an obligation to protest for all sorts of frivolous purposes. In the initial stages, those of us who take life rather seriously were inclined to regard these people as a joke. They are no longer a joke. There is an organised campaign—and I am completely convinced of this—deliberately being waged with the intention of destroying our economy. I am sure that many of the people who have been involved in protests are being led by somebody, although I do not know who. The fact is that they are indeed a disturbing influence in the community and are doing only harm. I appeal to all honourable members on both sides of the House who have the interests and well-being of this great country at heart to consider the problem seriously.

Let me go back a number of years to the time when it first became fashionable—if that is the correct term to use; it appears to me to be the correct one—to protest. It commenced in a comparatively small way, on present standards, over the suggested mining at Cooloolo. Now, of course, persons who are rational in their approach would agree that there was no logical reason for the attitudes adopted at that time. However, those attitudes were adopted and consequently we had a great volume of nonsense over Cooloolo which upset and disturbed a large number of people for no reason at all. Those demonstrators had a victory.

Quite recently, because of the weakness of the present Federal Government, we had the Fraser Island nonsense. I admit guilt here. What was done was not justified and I am ashamed of the people who were associated with the movement responsible for the creation of that disturbance. I believe that that industry should have been promoted in the form in which it had been initially established. If it had been, great benefit would have been derived by the people in that region. However, that is only another small instance of the difficulties that exist. People are parading and protesting on the streets. I am certain that if many of the persons involved were confronted and asked, "Would you tell me what this is all about?" they would not be able to give a sensible answer. They are simply caught up in a system. They become involved and they are disturbing the people of Australia very much, particularly the people of Queensland.

Of course, there seems to be another element—a group of people who are opposed to any form of industry, particularly of a sizeable nature. This has been a long-term thing. One can go back a number of years and look at what happened prior to the establishment of one of the greatest mining ventures in Queensland. I speak now of the Mt. Isa development. I regret that because of other duties the honourable member for Mt. Isa is not in the Chamber this afternoon as I am quite sure that he would support my comments.

As many honourable members would know, the Mt. Isa mining project was established initially in 1924. It was established in a region that, to all outside appearances, was poor in the extreme. It did have a wealth of underground minerals, but at that time who was to know? When the project initially got off the ground comments were made here that it did not have a future. Most people in Australia, particularly in Queensland, supported that view by their actions. They would not make finance available for the establishment of the project. But for the introduction of overseas capital, which was freely forthcoming, that major project would have perished on the rocks. Certainly it follows that it would never have got off the ground.

The moment large companies appear to show signs of prosperity the radical element decide to criticise a project and say that the whole thing is wrong. Had we believed those people, Mt. Isa would not exist today. Consider the natural environment of that region. Let us go back many years when Leichhardt discovered the Mt. Isa area. He said, "This is a region which nature is too poor to clothe." With all due respect to the residents of Mt. Isa, as a person who has lived near a coastal belt and has become accustomed to the variations in scenery, the greenery and normal productivity of such a region, I would say that had it not been for

the minerals in the Mt. Isa area that comment would have been justified. Nevertheless Mt. Isa is a thriving city today. I understand that in its hey-day it supported slightly in excess of 30,000 people, and now is supporting approximately 25,000.

Another company that has been a fabulous money-spinner for the people of Australia is our Australian company B.H.P. It does not have a lot of foreign capital invested in it. In fact, the latest figures that I recall show that Australian investment in it represents over 80 per cent of the total. Some people claim that it is wrong for a company such as that to make huge profits each year. I want to refer to the audited annual report of the company for 1976. It shows that during the 1975-76 financial year the company employed 61,000 people and paid salaries and wages totalling \$560,420,000. If a company such as that is not an asset to Australia, what is?

As I say, certain people claim that that type of operation is wrong. I suggest that they are deliberately trying to destroy the economy and wealth of our great nation. It is claimed that it is the Government's responsibility to correct the economy. Maybe it is. But it is also the obligation of everyone in this country to co-operate with the Government and to be prepared to work. Until that happens Australia will continue to have economic problems.

Australia has no prospect whatever of correcting its economy unless it succeeds in getting people back to work in some productive field. For a long time now millions of dollars have been spent annually in social security payments. I realise, of course, that some persons, owing to bad luck, illness or accident, are unable to obtain suitable employment. However, a heck of a lot of people need a bit of straightening out and, to use a good, old-fashioned Australian term, a good old kick in the pants. The sooner they are given it, the better for all of us.

Dozens of projects are going begging for lack of finance. It would appear from the budgetary figures that such finance is not available from Governments. Nevertheless, Governments can, by deployment of force, do much more to employ people and to reduce the expenditure on social security payments. In my honest and humble opinion, in many instances such expenditure is not totally justified.

Possibly my remarks grate on the nerves of some honourable members, but I claim that much unemployment has been created and promoted by radicalism within trade unions. Not for one moment do I condemn all unionists; I believe that within our work-force there are many people who do an excellent job and would be happy to continue to do it. However, the radicalism that is being promoted by some of the Left-wingers in the trade unions must be stamped out.

I believe that, unless urgent action is taken in this field in the very near future, Australia will have so many problems that it will be on the brink of what could be termed a minor form of civil war. We will have one group within the community opposing the other. We know that arguments can arise even on sporting fields, with the result that everyone present becomes involved. A fight breaks out and all types of people participate without any of them knowing precisely what is at stake. If the economic situation is approached in the same way, we can easily see that a similar situation could develop on a large scale.

I shall now deal briefly with the recent great furore about nuclear power. I am firmly convinced that there was no justification for many of the comments made on this subject. The majority of Australians support the mining of uranium. While I do not know honourable members' views, the Morgan Gallup Poll indicated clearly what Australians generally felt about mining and exporting uranium. Of the people approached, 59 per cent said that they favoured its mining and export, only 28 per cent did not want to develop and export it and 13 per cent were undecided. The overwhelming view of the people of Australia is that uranium should be mined and exported.

We are in the midst of an energy crisis. People are concerned and disturbed. In the past 6 to 12 months fuel prices have increased astronomically and alarmingly. There will be further increases and restrictions. We have in uranium a source of energy with enormous capacity; but, because of the rebellious attitude of a minority in our community, Governments in their weakness have failed to grasp the nettle and make a quick decision. A conclusion has been arrived at finally but only after 302 days of investigation. Wherever I go I say that people who are elected to Government have a certain responsibility to discharge and if they fail to do so they are not worthy of their position.

If we went into the streets and asked any 50 people for their views on this subject, I am sure that we would get 45 different opinions. What would we do then? People who have no real knowledge of the subject should never be consulted. If we want informed opinion we go to the professional people who have studied the subject and ask them for their opinion. If we confront people on the street and ask them, "What do you think about this subject? Can you express a point of view?", we will get expressions of view but we will not gain anything. I am disturbed that our Government delayed for 300 days following up one report after another before finally seeing fit to make a decision.

Certain suggestions have been made by those who have called themselves "Friends of the Earth", but I have some doubts about

their intentions. It has been said that we cannot handle atomic wastes. In this document, which I think has been available to every member of Parliament, Dr. Teller, a prominent nuclear physicist, indicated only a few months ago that more than 60 nuclear reactors are operating in the United States. They have not had any problems, or they have overcome the difficulties. With atomic energy we do not experience the waste problems associated with other sources of energy. This document is very enlightening.

It is plain also from this document that 20,000 times more coal by weight is required for the same energy output as uranium ore. That indicates immediately that the problem of waste disposal is considerably limited. A number of other interesting comments have been made. It has been suggested that we look at other energy sources. I believe that they may have possibilities, but they are beyond the realms of practicability. It has been suggested that we harness the tide and so on. People have made a study of this subject and are able to tell us that only 2 per cent of the volume of energy that would be generated in this way can be harnessed, and the bulk of that would be off shore and would have to be reticulated to inland storages. Such a theory is just a complete impossibility.

Unless I had read it in this document, I would have been firmly convinced that somebody was trying to pull my leg. It is suggested that we harness the wind; but to generate power that would normally be generated by a comparatively small plant, 1,500 windmills would be required. I ask honourable members to imagine 1,500 windmills placed into any environment. What effect would that have? That is the sort of nonsense we have to listen to. Regrettably, people have listened to it with enthusiasm and interest for a number of years. No wonder we have not made any progress. Somewhere, somehow, people have to get down to earth and realise we do have an energy crisis and that we have a product that is required throughout the world, and urgently required. Why not make it available to them? After all, there is not the remotest possibility of our holding the world to ransom if we fail to sell our uranium. The fact of the matter according to this document is that we have only a little more than 10 per cent of the uranium ore that can be economically mined. It is sheer, complete and utter nonsense to suggest that the world can be held to ransom by our refusing to market the product. It makes me sick to think that persons associated with our universities today, the great centres of learning in Sydney and Melbourne—and they classify themselves in this way—should stand up before the Police Force, defy them, throw water bombs at the Prime Minister and then claim that we lack tolerance when we do not accept their points of view.

Sooner or later, unless this nonsense is controlled and contained, there will be a lot of strife in this area. We have read newspaper reports over a long, long period about what happens in other parts of the world through radicalism. We have been living in a happy state of ignorance that this will not happen in Australia. I say that it is happening and, unless we do something about it, we are heading for real trouble.

I have a lot of other subject-matter that I feel is more of a local nature. I wish to speak for a few moments on some of the problems that exist in my electorate. Earlier I spoke about the correction of the economy. I believe that one of the means of correction is to employ the work-force in a gainful manner. I can think of so many things that need to be done—projects that would aid the whole of Queensland. However, I do want to say that, fortunately, I am the elected representative for the area of Fassifern.

[*Sitting suspended from 6 to 7.15 p.m.*]

Mr. MULLER: I was dealing broadly with some of the ills resulting from depressed economic prices. I indicated that we would be better off spending on many worthwhile projects much of the money that is flowing out in social services and being paid to young, healthy persons. As I am the representative of the Fassifern electorate, I feel that that area should be worthy of some consideration.

One of the projects that come to my mind as a result of many and varied submissions I have had made to me recently is additional water conservation. I know that in many cases this can be a vexed subject. Some areas lend themselves to this form of conservation but people in certain regions resent water being conserved in their areas claiming that the land utilisation of such destroys areas and is not in the best economic interests of the locality.

The point I wish to make is that the Moogerah Dam is supplying the most effective powerhouse in Queensland. It has been suggested that, owing to the amount of water available for storage, the Government should take immediate action to raise the height of the spillway. I believe that this is practicable. It has been suggested that a fabric dam be installed. I understand it is a plastic-balloon-type of composition that can be floated on the top of the spillway so that water can be conserved during periods of high flood run-off.

During the past few years the water has flowed over the spillway. It did so in 1974, and in 1975 11 ft. 4 ins. of water flowed over the spillway. Early this year water again flowed over. Vast amounts of water flowed out into the ocean. That water is now urgently required by farmers and also by the industry that can be developed in this region.

There has been enormous development in the northern area of my electorate, which has changed its face considerably during the past few years. When I first became the member for Fassifern, the economy of the area was based mainly on primary industries. Since then, the pattern has changed considerably. More than half of the population is engaged in the vicinity of Ipswich and Brisbane. Those people have other interests and also should be considered in any worthwhile project that might be anticipated by the Government.

Possibly the greatest single problem in a State the size of Queensland revolves around transport difficulties. As I said before—and I want to emphasise it again—terrifically large sums of money are being paid out in social services. Mr. Deputy Speaker, you might feel that I am repeating myself, and perhaps I am, but I want to clarify the point. This money should be used for some beneficial purpose in the interests of the people. Most local authorities are being subjected to severe criticism not only because they lack finance but because they are increasing their rates as well. I know these are tied up in the same parcel, but these are the difficulties they face. I believe they should receive a greater share of Government funds. I know that because of the difficulties we face, it is not very popular at this time to talk about spending money but the fact of the matter is that the money is being spent in any case so why not take advantage of it and use it for the benefit of the people who pay the taxes which provide much of the finance that the Federal Government receives? After all, it is only fair that they should receive something worthwhile in return.

I realise that areas where there has been a very rapid increase in population have social problems, particularly in the field of education. I represent the Kingston area in partnership with the honourable member for Salisbury and other members, and I have been subject to an enormous amount of criticism during the past two years because this Government has failed to provide the educational facilities which the people of the area felt were warranted. Perhaps they do have an entitlement, but there is a limit to what can be supplied.

I want to say to the Minister for Works and Housing that I am most appreciative of his efforts during the past 12 months. It is not in character for me to promote the cause of a Minister without justification. I believe Ministers in this Parliament serve the interests of the people and if they are not doing a good job we would not want to see them on the Treasury benches, so I feel that the Minister—

Mr. Houston: You have no say in it.

Mr. MULLER: I know that, but nevertheless I make the comment that I believe with the finances he has available the Minister is doing whatever is humanly possible to

overcome the difficulties that exist. It has been suggested that there should be greater planning in this area. We have had many planners, and we will have many more, but when there is a rapid inflow into any particular area it is very difficult to know what the future requirements of the area will be, and whatever problems have existed I believe that the Minister for Works and Housing and the Minister for Education have done their level best to meet the needs of the people in this region.

I am also extremely critical here again of members of the union. I will not extend to them the courtesy of mentioning their names, but they have at all times been most critical of all activities and yet at no time have they lifted a finger to assist those persons who are in trouble. For those people I have nothing but the utmost contempt. I will not take the advantage of using their names in this Parliament; I would prefer to answer them personally. The persons to whom I refer know this very well without my mentioning their names, and at some future date I may have the good fortune to tell them where I think they should get off.

There are other slightly less important things to which I wish to refer and one of them is the destruction of our road system by grossly overloaded heavy-transport vehicles. As honourable members know, the Fassifern electorate extends from the southern boundary of the State right through to the periphery of Ipswich and Brisbane. It naturally follows that we have a large number of interstate transports traversing these roads at high speed. I believe that they have a right to use our highways because they are responsible for the transport of great volumes of commercial goods and are thus performing a worthwhile service. But nevertheless I am disturbed at the large number of these fellows who drive vehicles carrying more than 100 per cent in excess of their rightful loads. I have had the misfortune on numerous occasions to traverse areas over which they have passed, generally following rainy weather when the roadbeds have been softened and these fellows, in picking up an extra \$50 or \$100 in haulage fees, have done thousands upon thousands of dollars of damage to the road system in a single night. I know that the Main Roads Department is doing its level best to control these people, but unfortunately it has not been effective to date. Regrettably, they appear to have, if I may use an Australian term, one of the best cockatoo systems that I know. They move over the highways in vehicles equipped with two-way radio. They send transport ahead to locate any trouble spots that might exist, and I have noticed on numerous occasions that these fellows never move when the mobile inspectors are on the highways.

In moving through my electorate, and particularly when returning from meetings at night and using the Boonah-Beaudesert road, if I meet the Main Roads inspectors with their mobile scales I do not meet a transport. If I travel another 15 or 20 miles

in a westerly direction, I see all the transport drivers bivouaced on the side of the road, hoping that the inspectors will become impatient and leave the scene of their operations before they again begin moving. This is not simply coincidence. I am quite convinced that the people concerned are receiving advance information, and they certainly would not receive any support from me.

There are many other matters than I could mention in the interests of my constituents. I shall conclude by saying that I hope that some time, somehow, in the very near future, not only this Government but the Federal Government will utilise whatever financial resources they have available to them for the welfare and in the interests of the people whom we, as members of this Assembly, are privileged to represent.

Mr. FRAWLEY (Murrumba) (7.27 p.m.): First I should like to renew my allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen and also that of the constituents of the electorate of Murrumba, which I have the honour to represent.

I offer my congratulations to Sir James Ramsay on his appointment as Governor of Queensland, and also to Lady Ramsay. I cannot let this occasion pass without mentioning the former Governor, Sir Colin Hannah, who was a man who had the courage of his convictions. He certainly was a very worthy Governor of this State and many people will remember the very fine things that he did while he was Governor.

This will be my last speech in the Address-in-Reply debate as the member for Murrumba.

Mr. Houston: You are a piker; you are running away.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I am not, as some members of the A.L.P. are suggesting, deserting Murrumba. All I am doing is taking the northern part of my electorate, because five-sevenths of the electorate of Caboolture is in the present Murrumba electorate.

Mr. Houston: You are running away.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I am not running away, I have been endorsed for that seat. I have represented Murrumba—

Mr. Houston interjected.

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

Mr. FRAWLEY: They don't frighten me one bit, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I will belt hell out of them before I am finished.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I am more concerned about decorum than about members of the Opposition frightening the honourable member.

Mr. FRAWLEY: Certainly, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Many members of the A.L.P. have not been game to come to Murrumba since 1972, when I took over. I have frightened them away.

Murrumba is an electorate of 21,000 people and it covers 660 square miles. It starts from Samford in the south, bounded by Mt. Nebo, then goes through Closeburn and Samsonvale to the little town of Dayboro, which is a magnificent place. It includes Mt. Pleasant, Mt. Mee—

Mr. Houston: This is in your new electorate?

Mr. FRAWLEY: No. I am talking about the electorate of Murrumba, for the edification of the honourable member for Bulimba.

It is an electorate that has been in existence since 1912, and I regret that I am severing my connection with the name "Murrumba". However, as I said earlier, five-sevenths of the new seat of Caboolture, if it can be called a new seat, is at present in Murrumba.

I should like to take this opportunity of saying a few words about a man who has given a great deal of service to the city of Redcliffe. I refer, of course, to the member for Redcliffe, the Speaker of this House, the Honourable J. E. H. Houghton. He was first elected as member for Redcliffe in 1960, when he was mayor of Redcliffe. Incidentally, he was also the first mayor of Redcliffe when it became a city in 1959. I do not believe that many people realise how much service Jim Houghton has given the city of Redcliffe since his election as mayor in 1959 and his election as member for Redcliffe in 1960. Twenty-two years of service to a community is something of which any man can be proud.

Of course, he has not been alone in that service. His wife, Mary, has stood by his side all those years, giving every encouragement and cheerfully accepting her share of the work. As I have said on many occasions, behind every good man is a good woman, and Mary Houghton is no exception to that adage.

In January 1959 the town of Redcliffe received a parchment scroll from the College of Heralds granting the town a crest and arms. It mentions in this scroll that the crest and arms were granted on the representation of James Edward Hiram Houghton, the Mayor of Redcliffe. For those who are interested, the crest is the head of an Aboriginal elder of the tribal council, in natural colour. It is above a many-coloured wreath, whilst the arms consist of a blue shield on which is an arch of bricks horizontally mounted in gold colour outlined in black. At the top is a swimming fish in gold colour and at the bottom is a picture of Captain Cook's ship the "Endeavour", in full sail with long streamer pennants in silver colour at the mastheads. The motto "A Colonia Condita" means "From the beginning of the Colony". It is appropriate because Redcliffe on 13 September 1824 became the first white settlement in Queensland. The site chosen was what is now the

northern side of Anzac Avenue from Redcliffe Parade to John Street. Actually Redcliffe would have been the capital of Queensland if Government officials in 1825 had had any brains, but they abandoned the settlement.

It was during Jim Houghton's first term as Mayor of Redcliffe that a start was made on the construction of a sewerage-treatment works, which were completed early during his second term. At the ceremony to mark the first official connection to sewerage at the home of Mr. and Mrs. D. F. Argus on the corner of Oxley Avenue and Irene Street on 6 March 1959, Jim Houghton was present, and he proudly stated that Redcliffe was the first seaside town in Queensland with a sewerage system. On 13 June 1959 Redcliffe was declared a city. This was again through the efforts of Jim Houghton.

In 1960 Jim Houghton became the first member for Redcliffe. It was a new electorate taken out of Murrumba. How can people claim that Jim Houghton has done nothing for Redcliffe? Once again, with an election looming, the same claims are being made. When one realises that these claims are made by Jim Houghton's political opponents, both in the Labor Party and the Liberal Party, it is then that one understands that they are being made for political purposes. Some people will sink to any depths to gain election to State or Federal Parliament.

Right from his maiden speech in this House on 1 September 1960, Jim Houghton stressed the transport problems of the Redcliffe Peninsula. He made a plea for Redcliffe to be given a rail service. At the same time he asked the Government to build another bridge across Hayes Inlet. He could see that the Hornibrook Highway would not cope with the traffic of the future. His prediction has proved to be correct. Now at last another bridge is being commenced adjacent to the Hornibrook Highway across Hayes Inlet, again as a result of Jim Houghton's representations and, to some small extent, some of my representations. It is fitting and just that this new structure should be called the Houghton Highway. I am fully in agreement with that.

Some of Jim Houghton's opponents are even criticising this decision to honour a man who has served the city for so long. Of course, they have exposed themselves as narrow-minded Johnny-come-latelies who have lived in Redcliffe only a short while. In fact one of his critics is a well-known female who says so much and does so little that she only just put herself on the electoral roll and has never had a vote in the city of Redcliffe in a council or State election.

We have the Liberal candidate for Redcliffe complaining about the lack of a technical college in Redcliffe and criticising the time taken to start duplication of the Hornibrook Highway. He should realise that since 1957 there has been a coalition Government in this State comprising the National Party and the Liberal Party. Those parties have

governed this State and credit for doing anything or criticism for doing nothing must be shared by members of both parties.

When I criticise the Government I do not single out Liberal Ministers and leave the National Party Ministers alone. The Minister for Primary Industries can testify to that statement. I get stuck into National Party Ministers; I don't play any favourites. I invite Liberal Ministers to my electorate. Only recently I had the Minister for Works and Housing in Murrumba and I am having him there again on 9 September to open the Caboolture pre-school. Any candidates for the National Party or the Liberal Party should realise that any criticism they make of the Government includes their own members.

During his maiden speech Jim Houghton also made a plea for a hospital to be built in Redcliffe. His efforts were rewarded. The Redcliffe Hospital is now undergoing extensive alterations and the construction of more facilities to serve not only the people of Redcliffe but also those of surrounding areas as far north as Woodford is under way. Schools, too, have benefited from the representations made by Jim Houghton on behalf of Redcliffe. Many people can testify to the help they received from him in their problems.

I have no doubt that during the coming election campaign attempts will be made by Jim Houghton's opponents to denigrate him. In fact, they have started already and they are attempting to cast doubts on his ability as the representative for the Redcliffe electorate. I issue a warning here and now to such persons that if any one of them does any low, underhand campaigning for the seat of Redcliffe I will get into the act, too. They will find themselves on the receiving end of some of the stuff that I can dish out, and they will be damned sorry.

Mrs. Kyburz: God help them!

Mr. FRAWLEY: My word! I issue that warning to members of the Labor Party and the Liberal Party.

I cannot let this opportunity pass without mentioning some pertinent facts concerning the A.L.P. Mr. Gerry Jones, the secretary of the A.L.P., has been crying about the report of a public opinion poll commissioned by the A.L.P. at a cost of \$23,000. That report was leaked to the Brisbane Press. When the Leader of the Opposition obtained some Government documents by underhand methods, the A.L.P. thought everything was rosy; now that its secret report has been made public its members are squealing like stuck pigs. The real reason for their discomfiture is that the poll, which was taken in seven State electorates among 2,600 voters, showed that most people believed the A.L.P. could not win the next State election, even with a start. I could have told the A.L.P.

that and saved it the \$23,000. Only 17 per cent of the people interviewed thought that the A.L.P. could win the election.

The uranium issue proved to be a great surprise for the A.L.P. Of the 2,600 people interviewed in the 11 electorates, 71 per cent supported the mining of uranium, and of them 65 per cent were Labor voters. The A.L.P. should realise that it cannot win on the uranium issue. In any event, the people of Queensland know that they cannot trust the A.L.P.

On 27 May 1976 the Leader of the Opposition was quoted in the Press as stating that five State Labor members of Parliament, including himself, were paying their own way on a trip to China. This was on 13 June 1976. The visit by the A.L.P. to China and other Asian nations was a trade mission. Everyone in Queensland who read that statement probably thought, "What a good, sincere leader the A.L.P. has. He is paying his own way to China and he has stated that the trip will not be a junket like Mr. Fraser's trip."

On 9 August, however, the member for Rockhampton let the cat out of the bag—incidentally he is in big trouble with the Q.C.E. over this—when he said that the group of five State A.L.P. parliamentarians paid their own way to Hong Kong and that the Chinese Government paid the rest of their way across China and back. Now the Queensland electors know the truth—the Government of Communist China paid the way of five State Labor M.P.s, including the Leader of the Opposition, from Hong Kong all the way through China and back again.

Mr. Alison: I wonder what they got in return.

Mr. FRAWLEY: That's what I would like to know, too.

But this type of thing is not new. The Communists once paid the fare of Senator Georges so that he could go to Greece for the Greek war trials and they also paid the fare for Gerry Jones to go to Bangladesh. I would point out, too, that Senator Georges and Gerry Jones were two of the fellows who sat down in the street during the Springbok tour and disrupted traffic.

On 7 February 1973 we had the disgusting spectacle of the secretary of the E.T.U., Mr. N. Kane, who was also a senior vice-president of the Trades and Labor Council and a member of the inner executive of the Q.C.E., welcoming the deputy mayor of Hanoi, who led a Communist trade union delegation from North Vietnam to Australia. He welcomed that man with a full-blooded kiss on the lips. Fancy one man kissing another. No wonder the A.L.P. is recognised as a haven for homosexuals. Could anyone be blamed for thinking that?

Mr. Houston: You're pretty weak. What was the date of that newspaper? You have used it for the last three years.

Mr. FRAWLEY: It is dated February 1973, but it is so disgusting that I cannot help reminding people of it. And I will continue to do so every opportunity I get.

A Government Member: It was a long kiss.

Mr. FRAWLEY: There's no doubt about that.

Gerry Jones was given the job of secretary of the A.L.P. against the wishes of the rank-and-file members and of the Leader of the Opposition. His appointment was rigged, of course, by the Q.C.E., just as the selection of Brian Davis for the seat of Brisbane was rigged at the expense of a good, solid Right-winger, Frank Melit, whom the Q.C.E. did not want. The Ipswich West selection was rigged against Mrs. Jordan. After she won the plebiscite by 104 votes to 32, the Q.C.E. diced her and put in a Left-winger. That will not make any difference. The honourable member for Ipswich West will win the seat hands down no matter who stands for the A.L.P.

To re-examine some of the facts I have outlined we find that Senator Georges, Gerry Jones as secretary of the A.L.P. and Neil Kane as senior vice president of the Trades and Labor Council, secretary of the E.T.U. and member of the inner executive of the Q.C.E., are all under the influence of Communists. Thanks to the member for Rockhampton, who could not keep his mouth shut on 9 August and had to boast about the trip to China, we know that five Labor members had their way paid across China and back again by the Red Chinese Government. What was promised by the Leader of the Opposition to the Chinese Government in return for this free junket across China? Incidentally, he was on another junket with Gough Whitlam when 1,500 bottles of champagne were taken on the trip. Honourable members may recall the trip he made as nursemaid for the Murray Grey bull. I do not know who was the bigger bull—the Murray Grey or the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Byrne: It will be noticed that the Leader of the Opposition is not prepared to travel around Queensland with Mr. Whitlam now.

Mr. FRAWLEY: That is right. He has always kowtowed and grovelled to him; he genuflects to him every time he walks in the door.

I would like to know what was promised to the Chinese in return. Did he promise any of our resources to the Chinese if the A.L.P., heaven forbid, ever became the Government of Queensland?

Mr. Houston: Will you sell meat to the Chinese?

Mr. FRAWLEY: If it were Thursday night the honourable member would be at the dogs, on the grouter, like all the other members of the A.L.P.

In view of the association of the Leader of the Opposition and other senior A.L.P. executives with Communists, and the fact that Left-wingers and Communists dominate the Trades Hall, the people of Queensland should be very suspicious indeed and think very carefully before voting for the A.L.P. at the next State election.

Listen to some of the promises made by the Leader of the Opposition. A couple of months ago he went to the Bundamba races accompanied by the president of the book-makers co-operative and promised the bookies that if the A.L.P. became the Government of the State he would reduce their turnover tax. He is trying to get the bookies to kick in \$50,000 towards the next A.L.P. campaign. Of course they don't want to do it.

He also promised to equalise milk quotas throughout the State. He would do that by tearing down something people have worked for over the years to obtain. Any attempt to equalise milk quotas without adequate compensation is akin to confiscating an asset, which is a typical, socialist act. Quotas have not been bought or sold in Queensland but farms with quotas have been. A quota influences the sale price of a farm. Farmers outside milk zones have always had an opportunity to purchase a farm with a quota. A quota is a capital asset that gives the holder an opportunity to earn an income just like any other asset. Any redistribution of quotas without compensation will be compulsory acquisition of assets by any Government.

If the argument for complete equalisation of market milk in Queensland is valid, so too, is the Victorian argument for the total industry equalisation and the other argument that there should be equalisation among wage earners. The last argument means an equal share of working time to all who can perform the work; hence there would be little or no unemployment. Of course, there would be a reduction in most earnings. The Leader of the Opposition certainly would not subscribe to that last argument, yet he would reduce the earnings of many primary producers.

For some time I have been concerned about the problems facing members of the Queensland Sprint Racing Association in trying to obtain races for their horses. A great deal of money has been invested in sprint horses. They run races of up to 400 and 500 metres.

An Honourable Member interjected.

Mr. FRAWLEY: A quarter-horse is a breed but Appaloosas and other horses race in these sprint events. Rule 43 of the Australian Rules of Racing prohibits any

race on a registered galloping track under 800 metres. For some reason the Q.T.C. and the principal race clubs in Australia seem to feel that some threat to their existence is posed by these sprint horses. That is absolutely ridiculous. The sprint people conduct meetings without any assistance from the T.A.B. or the Government and they do not have bookmakers fielding. All these sprint race meetings are conducted at country sports meetings where the horse races are only about a quarter of the races held. To make up the programme sprint races and races for children are held. It is ridiculous to think that they must operate under such conditions.

Many country clubs, if they were allowed, would conduct one or two races on each programme for distances less than 800 metres. It is well known that sprint horses—or quarter-horses, as they are commonly known—cannot run 800 metres. About 500 metres is their limit; they start to die after the 500 metre mark. For some reason all the principal clubs in Australia seem to think that quarter horses are a threat to the thoroughbred industry. I can assure them that that is not so. If the Sprint Racing Association cannot obtain permits from the principal clubs to allow races to be put on for their benefit at any registered meetings, I think they should be allowed to go it alone—to set up their own tracks and to receive a share of the T.A.B. distribution. They are quite happy to race on other tracks and not get one cent from the T.A.B. They just want to have one or two races at a registered meeting, with bookmakers operating. They want nothing else. If the State Government allowed them to go it alone as the Sprint Racing Association, racing as their own group, we would benefit greatly from the turn-over tax.

Mr. Lindsay: Lady jockeys?

Mr. FRAWLEY: There are lady jockeys at the moment. There is nothing sacred to man now. There are lady jockeys and lady everything-else. Never mind, I believe that women have a part to play in this world and they should be given the opportunities to do whatever they want to do—as long as they don't try to stand over me!

The member for Archerfield is not in the Chamber at present. I wish he was. He gave a disgraceful exhibition in this debate and showed that he truly earned the title "The Trades Hall Parrot". He stood up here and parroted a speech that was written for him by somebody from the Trades Hall. His continual attacks on the Minister for Works and Housing have been futile, because the Minister is just too tough for him. As he is a competent man, the Minister has little difficulty refuting the statements made by the honourable member for Archerfield.

Mr. Alison: I think he is being paid to do it.

Mr. FRAWLEY: His continual attacks on the Queensland Permanent Building Society are a deliberate attempt to undermine the confidence of Queensland people in all building societies, not just the Queensland Permanent. He gets his information from some unreliable source. I actually know where he obtains it. But that is one of those things we have to put up with.

Honourable members may have heard me refer to Senator Georges. Not many people would know that Senator Georges, who is presently an A.L.P. senator, was treasurer of the Queensland Rugby Union Referees' Association and he tickled the till. The Referees' Association told me that when he was elected as senator their finances immediately improved as he was no longer there to touch the till. He denied the allegation when it was made, but he tickled the peter all right.

Mr. Lester: Do you think his efforts in Parliament would mean that we are victimised by his being there?

Mr. FRAWLEY: I don't know. Somebody said to me, "What is worse than Neil Kane kissing that bloke from Vietnam?" I said, "Kissing Senator Georges."

Mr. Houston: They will be asking you to join Actors Equity shortly.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I would make a better actor than some members of the Opposition.

The Minister for Local Government and Main Roads (Hon. R. J. Hinze) accompanied the member for Landsborough and me to a meeting with the Caboolture Shire Council not very long ago. One of the things that came up was something that members may have heard me mention in this House. I refer to the bridge at Six Mile Creek, Elimbah. I appealed to the Minister for Primary Industries to have that bridge repaired to allow a poultry farmer to get her fowls across. It was facetiously suggested that the fowls be either marched across in pairs or flown over the bridge. Anyway, we finally got the Minister to agree to contribute \$25,000 towards the cost of repair of this bridge.

I get much criticism, as does the Government, from the area. It is claimed that nothing is done for main roads in the shire. While the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads was there, he received a deputation from the Beachmere Progress Association. He told them that he will upgrade the road to Beachmere, at a cost of \$100,000, by taking out some of the dangerous river bends. The plans are being drawn up at present. Of course, the Minister will keep his word and this job will be started shortly after Christmas.

When the redistribution of electorates was first announced, Dennis Murphy, a university lecturer who stood twice for the electorate of

Petrie and was soundly defeated first by Mr. Marshall Cooke and then by Mr. John Hodges, who is the present Federal member for Petrie, addressed a Queensland Institute of Technology gathering. He said that Sir Douglas Fraser, the chairman of the redistribution committee, should resign because of his association with me and Mr. Speaker, the member for Redcliffe.

Mr. Alison: What a disgusting thing to say.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I will explain the whole thing. Murphy claimed that Sir Douglas Fraser could not make a reasonable redistribution because Sir Douglas, the honourable member for Redcliffe, the Federal Member for Petrie, the Right Rev. Monseigneur Frawley (who happens to be my cousin) and I were joint patrons of a National Civic Council meeting in Redcliffe. As everyone knows, the National Civic Council is a group of people dedicated to the destruction of Communism and they do a very good job. I am not a member of the N.C.C., but I would rather be a member of it than a member of the A.L.P.

Mr. Houston: It is affiliated with the National Party.

Mr. FRAWLEY: No, it is not.

Dennis Murphy seemed to think that, because of this association, Sir Douglas could not make a reasonable redistribution. If that argument holds good, Dennis Murphy should not be lecturing in political science at the university because he would be putting the Labor point of view. By the same token, former Senator Murphy should not be a High Court judge because his judgments could be biased. Gough Whitlam only got him onto the High Court because he had a dirty deal lined up with the Senate and it came unstuck.

Mr. Alison interjected.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I think it was.

It is all right for Dennis Murphy to get up and say that the redistribution was the State's murkiest. He should go back to 1949 when Labor did the redistribution. The seat of Nash, up near Gympie, went up the railway line and opened out again and joined up south of Maryborough. The honourable member for Maryborough knows this quite well. Wouldn't that be a great redistribution! In fact, the late Ned Hanlon was heard to say afterwards, "I doubt if we would have won on the old boundaries. We had to do something with the redistribution."

In 1951, I was the maintenance electrician in Parliament House. I worked here in the days when the Labor Party was in power. Many people have asked me if it was true that members of the Labor Party sold the furniture in the House. I repeat that when I was the electrician here I witnessed round

cedar tables being lowered from the balconies. I know that they went to bookmakers' houses. I know the street at Doomben, opposite the St. Leger gates, where one of those round tables is at present. Chairs were sold to the Bellevue Hotel for 25s a piece. I can still remember those days. Corruption was rife here. They charged £5 to make a person a justice of the peace.

Mr. Alison: I heard it was £10.

Mr. FRAWLEY: Maybe they dropped the price in 1951. A person could get out of a traffic offence for £10 if he was prepared to pay. Most traffic offences did not attract a fine of £10, so what was the use?

Mr. Byrne: And the casket agencies.

Mr. FRAWLEY: Casket agency licences were the greatest racket out. Yet the honourable member for Archerfield complained today about a massage parlour being erected in his electorate.

A Government Member: How would he know about it?

Mr. FRAWLEY: Looking at him, they would charge him more than \$20. They would charge him \$500 just to look at him.

When the A.L.P. was in Government in this State, they condoned houses of ill fame down the road here in Albert Street and Margaret Street. They were on the take; that is how bad it was. When I was here in 1951, they were the most shocking, most rotten, unprincipled mob of thugs and thieves that ever existed in this place. I had the opportunity of witnessing some of the things that went on here. It was an eye-opener for me to work here as an electrician.

For 20 years I was a member of the Electrical Trades Union and I still have some good friends in the Trades Hall. That is where I get some of my information—from the good Right-wingers in the Trades Hall who are absolutely sickened by some of the methods used by the Q.C.E. and some of the Left-wingers who dominate it. They often give me some very good information.

Take, for instance, the Builders Labourers Federation and Hughie Hamilton, who is its present secretary. He is president of the Queensland branch of the Communist Party. When it was proposed to pull down the Bellevue Hotel, that union got into the act. Before the State Government bought that hotel, nobody said a word about it. They did not give a hoot whether it existed or not. As honourable members know, it is now used for members' bedrooms. As soon as the State Government bought the hotel and planned to pull it down and erect State Government buildings on the land, the Builders Labourers Federation and all the conservationists around the place—I cannot think of their names but they are a whole group of rabbags—got on the bandwagon and carried on about the Bellevue Hotel.

Where were they when the Daniell Hotel was pulled down? It had a fine history. What about the White Horse Inn at the corner of Elizabeth and Albert Streets? It was older than the Bellevue Hotel. What about the Gresham Hotel, which had an association with racing interests and was owned by the Ahern family? What about Lennons Hotel? I do not frequent hotels, but all of those I have mentioned had some historic value. Why didn't some of the conservationists and the Builders Labourers Federation become involved when they were being pulled down to make way for other buildings?

Mr. Warner: They're hypocrites.

Mr. FRAWLEY: Of course they are. I cannot see why any trade union should be involved in any discussions other than those regarding conditions for their own members. I agree they should have a say in housing because housing is a benefit for their members, but I still feel that trade unions should not get involved in anything outside their particular sphere. I am not against trade unions. As I said, I was a member of the Electrical Trades Union for 20 years and we had only one strike in those 20 years. I must admit I voted for that strike. I went out on strike because I thought it was warranted.

Mr. Houston: What was that for?

Mr. FRAWLEY: I just cannot remember now. I would have to think about it. As the honourable member for Bulimba was also a member of the E.T.U., he would probably know what it was all about. I forgot, he was teaching—

Mr. Houston: I just wanted to get an idea of what you considered was a legitimate strike because you are always crying about other strikes not being legitimate.

Mr. FRAWLEY: The honourable member for Bulimba was teaching at the college then. There was a high rate of failure in those years.

Mr. Houston: I won't question how you passed.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I do not know, but I was not in the honourable member's class and that is probably why. The honourable member for Windsor and I were at the college together, but fortunately the honourable member for Bulimba did not teach us and that is why we got our tickets.

Mr. Houston: Apparently you look a lot older than you really are.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I am 53 years of age, and not afraid to admit it.

It will not be long before we have to determine if drivers are under the influence of marijuana or other drugs besides being under the influence of liquor. We have

amended the Traffic Act here on more than one occasion but we have never introduced an amendment regarding a driver being under the influence of marijuana. It is pretty hard to detect if anyone is under the influence of marijuana because there is no device available at the present time which can determine this.

Mr. Warner interjected.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I do not care. The honourable member can do what he likes. I will be on my feet again on another occasion. What is the phrase? "He who fights and runs away lives to fight another day."

I hope the Minister for Health is investigating this problem and trying to find out some way of instituting a test to detect the use of marijuana. I do not intend to discuss a matter that is sub judice, but two young people were killed in Redcliffe last Friday night. The person who killed them has been charged and apparently marijuana was found in his place of residence. It is rumoured around the place that he was under the influence of marijuana. But, as I say, I will not mention any names because he has been charged and the matter is sub judice.

I have supported night trotting for Redcliffe for many years. I am a member of the Redcliffe Trotting Club. At the present time the Redcliffe Trotting Club races on Monday nights for three months and during those same three months the Gold Coast Trotting Club races on Wednesday nights. Then we switch around and Redcliffe races on Wednesday night and the Gold Coast on Monday night. Neither of these nights is satisfactory to either club. Since the Bill was introduced by the Treasurer, the Minister in charge of racing, during the last session legalising night racing, the Redcliffe Trotting Club has applied to have Friday nights for trotting.

Mr. Houston: You wouldn't let anyone else have Friday night.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I believe the Mackay club already has it, although I could be wrong there. There have been objections from the Gabba dogs about Friday night trotting for Redcliffe.

Mr. Houston: That is untrue. Why don't you stick to the truth?

Mr. FRAWLEY: What interest would the Gabba dogs have in Redcliffe trotting on Friday nights? I cannot understand that.

Mr. HOUSTON: I rise to a point of order. I do not mind the honourable member acting like a clown—

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

Mr. HOUSTON: The point of order is that his last statement was completely untrue. The Gabba club has not objected to any application for racing. It does not have the power to do so and I ask that the honourable member withdraw that statement.

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

Mr. FRAWLEY: I accept it with pleasure. I am glad to know that the Gabba dogs have not objected to Redcliffe having the Friday night trots.

Mr. Houston: I said "The Gabba club". It does not have the power to object.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I am glad to hear that. I understood it did.

Trotting is a big business in Redcliffe. I go to the trots only to watch the horses. I do not bet on the trots or any horses at all. I believe that trotting is a family sport, a place where a man can take his wife and children for a night out, especially in Redcliffe in the nice seaside atmosphere. It is definitely a family sport and I believe the sooner the Redcliffe Trotting Club is granted permission to trot on Friday nights, the better.

Before I conclude I would like to say a few words about the uranium issue. I have been accused of being only half right in my defence of nuclear energy. I think I know just a little about it because I had the opportunity of spending a day in a nuclear power station.

Mr. Houston: You had better not tell too many people that, or you will be used as evidence.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I spent a day in a nuclear power-station, and I have no hesitation in saying that the Candu system used in Toronto, Canada, where I happened to be, is one of the safest systems available. As everyone knows, nuclear power is the cheapest and cleanest source of energy and has the fewest environmental effects. All the people who are crying out about uranium do not know what they are talking about.

The A.W.U. has agreed to mine uranium, and workers at Mary Kathleen are in danger of losing their jobs if the A.L.P. policy is carried through. Mr. Whitlam and Bob Hawke have said that any future Labor Government would not honour any contracts made on uranium. I think that is a shocking statement. It completely destroys the Westminster system of government.

Before I conclude, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I should like to say a few brief words about my electorate. Recently "Sunday Sun" printed a story that a State parliamentarian must be rubbing his hands with glee because the State Government Insurance Office was to go ahead with its big development at Morayfield. It also said that that State parliamentarian had a fair bit of land in the Morayfield area and that he had acquired it only recently. So I made some inquiries, as I usually do when things affect my electorate, and the information that I received from my contact in

the Trades Hall was that there would be only two people who might be dealing in land in the Caboolture district, and they would be the member for Cairns, who does a little bit of dealing on the side in land, and the Leader of the Opposition.

I do not know which one it is, and I cannot find out. As honourable members who have served on a council know, all rate cards are kept on assessment numbers, not in alphabetical order according to the owner's name. Therefore, a search would necessitate going through thousands of rate cards unless one knew the exact locality on the map. Unfortunately, I do not know that. The best I could do was get in touch with my contact at the Trades Hall. He told me that he was not sure but that either of those two A.L.P. members would be the one involved in land-dealing in Caboolture.

Mr. LESTER (Belyando) (8.2 p.m.): I propose to make a few comments and then talk to the Parliament of Queensland about the towns and districts of Capella and Emerald.

Mr. Houston: Oh, no!

Mr. LESTER: If members of the Labor Party do not wish to listen to me and wish to walk out of the Chamber when I speak about areas that I represent, it shows just how much—

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Miller): Order! I am trying to hear the honourable member for Belyando.

Mr. LESTER: It proves conclusively to the people of my electorate in the bush how little attention the Labor Party pays when I am speaking about country areas. Honourable members opposite have to be called to order immediately I begin speaking. I do not propose saying anything more about the Labor Party. I simply suggest that members opposite be quiet and listen to the constructive comments that I make.

I affirm my allegiance to the Queen on behalf of the people of Capella and Emerald and districts and, indeed, on behalf of my whole electorate. I offer sincere good wishes to the new Governor, Sir James Ramsay, and his wife in their new positions. I look forward to their visit to my electorate, which I understand will be in the next couple of months. I hope to speak to the Governor's Aide tomorrow to try to arrange the visit.

I should like to comment first on the town of Capella and its surrounding district. Capella is situated about half way between the thriving towns of Clermont and Emerald. The country is downs-type country with basaltic soil and is an important farming area. The area was discovered in 1845 by Ludwig Leichhardt, who named it the Peak Downs area because of the very picturesque peaks that abound in it and the downs country in front of them.

After the trip Ludwig Leichhardt had contact with the Archer brothers, who at that time were in the Burnett district. In 1854 they came up to look at the area, and in 1857 they took up the whole of the land between Clermont and Emerald. They found that this was too much so they sold part of the holding, Gordon Downs, to a fellow by the name of Saunders. A surveyor, Charles Gregory, named Capella after the Star Capella, which was a very brilliant star at that time. It is very interesting to know that the town of Clermont was named after Oscar De Satge's home town in France. He was the manager of the Gordon Downs property in the Capella area at the time. He went on to become the local member of Parliament for the area.

The railway came to Capella in 1882. After that the coach service from Copperfield, Clermont and Lillyvale was discontinued. On 29 August 1883 Matilda Dankar established the first provisional school in the Methodist Church. The State school was officially started by Thomas Ingles, who later became an inspector. In 1950 the new buildings at the Capella State School were built. The shire was proclaimed on 20 September 1884. It had a population of 950 persons, much the same as it is today, and covered an area of 3,024½ square miles. The first shire chairman was a Mr. Coran and his secretary was a Mr. G. Kettle. Mr. Kettle had a budget of \$150, which didn't allow him a lot of money at that time.

Might I further point out that the British Food Corporation got quite a name in the area. When it came into the area in 1949 it was hoped that it would do a lot, but unfortunately it was not very successful. In 1955, 33 selections were balloted for, and people came to the district from many parts of Australia. That gave Capella the close settlement that it has today with its grain-growing, cattle-growing, etc. The town has a State school. It is very interesting to note that the previous member for Belyando, Mr. Hughie O'Donnell, was principal of the State school at Capella before he became the very good member for Barcoo and Belyando.

A septic system has been installed in the shire. It has a civic centre, a very good cinema, which is well known throughout the Central Highlands owing to the efforts of Councillor White, a hotel, pool, churches, police station, C.W.A., etc.—all the things that a good progressive little town should have.

Mr. Jones: Any massage parlours?

Mr. LESTER: I won't answer that irresponsible comment. The people of Capella are decent people with no interest in massage parlours. Goodness me, the honourable member should have some common sense!

If I am allowed to continue, I shall try to tell the Parliament about the points of interest of the area I represent.

Mr. Jones: Why don't you go and read it in the library?

Mr. LESTER: Did honourable members hear that comment? Those fellows have the audacity to come out to my electorate and try to say how interested the Labor Party is in country people. They would be well advised to keep their mouths shut.

Sorghum, safflower, sunflower, wheat, peanuts, soya beans and other primary products are grown in the area. Capella is well placed to service the new meat complex which we hope will start in the Emerald district in the not too distant future. The shire is all abuzz because of the mining development in the area. I have been told that 55 houses may be built at Capella to service the Gregory project. We also have the Oaky Creek project and the German Creek project. It is a possibility that the towns necessary to serve these mines may be situated in an area west of the mining development.

This could mean big development in the Peak Downs Shire. The shire is a small one and it is on the verge of huge development. I hope that the Government will be able to keep up with this development instead of having us chase all the things that are necessary to the well-being of the area. Let us be ahead of the development by constructing schools, court-houses, police stations and so on. There is nothing more frustrating for a member who is trying to serve such an area than having to battle for everything he obtains. I am fortunate in that the Ministers have tried to help me.

Mr. Jensen: It must be frustrating for them.

Mr. LESTER: It is frustrating for the Ministers to have me on their back. I don't let up and I am not going to let up.

Pre-school facilities are needed for Capella. I hope that when the new mining development starts, a siding will be established near the Yan Yan area to service the beef and grain industries. After all, the deals with the mining companies provide for them to carry the products of other industries. I do hope that the mining industry makes a contribution towards the cost of establishing the siding.

It is good to know that Capella is not being left out of this development. Since my election to Parliament I have done my best to make sure that it has been visited by its fair share of Ministers and that it has been developed to the fullest extent possible. Capella has also received its share of Government cheques. Indeed last Saturday I had the pleasure of going down to Capella to present to the bowls club a cheque for more than \$4,000.

Mr. Jensen: You just want the publicity. I posted it out to them.

Mr. LESTER: The honourable member for Bundaberg, who left the Labor Party to become an Independent, will have no hope in hell of retaining Bundaberg if he persists with his irresponsible interjections that are taking up my time. It disturbs me greatly to be interrupted. Everyone in my area will be told of the irresponsible conduct of A.L.P. members. They started it; I didn't. If I made provocative remarks I would deserve to be interrupted; but they started it; I am finishing it, and, by gee, the people are going to know about it.

The Emerald district is regarded as the hub of the Central Highlands with its cattle, grain, cotton, peanuts, pigs, lambs, calves and lot fattening. The town has a number of agents of various descriptions. The Emerald area is, of course, an historic railway centre. In fact, the Emerald railway station is possibly the best-known railway station in Australia and the National Trust has taken an interest in it. I hope that the station can be renovated and maintained as a permanent reminder of the early days of the railway pioneers.

The area also contains the gemfields and the Gregory coalfield, which will soon be mined. I anticipate that in the not too distant future there will be 10,000 people in the Emerald area. It is an excellent base for brick-making, block-making, safflower processing, machinery shops and other industries.

The Emerald Shire has an area of 3,950 square miles and a population of approximately 5,900, of whom 3,600 live in the town of Emerald. Other areas in the Emerald district are Rubyvale, Anakie, Sapphire, Bogantungan, Willows, Comet, Gindie and Lockington. The future of Emerald is bright and rosy. It will have the Gregory mine development, the proposed new meatworks and the Emerald irrigation scheme. It is good to see the Minister for Water Resources in the Chamber tonight. He said he would come in and hear my remarks on the Emerald area. I thank him and take the opportunity of expressing my appreciation for the service that he has given to so many people in the Emerald area. He has always answered my questions and has done his best. He is a good Minister, and I hope he keeps it up.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Miller): Order! There is far too much audible conversation in the House.

Mr. LESTER: The beef industry is not in a good position at the moment. I certainly hope that its future may be brighter. I wish I knew all the answers. Many people think that they do so but I do not think anyone is absolutely right. We have to keep working at this serious problem which is affecting many districts and towns. If towns like Emerald did not have associated developments the position of many cattle people would be very grim. Some of them can get alternative work but their properties are neglected while they do it.

Racing is an important facet of development in the Emerald district. The town has a very good racecourse.

An Opposition Member: What about the social services?

Mr. LESTER: Very few social service payments are made in Emerald. There are plenty of jobs.

I am sure that we will see balanced development in my area. We have projected mining and meatworks developments. The town has been established for many years and more farmers are coming to the area thanks to the irrigation scheme. We will have other industries associated with our mining, coal, grain and cattle industries. This will ensure good, balanced development of the town. I can only reiterate that the Government has a very important part to play in ensuring that it keeps up with developments.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the irrigation farms and the Fairbairn Dam that is the pride and joy of the people of Emerald and Central Queensland.

Mr. Jensen interjected.

Mr. LESTER: For God's sake, I ask the honourable member to shut up and give me a go!

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. LESTER: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I ask the honourable member to keep quiet. This is an important speech for the people of my area. I am very disturbed about the interjections from the irresponsible members of the Opposition.

Mr. Jensen: It will make front-page news.

Mr. LESTER: The honourable member will get more than front-page news when he loses his seat.

I point out that the Fairbairn Dam contains 1,170,000 acre-feet of water, which is more than the water in Sydney Harbour. It is the key to the irrigation farms. It provides water for coal development and for Emerald. It is a very important tourist attraction. Many people come to its shores to hold boat races while others go there to camp. It is a wonderful place. There are farms of 500 acres in the area and a great number of them have been developed. About 130 farms are in the planning or developing stage. So far the Selma or main channel on the western side has been completed and the Weemah channel is being constructed. The Minister for Water Resources has nodded his head to indicate that construction is continuing and that he will be doing his very best to extend the channels and to get the new meatworks of Busch & Co. off the ground.

Mr. N. T. E. Hewitt: We will get you the water, anyhow.

Mr. LESTER: The Minister has indicated to me that if I use my powers to persuade the people, the shire council and other important people in Emerald he will get the water.

Mr. N. T. E. Hewitt: That is by the end of May, when they want it.

Mr. LESTER: That is a wonderful assurance. It was well worth my making this speech tonight to get the Minister to say that. Of course, as I said, the Minister gets on with the job of trying to help the people, just like the Minister for Justice, who will be coming to Emerald soon to open the new court-house.

The irrigation farms are excellent for growing cotton, grain, fodder, sorghum, wheat, soya bean, linseed, safflower and sunflower. At Easter time the people of Emerald hold their very important Sunflower Festival. I would invite each and every member of this Parliament who has no other commitments at Easter to come to Emerald and be part of the sunflower celebrations.

The centenary celebrations commence in 1979. One of the activities, we hope, will be to drive a steam train over the Nogoa Bridge to mark the early railway history of that area. There will also be major celebrations at that time to coincide with this very important centenary. Emerald has a kindergarten, State school, high school, a very good pastoral college, a convent run by the Presentation Sisters, nine Government departments and seven churches. Of course, the town is very prominent in all types of sport. A lot has been done since I became the member for the area.

Mr. N. T. E. Hewitt: You got a bridge over the Dawson and you have one going over the Comet.

Mr. LESTER: Yes, I have. I thank the Minister for his interjection.

Sporting grants have been given out in abundance to the various sporting groups in Emerald. I might add that the Minister for Community and Welfare Services and Minister for Sport has been to Emerald to explain to the people how to apply for these grants. I strongly suggest to all those in Emerald who are connected with a sporting organisation to get on with the job of applying for any grants they may require.

A new telephone exchange and a new court-house are under construction. We have seen a new library completed and school carpeting provided. The works connected with the Fairbairn Dam are being continued. The Comet and Dawson River Bridges—two of the biggest in Queensland—are under construction at the moment. An enormous

amount of work has been done on the Capricorn Highway, particularly east of Blackwater. However, it is all of concern to Emerald people.

The State Government has contributed towards the aged persons' home, which has been completed in Emerald. The railway facilities in Emerald have been improved. A dental clinic has been provided. We have seen the introduction of new number-plates, which help country people. There has been an abundance of ministerial visits to Emerald. In fact, when people come to Emerald now they say to me, "Which Minister is coming next, Vince?", because at one stage we had one a week. In one week we had three—and that is pretty good going. The Ministers know that I mean business. They know that they have to come to Emerald. Having been told that they have to come, they do come. Of course, we do not forget that a Cabinet meeting was held in Emerald, and it was after that meeting that the commencement of the new court-house was mentioned.

Mr. Jensen: I think it's your personality that has got them going there.

Mr. LESTER: There is no doubt that my personality helps, too.

Mr. N. T. E. Hewitt: They know that you are well organised.

Mr. LESTER: As the Minister has said, the reason why Ministers come to my area is that I am well organised; they know what they are doing and they know what they are looking for.

I add in the time that is available to me that I would like to see the Capricorn Highway widened west of Yamala to Emerald.

Mr. Hartwig interjected.

Mr. LESTER: I can't help it if I am taking money from the Callide electorate. I just have to fight for my area. The honourable member can fight me, but I will take him on any time in the usual friendly way. If this is an occasion when I have beaten him, that cannot be helped. It is the survival of the fittest in this game.

I am quite serious about the widening of the road between Yamala and Emerald. I am very serious, too, about the work that has to be done on the Drummond Range section of the Capricorn Highway. I know that that is west of Emerald, but the people west of Emerald deserve a fair go, too. We are not selfish people in the Central Highlands, and I am quite sure that the people of Emerald will support me in all my efforts.

I would like to see a flying surgeon unit based at Emerald. The team could service Blackwater, Moranbah and Clermont and give an improved service to Emerald and Alpha—not that it is not already a good one. I would like to see Emerald established

as a specialist medical centre. Let us keep ahead with our medical services and make sure that the services in these areas are not allowed to lag behind. It won't be too long before there are some 35,000 people in the Central Highlands area. I hope that in the not too distant future we will be the base for a new commercial radio station. I have attempted to have it go to the local people, although it is a Federal matter on which I have little say.

Tourism is very important to Emerald. We are trying very hard to attract more tourists to the area. On my recent trip to Adelaide I told the people publicly, through the media and in many other ways, of the important facilities there for people, including gem-mining. I believe that we are already seeing an improvement in tourist services to the area as the roads are being improved.

People from Adelaide, Sydney and Melbourne can travel up the inland route through Goondiwindi and will be able to come to Roma, go to the Carnarvon Ranges, come up to the Fairbairn Dam, branch off to Blackwater and other places to see the coal development, come back to Emerald, go out to the gemfields and then continue up through Clermont either to Charters Towers, to see Mr. Katter, or go to Moranbah and through to Mackay. We have important tourist attractions in the Emerald area.

The people there are easy to get on with. It is an area that people visit when they want to get away from their usual busy way of life. There is real hustle and bustle in the city and we have just the right recipe for people who come there. We have a very active shire council in Emerald. We have a very active chamber of commerce there and motels are being built in readiness for expansion in the area.

Mr. Hartwig: Wouldn't you say that the Capricornia Highway is catering for those people?

Mr. LESTER: It is indeed, but good tourist development goes both ways and I presume the honourable member is campaigning to get people to reciprocate by going back out to the Central Highlands. I am quite sure the honourable member is doing that. He is quite a good member of Parliament and works hard for everybody. I thank him for those comments.

Mr. Jensen interjected.

Mr. LESTER: Listen to him talking about flies in the area. What's wrong with him?

I shall now make a few comments about the town of Comet, which is in the Emerald area. It is only a small town. It has a good little school that I have visited on many occasions. I am pleased to see improvements

being made to the school. The centenary of the school will be held next year. I hope that we will get Government Ministers and other people there to participate in the little school's centenary, as happened in Dingo when the Minister for Water Resources came along. Our Government Ministers did not disband the smaller schools; they are quite keen on all of them.

Might I add that rodeo grounds are being constructed in Comet. There is excitement in Comet over the Comet River Bridge. The Honourable Neville Hewitt, who is in the Chamber, told me that he did the groundwork to get the bridge. When he was elected to Parliament in the 1950s, that was his first major project and he said that he left it until—

An Honourable Member interjected.

Mr. LESTER: I have taken the credit for it because it needed that little extra push and it got it once I became the member for the area.

Although I do not normally mention names in this area, I refer to Mr. Reg Nixon, who has brought a lot of fame to the Central Highlands with his very excellent contribution to wheat-growing in the area. He has won a number of major prizes.

Bogantungan was unfortunately the scene of the "Midlander" disaster in the 1950s. Many of the people there became renowned as heroes on that disastrous night when they helped to rescue many people from that stricken train, which plunged into Medway Creek, killing a number of people. The town is, of course, at the base of the Drummond Range. We are working very hard to try to get the road bituminised in this area. It is the centre of the cattle area, which at the moment is not contributing greatly to the economy of the district, but, as I mentioned before, we are trying to help the cattle people. A lot of interesting bottles have been found in the Bogantungan area. A large number of them have proved to be of great historic value.

To the south of Bogantungan is the little school at Lochington, which is one of the most isolated schools in the State. I have visited it more than once. It is a very interesting experience to go to this little school. It does not even have a telephone. That indicates some of the conditions the more isolated people live under.

Before moving onto Gindie and Fernlees, I should mention that a School of the Air based in Emerald would be of very great help to the isolated people in the Emerald area and surrounding districts.

Gindie and Fernlees, which are on the border of the shire, are noted for grain-growing. Gindie has a very fine school.

I come now to the gemfields. I mentioned them in a speech not long ago. In fact, I devoted the entire speech to the gemfields area. The area includes the towns of Anakie,

Sapphire and Rubyvale and lies some 40 to 50 miles west of Emerald. The first gem was discovered in the area by J. Richardson in 1875. It is an important area because it provides a lot of employment, with a number of people being employed in machinery mining and hand mining. Many people in the cities who have not been able to obtain work have come to this area and found enough gems to keep them going. It is a particularly important tourist attraction, particularly in the past 2½ years since we have seen considerable improvements in amenities. It has now become a good area in which to live. We have seen improvements to the school at Anakie, including the provision of teacher accommodation, and a school bus has been provided to take high school students from the gemfields and Rubyvale to Emerald.

We have seen electricity connected to Anakie, Sapphire and Rubyvale, and we are hopeful that we will be able to have it connected to The Willows area. The connections are not quite finished in the gemfields area, but they are going along well. It was a heartening experience to be present at the switching on of the power at Anakie and at Rubyvale. When I was at Rubyvale the other night there were upwards of 2,000 people present and I had the good fortune to present a cheque to the gemfields playgroup to help their young children.

We have seen the road extended south from the Capricorn Highway through to Anakie. The Honourable Russ Hinze, the Honourable Ken Tomkins and the Honourable Vic Sullivan were all present. All attended the wonderful opening. The Anakie school band gave a very good performance for the people. The Honourable Russ Hinze and the other Ministers are still talking about the wonderful Anakie school band, which has done very well in competitions. They, at least, try to play their part. We have seen the road extended north to the gemfields area but it still has to be extended to Rubyvale. I hope this can be done in the not-too-distant future. We now have a doctor visiting the gemfields area and I am hopeful that it will not be too long before he is able to visit the Rubyvale area as well. A lot has been done to stabilise the area but a lot more needs to be done.

I would like to see a permanent inspector appointed to the fields, but he will have to be a fellow who knows what he is talking about. Illegal mining is a problem, and it concerns me greatly that mining applications are taking so long to be processed. As the Minister for Justice is in the Chamber, I want to point out to him that this is a very serious problem and if there is anything he can do to assist the people in the area I would appreciate it greatly. The miners are running out of land. Many of them employ people and many of them are paying off machinery, which makes the issue

a very important one. If the Minister for Justice is able to help, I and many others would appreciate it greatly.

I believe that the Mines Department has to play a stronger role in the gemfields. It has to be a little bit more positive and be fair dinkum about the area. This would make my job as member a lot easier. At present I have to try to be policeman, inspector and everything else. I am not saying that other people do not do their job, but if we had more co-operation from the Mines Department my job as member would be made a heck of a lot easier. I do appreciate the fact that the Honourable Ron Camm, Mr. Woods and other people have come out to the area. They are doing their best and they have tried to help me, but I have to ask them to do a little bit more, be a little bit firmer and come up with more positive, workable policies.

In the few minutes I have left I want to say that there is no doubt that the Central Highlands area is the Darling Downs of North Australia. It even has some advantages over the Darling Downs in that it is not as closely settled and the soil is very good. We seem to be very fortunate with our rainfall. Although it has not been quite so good this year, we are still ahead of the Darling Downs. I am not trying to compare the two, but I do see Emerald as the Toowoomba of the future with a little bit of industry and the income from coal to help stabilise the economy.

I would very much like to see a powerhouse established in the Central Highlands, using Blair Athol or Blackwater steaming coal and water from the Fairbairn Dam. Such a powerhouse would provide employment for young people leaving school.

The Government could assist with the fencing of highways. Perhaps in these difficult times the Government might consider subsidising the owners of cattle properties to assist them with the cost of fencing along highways. It is a fact that a number of people have been killed or badly injured as a result of hitting cattle while driving along highways. Because of the problems facing the cattle industry at present, people cannot afford to fence all areas.

If I may get away from my own area for a moment, I point out that I drove between Collinsville and Mackay in the early hours of this morning in order to catch an early flight to Brisbane. I became concerned about the number of cattle that I saw on the roads in those areas and I am sure that any support that the Government could give for fencing would be received very gratefully.

The honourable member for Flinders indicates that I have his support on this issue. He says that he will support me wholeheartedly because it would not only provide employment but also require the purchase of wire from agents and help stabilise the towns. As all honourable members are aware, the

cattle industry is in the doldrums, and I am working as hard as I can as a member of Parliament to have the problem rectified.

I should like to see the Central Highlands proclaimed as a very important centre and I cannot see why decentralisation in Queensland cannot be based in the Central Highlands. Quite frankly, it is a pipe dream of mine to see the Parliament House of Queensland based in the Central Highlands in the future. It is all very well for people to look at me in amazement when I make that comment, but that would be one way to decentralise Queensland. If it were there, transport would have to be provided to Emerald and other places in the Central Highlands so that people could meet their members of Parliament, and departments would gradually become established in the area.

Emerald, in the Central Highlands, is in the very centre of Queensland, so it could not be argued that the Parliament House of the future should not be built in the Central Highlands, with a number of associated developments around it. It would not stop the development of Brisbane, but it would certainly assist the development of country areas. As I said, it is a pipe dream of mine, but I believe that it has possibilities and I will endeavour to push along those lines as best I can, getting help from the councils, the chamber of commerce and anybody else who is interested in assisting to decentralise the State of Queensland for the benefit of country people.

Fuel price equalisation is a very important issue. It disappoints me greatly, as I have said publicly, that the Federal Government did not see fit to try to introduce equalisation when it became necessary to increase the price of fuel. It is very necessary that the State Government pressure the Government in Canberra and make it introduce equalisation. It is very important also that the State Government, if possible, take the matter into its own hands and try to do something about it, although I realise that that would be extremely difficult.

A petrochemical industry must be established in the Bowen Basin in Queensland, and the Central Highlands is definitely the most suitable area in Australia for the establishment of such an industry. Again, this would provide employment in coal-mines and would also provide employment for the children of coal miners, graziers, grain growers and everybody else.

I support strongly the twin steel mills project, taking coal from the Central Highlands to Western Australia and bringing iron ore from Western Australia to Queensland. I do not believe that a railway line would be uneconomic, because many countries are now tending to move out of sea transport and into rail transport. Such a scheme would be assisted if the companies building the railway lines were given tax incentives. Much more could be done to help in the construction of this railway.

Tourism must also be developed in the area and pushed ahead as fast as possible. Better roads are needed, and industry must be encouraged.

I conclude by thanking all the people of the Central Highlands who have supported me during this almost completed parliamentary term. I have had to call on many of them to assist me in many different ways and I can say quite categorically that it is very important that they continue to support me as the member for the area and vote for me at the next election. In that way we can continue to work together to support the people of the Central Highlands. The railway fettlers in my area need assistance. I inspected a set of units the other day. Those people were given new units. They are itinerant groups that have moving gangs and anything that can be done to help them would be greatly appreciated.

Mr. WARNER (Toowoomba South) (8.40 p.m.): I rise to support the mover and seconder of the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply and to reaffirm my loyalty to the Queen and her recently appointed representative in Queensland, Sir James Ramsay. He has already confirmed his position in my electorate by his visit some weeks ago, when the good citizens were impressed by his sincerity, dignity and readiness to meet people in every walk of life. I pay tribute to the work done by our former Governor, Sir Colin Hannah. I wish to record my congratulations to Sir Zelman Cowen on his appointment as Governor-General elect. He is a man who is well fitted for that important position.

In their speeches Opposition members have tried to denigrate the State Government's achievements over the last few years and possibly over a much longer period. They have implied that little to nothing has been accomplished by this Government. Of course, that is just nonsense. Not only has Queensland emerged over the last few years as economically the strongest State in Australia but it is now the fastest growing State in the nation in terms of both population and exports. Our potential is enormous. If we are given the right climate divorced of industrial troubles, the possibilities for our progress are limitless.

Like the rest of Australia, Queensland certainly has a problem with unemployment which, I hope, we all deplore. Unemployment has to be contained by every possible means. The present unemployment level is certainly unacceptable to me and to us all. It is terrifying to me that 40 per cent of the jobless are young people. We must be concerned to the point at which all possible funds are made available for all possible employment schemes. There must be schemes that will make Australia more efficient and will be worth the money that is spent on them. Certainly there must be nothing like the R.E.D. projects which

did nothing but pretty up the countryside in the Whitlam period. They must be really worthwhile schemes. The recent announcement by the Treasurer of the release of \$203,400,000 to ward off excessive unemployment in this State will, directly and indirectly, mean jobs for thousands of Queenslanders. This surely shows that the Government is concerned about unemployment and intends to do something about it.

What will create more employment is the Federal Government's recent decision to allow the mining of uranium. Not only will this decision create jobs for some 500,000 persons, but it will inject into the economy over the next 20 years some \$20 billion. Surely this is a wise decision and one that could guarantee our economic recovery and provide employment for so many of today's unemployed. How could any responsible alternative Government make a decision to repudiate a commitment made by the Federal Government of the day that will create work for so many? The A.L.P.'s decision not to allow uranium to be exported if it ever became the Government is hard for anyone to believe. That is the type of decision that could only be made by a party with extreme socialist policies and one that seems bent on bringing this nation to its knees. Certainly it is not a decision that any Government wanting to see the country grow and prosper would make. "No sod of earth shall be turned on any of the uranium sites," threatened the Deputy Leader of the Federal Opposition, Mr. Uren, "until we are satisfied that all our problems are solved." Those words give me reason to believe that in the future we will see the promotion of strikes and disruption, with resultant unemployment.

The Leader of the Opposition in this House, in his speech during this Address-in-Reply debate, claimed that the National Party in Queensland had let down the people on the land. I am flabbergasted. Nothing could be further from the truth. His comment is just a lot of nonsense. I remind him and anyone else who might need reminding that, for a start, this Government has removed death duties. What could be more beneficial to the people on the land than that step? The abolition of death duties is of enormous benefit to them—and I should know.

The abolition of death duties is something that every small businessman and every man on the land in every other State is crying out for. Let me also remind the Leader of the Opposition and his colleagues that the abolition of probate and death duties means that farmers in Queensland who, not so long ago, lived a poor life and died rich no longer have the fear that their properties will have to be sold to pay State probate duties.

Unfortunately the Commonwealth Government still profits from the tax on death. It grants an exemption from tax on estates up to \$90,000 and up to \$98,000 on primary producers' estates that pass from spouse to

spouse. Surely that is not good enough. Federal death duties are still imposed as a death tax and I believe that the Federal Budget should have provided some sort of relief for the people on the land by either reducing or abolishing that tax. But such a move was not mentioned. I wonder whether the Labor Party, if it were returned to office in this State, would reverse the decision to abolish death duties. Let the people wonder about this. It is certainly within the capability and the thinking of the Labor Party to do so.

The policies of unsympathetic Federal Governments have crippled, and are crippling, many primary producers. Unfortunately the destructive policies of Labor's rule in Canberra have not diminished. Industry is not facing the bright future that we had hoped for. Although there has been a change of management, the Federal Government's Budget gave little concession to rural industries. Interest rates certainly have not come down. Some consideration should have been forthcoming in this area and the reduction of interest rates should have been high on the list of priorities. Such a reduction would have returned to the private sector the confidence in the Federal Government that is presently sadly lacking.

I am also concerned at the complete lack of interest shown in the plight of the beef industry. I am very sad and very angry at the contents of the Budget as they affect those people who produce our essential commodities. Our huge cities and industrial towns are dominating Australian politics to such an extent that, because of indifference and lack of understanding of the economic status of the farming community, the very existence of farmers and graziers is at stake. There is no doubt that even the most drastic reductions in spending, which the majority of farmers and graziers have already effected in the hope that prices and conditions would improve, are nothing compared with what is necessary for their survival. There is no sign of any improvement in these conditions.

This country and the majority of its people seem to be blind to the fact that we need to give farmers the basic commodity, that is, food. If the present trend continues and if farmers cannot balance their budgets, and if price increases are continually swallowed up by wholesalers, retailers, processors, and goodness knows who else, we will inevitably see the disappearance of the farmers. This is already beginning to happen. That may seem very dramatic but thousands have gone to the wall and hundreds are likely to go in the months and years ahead. We are facing a rural crisis—a crisis of no mean proportions. However often I repeat that in this House, I cannot remind honourable members often enough that we have a crisis on our hands, especially in the beef industry.

Farmers and pastoralists are at the mercy of increasing costs for virtually everything necessary to produce commodities for the home and export markets. They are at the

mercy of rising costs over which they have no control. Although some wool and grain growers are in a period of relative—and I repeat “relative”—prosperity, they are being taxed viciously out of existence. Their produce is held in jeopardy continually by militant unions which have no conscience at all and think only of protecting their own selfish interests. This goes on and on.

Very few people seem aware that the population of our once great Outback is decreasing rapidly. Because of this threat our rural areas are being denuded of the manpower so desperately needed to assist in the production of commodities that are still vital to our balance of payments and economic security—and let nobody forget that—and initiative in the young to carry on has all but disappeared.

Let us examine what our rural export earnings amount to. It seems that many people have forgotten how important they are. In 1976-77, wool returned \$1,400 million, wheat \$890,000,000 and sugar \$615,000,000. Queensland's wheat and sorghum crops alone in 1975-76 were worth some \$150,000,000. Overall crops in the State produced approximately \$243,000,000. A comparison of the combined returns from the export of minerals shows that the difference in earnings narrows yearly, but surely any comparison between food and minerals is odious. People in the world need food; without it they are doomed.

Now is the time to act and initiate every conceivable scheme to help our rural industries. One method of relief would be obtained by the Government's initiating an apprenticeship scheme making available training for jackaroos, jillaroos and station hands. Under such a scheme young people could train under their fathers or neighbours and this would do much to help the industry and provide the training and opportunity that is imperative for our future men and women on the land. Victoria has initiated apprenticeship trade training in farming and fruit-growing. These farmers' sons and daughters have been recognised in Victoria as eligible for assistance within the provisions of the national apprenticeship scheme and recently they were recognised under the Commonwealth rebate for apprentice full-time training. This is just one instance of how help could come from this Government which would allow people once again to stay in these areas and be trained at the same time.

There is no doubt that the abolition of provisional tax, which I believe is iniquitous, would give added inducement to people desirous of living out in these areas and a wage leading to be borne by the Government would certainly not go astray.

As I have said the abolition of death duties has been a great step forward. Another great step would be the reintroduction of free milk for primary schoolchildren.

Not only would we be supplying an essential food for children of that age, especially in metropolitan areas where the children perhaps need it most, and from where it should never have been taken away, but also if it is supplied to primary schools throughout Australia consumption must increase if only for the reason that the children would demand more in later years after becoming used to drinking milk at school. Good promotion will definitely increase consumption, and any increased consumption must help the dairy farmer. That is exactly what we are after. No doubt the argument against such a move is already on the lips of those who would say, and have said, “We cannot afford it.”

The cost, I believe, is tiny when compared with the good it would do to this country—and compared, too, with our enormous overseas commitments to foreign aid, now accounting for approximately \$600,000,000. I believe that a further \$90,000,000 can be added to that, since a few days ago the Prime Minister gave that amount to appease our near northern neighbours. Amounts of \$2,000,000 for a free milk scheme throughout Australia and \$60,000,000 to save our beef industry seem small in comparison. No doubt foreign aid is essential to some areas and to people who are in desperate need. For the life of me, I cannot understand why this money that is put aside for foreign aid is not used entirely to buy the product here, directly from the farmer, and have it shipped out in processed form. What is so wrong about exporting wheat and meat processed here and sending tinned meat, flour, milk, milk powder and cheese? We in this country have an abundance of nearly every type of food to do just that. That is what is needed to feed those who live in perpetual poverty in other parts of the world. I am aware that overseas aid is given in many and varied ways. Possibly it should never be taken away; but far too much is given by just writing out a cheque and handing it to the recipients.

I completely disagree with aid to such Communist countries as Vietnam and Laos, however modest the amounts given to those countries may be. Australia should support a world food programme. Not only would that meet emergency food needs; it could also be used to implement self-help projects by giving food as payment in kind. Surely that would help our rural industries.

Harking back to milk and its by-products, I ask members to look at the harm done to butter by those in the community who have said that it is detrimental to health. They have certainly changed their ideas again today. But their criticism has done a great deal of harm to that product. I believe that in some instances it would be better for a person not to eat butter; but surely the same comment applies to bananas and other similar products.

When I say that free milk ought to be given to all primary schoolchildren, I feel it is the Federal Government's primary concern and responsibility to reintroduce the scheme that was taken away by Labor and never reintroduced, so we are told, because of the cost involved. As I have said before, if the Federal Government will not consider the reintroduction of the free milk scheme, then let this Government, which is the leader in most things, rediscuss this issue. I am well aware that it is being discussed by Cabinet, but let them rediscuss this issue and consider introducing the scheme ourselves—and as quickly as possible. The position of many dairymen is so desperate that they are naturally grasping at any expedient that will increase consumption of their most profitable product. It is not hard for me to understand the enthusiasm for a milk subsidy or a discount on milk. Consumers are unlikely to turn down a scheme that would, if implemented, halve the price of a staple food.

Subsidies, I believe, should be used to meet a strictly temporary crisis. Permanent subsidies which are built into an industry are hard to remove, and their withdrawal does give, and has given, unexpected results. During the last war the Curtin Government discovered, like now, an alarming decline in the dairy industry. The main cause then was that most dairymen could not live on the prices they were getting because of wartime price-fixing controls. At that time the Government allowed a small rise to take place, and it made up the difference by subsidy. This worked well for a short period, and dairy farmers enjoyed their most prosperous period ever. But few realised what it was costing them in taxes. Eventually it became obvious that the subsidy gave a false scale of values. Everyone took it for granted that they should get milk products for less than the cost of production. Now it seems quite evident that any raising of milk prices to a realistic level will have political repercussions, and has already had political repercussions. There is no doubt that a subsidy would have a good short-term effect and we should be looking at this urgently.

If we are to face this subsidy or discount realistically, as the Minister has pointed out to me on more than one occasion, we must consider the cost and where the money is to come from. When Governments are being forced, as they are today, into drastic trimmings to beat inflation, there is a problem, and a very serious one, and action is needed now.

Perhaps the further taxing of our luxuries might be necessary to make the basic necessities seem more attractive by contrast. Basic necessities, or commodities and essential foods, are certainly too dear. One has only to be associated with 9,000-odd people who are pensioners in Toowoomba to realise this.

Bread prices continue to rise and every increase in the prices of these commodities makes the situation worse for those in the community who do not enjoy a commensurate rise in pensions or incomes. Many pensioners are nearly out of their minds when faced with these ever-increasing costs. What with rents taking the whole of their pensions—in many cases, for little more than hovels—the little that is left is barely enough for food and clothing. As I said, one has to be associated with these pensioners to know that.

They also have to pay for electricity and fares. There is also the burden of ever-increasing rates, which are being imposed by local government every year on pensioners with their own homes. This is something that city councils must consider urgently in order to give relief in some form or other. Recently, the Toowoomba City Council gave a \$22 rent rebate for eligible pensioners in Toowoomba, an increase of \$2 over last year. I believe that this showed a conscious effort to help pensioners and the sense of responsibility of those people. However, it is actually of no help at all if other charges such as water rates are increased and if rents are allowed to continue to rise.

It seems obvious to me that some fair form of rent control must be imposed. In Toowoomba and elsewhere, unscrupulous landlords continue to charge rents far in excess of the value of accommodation. This must stop. Some sort of restraint must be imposed. That would have to be done by legislation. I am referring only to the rents charged for substandard accommodation.

Accommodation for students is also a matter of concern to me. I am sure it concerns most members of the House. At present, a situation exists where the most advanced college in this State—the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education—is without sufficient boarding facilities and a crisis exists there. We cannot go on and on accepting students and not giving them the accommodation. It is now without sufficient boarding facilities and although there are plans for future buildings next year, to be financed by building appeals and no doubt a subsidy from the Government, the accommodation that will be produced will still not be enough to cope with the existing situation.

No doubt this could be partly solved if private enterprise could be subsidised to build the necessary complexes. Already a private firm—Wagner & Sons in Toowoomba—has submitted a tremendous scheme for accommodation but has met with no co-operation from the Federal Government, which now says that it is the State's responsibility to finance these projects.

Certainly no clear picture can be obtained from either Federal or State sources as to who is responsible, and however frequently I make representations to Ministers in the Federal sphere or here I do not seem to be

able to get anywhere. But one thing is clear—we are missing out on helping private enterprise to help us, which seems most unwise and not good business.

In the field of education I must say there would not be one school in my electorate, and it has many, which has not benefited in one way or another. In every case but one school grounds have been increased in size; many new school buildings have been added; pre-schools have been built; and in general an enormous amount of money has been spent, once again showing those who criticise this Government that it is continuing with a policy of development in all areas of the State. Naturally there is more to be done, as there always will be if we are to keep pace with a growing State, especially in such centres as the city of Toowoomba, which is one of the five fastest-growing centres in Australia.

A recent economic study showed the dependence of Toowoomba on the economic welfare of the region. Toowoomba's prosperity largely reflects the prosperity of the surrounding rural area—one has to live there to know that—and, of course, the same principle applies to its growth. Toowoomba also owes much of its prosperity to this Government's decentralisation policy, which gave the initiative to the development of the Army aviation centre at Oakey and the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education in Toowoomba itself, but if we are to continue to grow, further decentralisation is necessary and must be initiated. There is no doubt that a long overdue need would be filled if a branch of the Titles Office were established in Toowoomba. There are plenty of figures to prove my assertion that it is necessary, and it would do a lot to help the growth of this city. There is no doubt that the transferring of the D.P.I. headquarters to Toowoomba would not only aid decentralisation but would help to increase the population of the city and naturally improve the employment prospects of people in the area.

I want to hark back to what has been accomplished in my electorate. We will see the completion of the new \$8,000,000 medical block at the Toowoomba Base Hospital in 1979. It will not only replace a very old and outdated building but will also house a new steam-boiler system which, with the extensions to the existing system, will completely eradicate the air pollution problem caused by the existing smoke stack at the old hospital. Schoolchildren have been protected on the main highway by the installation of two sets of traffic lights. Subsidies from this Government have made possible the building of several large sporting complexes. The list of what the Government has done for me in that area and of what it is doing for every other electorate is long and shows that throughout the State progress is taking place and will continue to take place under this Government.

Finally, I want to draw to the attention of those responsible the need for and the importance of extra funding for the Police Department. There are surely few Government departments which have a higher priority than the Police Department. I believe this to be correct and yet for years now the allocation for the Police Department in each Budget has been amongst the lowest for Government departments. Police facilities in this State generally, and I have seen a good few of them, are in a depressed condition, and it is obvious that many centres have reached an all-time low. One only has to see the Police Headquarters in Toowoomba to realise how true that statement is. Such conditions do nothing for the morale of police personnel either in Toowoomba or anywhere else, and must affect efficiency. I believe that nothing could be more important than the proper funding of a force of men and women who protect us from lawlessness and anarchy. I wish to God more people knew just how they do protect us.

Facilities in Toowoomba have been renovated and upgraded but they are still inadequate. Further improvements are still in the pipeline. I realise that it is only because of a lack of funds that more has not been accomplished, and the Minister is to be commended on what has been done already. No sooner did I bring to his attention the appalling conditions that existed in Toowoomba than he immediately got onto it. But there is still a lot to be done. The upgrading of these facilities not only in Toowoomba but all over the State is more essential than ever and it is to be hoped that the Treasurer will see fit to give this department a substantial apportionment in this year's Budget.

In conclusion, I should like to say that I believe in this coalition Government, which is more effective than a divided one. We are led by a great statesman, and I pay tribute to Joh Bjelke-Petersen and his leadership and also to the Deputy Premier (Mr. Knox), who as Treasurer will bring down a Budget this year that will show the rest of Australia what a responsible Government has achieved and can achieve. Surely, Mr. Deputy Speaker, a coalition Government is what we all want—something united—and that is what Government in this State is all about.

Mr. GIBBS (Albert) (9.11 p.m.): As the representative of the people of Albert, it is an honour for me once again to support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply and at the same time pledge the allegiance of myself and my constituents to Her Majesty the Queen through our new Governor, His Excellency Sir James Ramsay.

The visit of the Queen in this Silver Jubilee Year was a great event for Australia, and particularly for Queensland. It proved once again the feeling that the ordinary Australian

citizen has for the Royal Family, and I believe that this was demonstrated adequately on Her Majesty's visit to Queensland at the great functions that were held. The function at Cloudland was a tremendous success and the Queen was greeted with the great respect that she deserves from this part of her Commonwealth of Nations.

His Excellency spelt out in fairly clear terms in his Opening Speech the priorities and plans of this Government. The events of the last 12 months alone give adequate proof that the Government of Queensland is prepared to be an innovator and more prepared than most to really stand up for the rights of individuals, the people whom we call the "silent majority".

The events of the past 12 months have also shown that other parts of this great nation are a little bit envious of the way in which Queensland tackles community problems. Modern society is difficult enough without having a Government at the helm that might just as easily close its eyes and allow itself to be pushed in one direction at the whim of a few very vocal people. If we as a Government think we can run round making ourselves popular with everybody, including the rowdy minority, we are making a great mistake. I believe that we must take whatever action we believe is correct in the interests of the people of Queensland. The Queensland Government has adopted a firm stand on all issues and, with our Premier leading the way, this State makes its position quite clear and unmistakable. It has come to grips with social issues such as mining and the environment and many other issues that have caused concern in the general development of the State.

At the beginning of my remarks I made a point of saying that I was honoured to contribute to this debate as the representative of the people of Albert. As their representative, I know that I have certain responsibilities. But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wonder how many people in the community realise that they too have some responsibility for good government and good order in the State. Too often one hears a section of the community complaining about a number of things and saying, "The way they are running the country—they ought to provide more roads; they ought to do this; they ought to give us that." When they say "they", do they mean the men and women in this Chamber, or do they unwittingly mean anybody in the community who is prepared to get off his tailbone and contribute something to the well-being of his fellow-man?

Running a State is very much like running any enterprise in which people are involved. Everyone has a part to play, and those who fall down on the job work less efficiently but still find time to criticise their neighbours. Too often people think that the business of running a State should be left entirely to the politicians and the public servants. I assure

them that this view is totally wrong. Everyone has a role to play in the community to ensure that it runs properly. If we expect to share in the benefits of a well-run society, we must share in the responsibility of seeing that it is well run.

A contribution to a community can be made in a variety of ways. However, generally speaking, I look with unbounded admiration at the mums and dads on the school committees, the men and women in the service clubs, the people who extend themselves to serve on committees for the welfare of youth, the aged, the troubled and the infirm. I speak for the dads who sacrifice a few hours a week to coach the neighbourhood kids in soccer and other sports; I speak for the women who drop their housework to deliver meals on wheels.

The list is endless. No matter what is done there is one common factor: most of the meaningful contributions in the community are free. It is said that these persons are motivated by civic pride or the joy of giving service for the good of others. Whatever it is called, it does my heart good to see people in my electorate participating in public affairs. The Government could never possibly hope to match or overtake the contribution or effort made by the local people.

An Honourable Member: It saves the Government a lot of money.

Mr. GIBBS: It does. The Government has to use the people's money. That is where its money comes from. It has no money of its own. I am sure that everyone in this House appreciates what people do in a community to help things along the way. The contribution they make to their own little communities is much better than could be made by any Government.

I would like to bring up the possible extension of those community affairs. Meals on Wheels has been started in Beenleigh by a small group of people who receive support from service clubs. I am pleased to say that we have been granted subsidy by the State Government. Now that it has been approved by the Federal Government, that subsidy will no doubt be payable after the Budget period. That organisation is now serving in excess of 20 meals a day in the Beenleigh district. It is a wonderful effort by a very small group of people in the town of Beenleigh.

Of course, we need a lot more work in Beenleigh. We badly need a police youth club. We need more activities for the youth of Beenleigh. The Beenleigh district is growing at the rate of about 19 per cent a year. We have to keep pace with our young people and give them more activities. We hope we can get a police-citizens youth club going there in the not too distant future. The service clubs are very interested in such a project.

We hope in the near future to set up a new senior citizens' centre which will serve as a day centre. At present there is a very good club working in Beenleigh which has meetings quite frequently. I believe that with the expansion of the area we will be looking for a full-time senior citizens' centre to which people can go each day and carry on their various activities. Under the auspices of Trevor Cichero, a chemist in Beenleigh, a christian businessmen's association got off to a very good start. It is proving to be very successful.

We have a railway problem in Beenleigh, which we have been talking about for a long time. I refer to the removal of the cattle yards from the middle of Beenleigh to an outer area. The old railway line has served Beenleigh for 60, 70 or 80 years, but it is no longer satisfactory to have the cattle yards right in Beenleigh. The Education Department has built a pre-school right up against the cattle yards, and as time goes on it will become more urgent to act on this matter. I know the late Keith Hooper did a very good job in trying to bring about the removal of the cattle yards. I know that with his department he did almost all of the work associated with the plan to move the cattle yards out of Beenleigh.

I thank the Minister for Health for assisting us to get the subsidy for Meals on Wheels. He put a tremendous effort into this project and recommended it. It was only a small project in money terms, but it was very important that the subsidy should be made available. We were not quite so lucky with the extensions to the Labrador Senior Citizens' Centre. It did not receive a subsidy. It will, however, be forthcoming later on. At present subsidies are granted only for new work and not for extensions. Be that as it may, that centre is working very well under the control of the welfare officer, Mrs. Hamer. It is hoped that it will cater for more men and will encourage them to take part in useful activities. I hope that the extensions can be carried out very quickly.

The Southport Hospital is nearing completion. The building has almost reached its full height and the interior work is nearly finished. The Minister for Health will inspect it in the near future to see what progress is being made. The hospital serves the three electorates on the Gold Coast and also the hinterland.

I do not know how far the planning for the proposed Mt. Gravatt Hospital has gone. In view of the expansion that is taking place in the outlying suburbs, it might be better to locate the hospital in a place where it could serve the people of Beenleigh, Woodridge and Springwood. If it were so located it would provide a more decentralised service and would be easier to get to. It could also provide ample parking facilities. It is tragic that staff and visitors are not able to park their cars within miles of our present hospitals.

I must compliment the Beenleigh and the Southport Ambulance Centres on the sterling job they do in transporting accident victims through heavy traffic to hospital. As is known, the volume of traffic on the Gold Coast highway is very heavy. It is worth noting that the Beenleigh centre is establishing a branch at Springwood, thanks to the efforts of a few dedicated people.

I want to talk now about drugs. The Australian drug scene is becoming a tragedy. We have heard of what occurred at Cedar Bay and also in New South Wales, where a recent murder has been connected with the drug scene.

"The Australian" of 25 August this year contains an article headed "Academic sees a 'witchhunt' against pot" and written by Hugh Lunn. That article deals with statements made by Dr. Paul Wilson, reader in sociology at the University of Queensland, whose name appears on some 15 books.

The article states—

"Today he presents a paper on Cannabis and Law Reform to the second national cannabis research foundation council in Sydney . . ."

and goes on to say—

"Dr. Wilson says, 'Next time your daughter gets raped in the main street ask the commissioner where all the policemen are. They are, of course, protecting people against themselves, a strange twist to the rule that the criminal law should protect people from the harm done by others.'

"Dr. Wilson concludes that the most sensible solution to the whole cannabis question is to legalise the drug by establishing a cannabis control board 'just as we have a wheat and butter board.'

"These government bodies would buy cannabis crops from farmers and market them just as we market wheat and butter."

I do not know what to think of Dr. Wilson. I had always been prepared to give him the benefit of the doubt. I have heard Ministers contradicting remarks of his. Having read this trash, I am now amazed that he is allowed inside any university in Queensland. It is shocking to think that he can lecture our young people with that type of thought in the back of his mind. I am suspicious of anyone who promotes drugs. I tend to think that he is a user of drugs. Maybe we should investigate Dr. Wilson to see if he is involved in any way in the cannabis rackets.

Mr. Houston: Don't you think the Government would have done that already?

Mr. GIBBS: I hope it has. I am quite sure that the honourable member shares my feelings when he reads garbage in the Press written by someone who is supposedly a smart academic—smarter than other people in the community.

I note that the Minister for Police is in the House. I ask him to co-operate with the Minister for Health in investigating the drug scene. I hope that the next Budget provides a lot more money for police so that much more can be spent on fighting the drug problem and the people who batten on young people through the sale of cannabis or marijuana in the high schools.

In reply to Dr. Paul Wilson's statement that the next time someone's daughter is raped, the parent should ask where the police are, I would ask him how many rapes have been committed by people who have been under the influence of drugs. Judging by the garbage written by this man, whom we could well expect much more from, I am afraid he does not know very much about life. I hope that we will impose heavier fines, even gaol for life, on people involved in the drug situation.

Much more money should be spent on drug control. I know that the new Police Commissioner, Mr. Terry Lewis, is determined to make an impact on the drug scene and I know that the Minister for Police, in his own way, is determined to make things work a lot better by building up our drug squad so that these offenders can be chased out of Queensland. If they want to go to New South Wales where Mr. Wran is thinking of decriminalising the use of marijuana, they are welcome to do so. That State has most of the other rubbish in Kings Cross so it might as well have the rubbish that is up here, too. Perhaps it will make a haven for them if it has not already done so.

On the brighter side I emphasise that the Albert electorate has gained many new school sites. A new school is being built at Eagleby to accommodate children in that fast-growing area. We have a growth rate in the city of Gold Coast of 9.5 per cent and a growth rate in the Albert Shire of about 19 per cent. The high growth rate creates all sorts of built-in development problems, including a shortage of police, police stations, schools and all the services that cater for people from day to day. Thanks to the Minister for Education and the Minister for Works and Housing, we have coped fairly well with the increased demand, but we still have a long way to go with our police stations which lack the facilities needed by the police if they are to operate in an efficient way. I know that the police in my electorate are doing a tremendous job under very difficult circumstances.

The Minister for Police has visited my area and I know that he has a lot of work and planning in train to relieve the problems there. I feel sure that there will be quite a lot of money in the Budget to allow him to upgrade police stations and facilities not only in the electorate of Albert but in quite a few other places in Queensland.

The Minister for Education and the Minister for Works and Housing have a lot of planning in hand. The library for the Beenleigh High School, I understand, is on the way. The Carbrook School is approaching its hundredth anniversary, which is to be celebrated on 1 October. I am sorry to say that it still has earth closets. While I know that the septic system is in the planning stage, I am waiting on the Minister to advise me exactly when it will be installed. I hope that it will be provided in time for the 1978 school year.

While I am on the subject of schools and housing, might I say that the Minister for Works and Housing has done a tremendous job. The Queensland Government has put a lot more money into housing that it has received from Canberra. A lot of new homes have been built in my electorate. Many of them are for sale. An area has a balanced type of growth when homes are available for rental or purchase. I am sure that the biggest single problem that affects the lives of the people is housing, and we must take a much stronger stand on it.

We should try to force out some low-interest money so that the individual can take care of his own housing. Although the Government is involved in housing, it should endeavour to make more money available at lower interest rates. I believe that in the long term home-ownership will pay off, giving us a much more settled and secure community. We must attain higher ownership and survive the days when the A.L.P. was in power in Canberra and the economy hit a low. I think all of us in this place, on both sides of the House, are concerned with housing. We are probably all agreed that young people should be given a better opportunity to own their own homes. The figure of \$18,000 that is advanced by co-operative housing societies is not enough. It should be raised to about \$25,000, which is the amount available for the purchase of Housing Commission homes. Eighteen thousand dollars is an unrealistic figure in a time of inflation like this.

I would like to speak briefly about the new trans-Australian railway line that has been advanced by the Premier. Perhaps it is a long-range project, but it is a very important one, and it may come to fruition a lot sooner than some people think. The importance of the line can be gauged by looking at the route from Mt. Isa through to Western Australia. Who knows what minerals could be discovered when that line is being built? With coal going over one way and iron-ore returning, the way will be opened for tremendous future development.

While I am on the subject of mining, let me refer to uranium. One of the most important decisions of recent times has been made by the Fraser-Anthony Government after much thought and deliberation.

Although a decision has been made to mine uranium, the unions are going to oppose it. We must be determined to mine uranium. Perhaps the Japanese have the greatest right to say that nuclear power is dangerous. They are the people who suffered the effects of atomic bombs. I am sure that at that time we would not have had it any other way. Those bombs stopped the killing of many, many thousands of our own people. However, the Japanese themselves are probably using more nuclear power than any other country in the world.

Perhaps objectors have a right to express their opinions in Australia, but they have no right to follow those demonstrations to become violent. They have the same rights as everyone else, but they do not have a democratic right to turn to violence. I hope that when demonstrators become violent, the police will take care of them in a fitting manner. I do not see those who advocate the rights of people supporting the rights of the police who get knocked around in these furores. The police always seem to be branded as being wrong. I do not believe that for one minute. They have a very tough job to do, and they have to do it in difficult circumstances.

While discussing mining, I pay a tribute to our Minister for Mines and Energy for the manner in which he has encouraged the expansion of Queensland's mining industry. The deals he has negotiated with overseas companies and the conditions he has insisted upon will gain benefits that will be reflected in the economies of Queensland and Australia as a whole. Most of the projects are financed by multinational companies, who invest a lot of risk capital and pay a lot of taxes. They also create a lot of jobs. For every person who gains employment from these projects, probably two or three more benefit through small business activity in some way or another. Still more people are employed to do the small jobs requiring the expertise that the multinationals require.

Small business has been knocked around quite a lot in Australia and in Queensland. Small business has too many overheads today. Its wages bill is too high. Pay-roll tax affects it in a way it should not. Pay-roll tax exemption should be taken up to a much higher scale. It should be taken up to about \$200,000 with no strings attached. When the pay-roll of an employer exceeds \$200,000, tax should be paid only on the amount above that figure. I hope that in this year's Budget pay-roll tax will be altered to make it a lot more attractive to small business in Queensland.

In the last Budget, company tax was not very encouraging. Mr. Connolly, the chairman of small business for Queensland, has been very vocal on this point. I agree with him that company tax has gone far too high.

Interest is another matter that upsets small business. It is borrowing money to keep going, because of inflation and for the replacement of stock. All round it is not a very happy

situation for small business. It is very important that a balance be maintained between small business and big business. I believe it has a great balancing effect in the productivity of Queensland and of Australia.

I should like to say something now about unions and union leaders in particular. Some of them are not very responsible. Some are very responsible. A few who are irresponsible go around applying all sorts of blackmail and with political motivation. Many of these men are handpicked to do the job that they are sent out to do. I believe that union leaders should divorce themselves from the A.L.P. or any other political party and start doing a job without axe-grinding. They should do a job for the men. They should stop business-bashing. They bash business and they bash their own members in a lot of cases. That is not good enough.

They have threatened many of my constituents. I have learned a lot in the past three years. I did not quite know how to handle this in the early days but I do now. If any of these union guys start threatening my constituents, I give them fair warning now that they will not get away with it as they did a little while ago.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: They will walk all over the top of you.

Mr. GIBBS: They might, too, and I am not saying that I am so smart that I will stop them from walking over the top of me. But I know a lot more now.

On 1 September 1976 I asked the Premier a question, part of which reads—

"Is he aware that Mr. Hugh Williams, one of Mr. Arch Bevis's stand-over union representatives, is threatening a company named Shepherd, Green and White Transport by not allowing Mr. Fred Mackay, a financial director of Shepherd Gold Coast Transport, to load or unload goods at their depot called 'City Transport Depot', Montague Road, Brisbane?"

In part, the Premier answered—

"Inquiries into the matter raised by the honourable member reveal that the Transport Workers' Union is threatening the business of several transport firms in its endeavour to prevent an employer from carrying out work he is lawfully entitled to carry out.

". . .

"However, in view of the union's interest in the provisions of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, I suggest it might also study closely sections 359 and 534 of the Criminal Code, which deal with the intimidation of workmen and employers. In particular, section 359 refers to threats designed to prevent persons from performing work which they may legally perform.

"I am getting rather concerned about information coming to me from various quarters along similar lines. If that is

going to be the trend of events as far as certain union people are concerned, then this Government will take a very close look to see where we can still further deal with those persons who attempt to interfere with the legitimate rights of the citizens of this State."

The important words are, "the legitimate rights of the citizens of this State."

Today's "Telegraph" reports that the same Hugh Williams is likely to be charged with doing just this thing on a continuing basis. I am not saying that Mr. Hugh Williams is to blame for this. It is the system. Mr. Hugh Williams is doing the job that evidently he has been given to do. He is carrying out his job and he is blackmailing and intimidating people. Union officials pull truck drivers up at weighbridges and say, "Mate, if you don't join the union you won't get this stuff unloaded, and if you get it unloaded you won't get another load back." I asked a question last September about Mr. Hugh Williams and they have only just caught up with him. I hope the Government can overcome this intimidation of our small businessmen. A man who owns one truck is still a businessman and he should not be able to be blackmailed by unions into becoming a member. I am quite pleased someone has finally taken some action to try to prevent this sort of thing.

At last the Federal Government have moved on the union issue. They have moved to try to overcome the recent postal strikes and the strikes we had recently among some sections of the airline industry which upset many people in Australia and, indeed many people throughout the world. I see that Commonwealth public servants had a meeting today and I know that the union leaders have tried to scare them into believing that their jobs are not secure. As a matter of fact some pamphlets are being handed around which state that people will be put off and this, that and the other. Unfortunately, people believe these things. I can tell them right here and now that as I understand it this legislation was not introduced to try to intimidate public servants; but we cannot have Australia or Queensland held to ransom as we have been held to ransom in recent times by certain small sections of the Public Service.

I would now like to talk briefly about trading hours. There are lots of arguments about Friday night shopping and recently there have been applications to the Industrial Commission in an endeavour to have shops open on Saturday afternoon. I believe this Government should consider opting right out of restrictions on trading hours and let people work out their own problems right throughout the State because if we legislate for one area it does not suit another area. I believe each area should have the freedom to make up its own mind about when it is going to trade. I think we should leave it

up to the individual to conduct his own affairs. I will be looking very closely at this situation in the House in the near future.

I would like to thank the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads, the Honourable Russ Hinze, for the road-works that have been done in my area. The new bridge that has been commenced at Nerang will be of tremendous benefit. I congratulate the Minister on the job he has done, perhaps right throughout Queensland but in particular in my electorate and the other coastal electorates. I want to thank the Minister for Community and Welfare Services and Minister for Sport for the job he has done. He came into my electorate to tell the sporting people how to go about getting subsidies.

I think one of the greatest things we in this Parliament have done was to abolish death duties. It was a very meaningful thing for the people of Queensland and I believe it has made Queensland the most forward-looking State in Australia.

I want to thank the people who have supported me for the past three years. This will be the last session of Parliament before the election. I believe we as members have looked very carefully at our electorates and taken a much wider view of Queensland, as we are bound to do.

I would like to thank the local authorities for the tremendous job they have done, in particular the Gold Coast City Council and the Albert Shire Council for the planned development of areas under their control. I believe these areas will grow into very good communities, and I am very proud of the growth in my electorate over the past 2½ years.

Unfortunately, the West is in a bad way. The cattle industry is not flourishing as we would like to see it flourish and, although there has been much talk and many plans made, there does not seem to be a very easy answer to the problems facing the people of the West. They are taking the brunt of cost increases but are receiving less and less for their products. I believe primary producers are the backbone of this State and this nation. They produce the goods needed for our day-to-day living, and everything possible must be done on a non-stop basis to try to overcome the decline in wealth in western areas, particularly in the cattle country, so that people there may be able to carry their heads high as they once did. The Government has a heavy responsibility to do its best at all times for the people of the West who are in very great trouble.

I conclude by saying that I have been proud to serve in this Parliament under the Premier, to be a member of the National Party, and to be a member of the coalition that currently has the Hon. W. E. Knox as its Deputy Leader. I know that the Budget he will bring down shortly will be

a good one, and I hope that it will give some relief to small businesses by way of cuts in pay-roll tax and to the community of Queensland as a whole.

Debate, on motion of Mr. Newbery, adjourned.

POLICE SUPERANNUATION ACTS AMENDMENT BILL

INITIATION IN COMMITTEE

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

Hon. T. G. NEWBERY (Mirani—Minister for Police) (9.47 p.m.): I move—

“That a Bill be introduced to amend the Police Superannuation Act 1974–1975 and the Police Superannuation Act 1968–1977 each in certain particulars.”

Honourable members will recall that in December 1976 improvements were made in the State Public Service Superannuation Scheme. Following such changes in the past it has been the policy of my Government to review the Police Superannuation Scheme and, when necessary, to improve it.

It was decided that a special committee comprising the State Actuary and Insurance Commissioner (Mr. J. G. Rutherford), the Under Treasurer (Mr. L. A. Hielscher), the Manager of the State Service Superannuation Board (Mr. E. G. Finegan), and the Secretary, Office of the Commissioner of Police (Mr. J. A. Casey), should examine the question of whether improvements in the State Service scheme should be extended to the Police scheme. The special committee's report has been examined by the Government and its recommendations accepted. This Bill embodies the new proposals which were recommended.

The major improvements proposed in the Bill are—

(1) an increase in the widow's pension from 62.5 per cent to 66.7 per cent of the contributor's pension;

(2) an increase in the child's allowance paid to children of deceased contributors or pensioners from \$208 per annum to \$416 per annum where there is a widow, and from \$416 per annum to \$832 per annum in the case of an orphan;

(3) an extension of the child's allowance from age 21 to age 23 whilst the child is undertaking full-time education;

(4) the calculation of new pensions to members on the basis of a two-year final average salary in lieu of the present three-year average; and

(5) the application of emerging cost-of-living adjustments from the first pension period in September each year in lieu of October.

These amendments will mean considerable increases in pensions payable to members and to widows and dependent children of

deceased members. These increased benefits will be provided without increasing the contributions of serving members. The Crown subsidises the principal benefits on a 5:2 basis.

The Crown presently guarantees an interest rate of 6 per cent per annum. The State Service Superannuation Act now provides for a guaranteed interest rate of 6½ per cent per annum to that scheme, and this Bill increases the guaranteed rate to the Police Superannuation Fund to 6½ per cent per annum.

A further amendment contained in the Bill is that the present practice whereby the Crown subsidises the purchase of additional service by new appointees is discontinued. It is proposed that, in respect of new appointees who commence to contribute after the date of operation of this amending Act, only the actual years of service will be subsidised and the whole responsibility for financing additional years of service will be placed on such contributors. This is similar to the practice now applying within the State Service Superannuation Scheme.

Several other amendments provided by the Bill are introduced to assist in the day-to-day administration of the scheme. The proposed amendments will provide increased benefits to existing and future beneficiaries under the Police Superannuation Scheme. I commend the Bill to the Committee.

Mr. HOUSTON (Bulimba) (9.52 p.m.): Any legislation that will improve the situation with regard to superannuation will be supported by the Opposition. Unfortunately on this occasion the Minister did not see fit to indicate to the Opposition just what the changes were intended to be. Because of the speed with which the Minister read, it is not possible for me to comment in detail on some of the suggestions he made. Therefore I am afraid that the main consideration of the Bill will have to wait until the second-reading and Committee stages.

However, it did become obvious that there will be an increase in the benefits paid. That will take some account of the problems of inflation that face the whole nation and every section of the community. There will also be some greater contribution towards the education of children. Perhaps this will counteract to some extent the Federal Government's attitude in removing some of the tax concessions that previously applied.

I did not hear the Minister make any reference to a reduction in the age at which police officers can retire and receive benefits under this superannuation scheme. Although police officers will be very keen on any improvements that are provided, I am sure they will be disappointed that the Government has not seen fit to provide for voluntary earlier retirement under the superannuation scheme. In all justice we cannot look upon a policeman as just

another public servant. In the true sense of the word he is a public servant, but the type of industry he is in, the type of work he has to perform, his hours of duty, the places in which he has to serve and the general problems associated with his work make his service more arduous than that of public servants generally. It is not that the public servant has not got his worrying periods, too, but I think everyone will agree that certain sections of the Police Force are continuously subject to very heavy pressures. I can well imagine the very heavy mental and physical strain placed on those engaged in investigation work.

The attitude of the union in asking for an early age of retirement for those police officers who wish to retire early is worthy of consideration. Perhaps in the Minister's reply or at the second-reading stage he will indicate why the union's request for retirement at 55 years of age, or after 30 years' service, was not acceded to. I can well understand that the actuarial position has to be looked at, but I am sure that the fund is quite a healthy one and is actuarially sound. There is no indication of any large drain on the fund.

I know from my own knowledge of policemen that they are dedicated to the force. When they leave it they change their whole way of life. I cannot see that an optional early retirement would cause large numbers of police officers to resign. Perhaps in the first instance there would be those who have been "marking time", but I think it would be better to allow a man who finds that his job is really getting him down to go out quietly on a pension than to require him to stay in the job and perhaps be unable to carry out some of his important functions. With those comments, the Opposition supports the introduction of this legislation.

Mr. TENNI (Barron River) (9.56 p.m.): I rise to support the Minister on the introduction of this Bill. All the amendments as outlined by him are very good and very just.

About two years ago in my electorate a police officer was deliberately run over and killed while he was manning a road-block. He left behind a widow, and I am sure that she, like many other widows of police officers, will greatly appreciate an increase in her pension.

Dealing with the responsibilities of a police officer—not so long ago we saw the problems confronting three or four police officers who were involved in the Cedar Bay episode. Allegations that were made against them proved to be fictitious, but the strain caused by them on the men concerned was rather great. It was unfortunate that the matter was brought to a head by A.L.P. members who made certain allegations in this Chamber. Those police officers were forced

to undergo terrific strain for no reason whatever. Of course, the very nature of their work brings about such a situation, so they should be rewarded by a better superannuation scheme than that enjoyed by public servants.

The extension of the child allowance is a good step. Boys and girls can be at college even up to the age of 21, 22 or 23 years. It is good to see that this event is provided for in the proposal.

Unlike the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, who could not understand the Minister's introductory speech, I was born with a few brains and fully grasped the situation. The Bill will make a straightforward amendment to the Act and I think it was put quite simply by the Minister. I support the Bill and hope that it passes all stages without any problems whatever.

Motion (Mr. Newbery) agreed to.

Resolution reported.

FIRST READING

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

The House adjourned at 10.2 p.m.