

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

THURSDAY, 7 AUGUST 1969

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APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS OF PARLIAMENT; ABSENCE OF THE CLERK

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to report that, following the vacancy occurring through the retirement of Mr. Roy Leslie Dunlop, C.M.G., who for fourteen years occupied the position of the Clerk of the Parliament, that office has been filled by the appointment of Mr. William Thomas Johnson, lately Clerk-Assistant and Serjeant-at-Arms; and that Mr. Cyril George, lately Second Clerk-Assistant, has succeeded Mr. Johnson as Clerk-Assistant and Serjeant-at-Arms.

Unfortunately, Mr. Johnson is absent through illness. I now call on Mr. George to produce his Commission and take the necessary oath.

Whereupon Mr. George, having produced his Commission, took the oath of allegiance.

PANEL OF TEMPORARY CHAIRMEN

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

Cecil Charles Carey, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Albert;

Harold Dean, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Sandgate;

Raymond Jones, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Cairns;

Wallace Alexander Ramsay Rae, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Gregory;

Samuel Raymond Ramsden, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Merthyr.

THURSDAY, 7 AUGUST, 1969

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

COMMISSION TO ADMINISTER OATH

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

Commission thereupon read by the Clerk-Assistant.

MEMBER SWORN

MR. J. MURRAY

Mr. John Murray, having taken the oath of allegiance and subscribed the roll, took his seat as member for the electoral district of Clayfield.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

APPOINTMENT OF MINISTRY

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier) (11.07 a.m.): I desire to inform the House that, on 29 May, 1969, His Excellency the Administrator of the Government—

(a) accepted the resignations tendered by the Honourable Harold Richter as a Member of the Executive Council of Queensland and as Minister for Local Government and Conservation of Queensland;

(b) appointed—

The Honourable Johannes Bjelke-Petersen,

The Honourable Gordon William Wesley Chalk,

The Honourable Ronald Ernest Camm,

The Honourable Peter Roylance Delamothe,

The Honourable Alan Roy Fletcher,

The Honourable John Alfred Row,

The Honourable Seymour Douglas Tooth,

The Honourable John Desmond Herbert,

The Honourable William Edward Knox,
The Honourable Frederick Alexander Campbell,
The Honourable Victor Bruce Sullivan,
The Honourable Allen Maxwell Hodges,
Neville Thomas Eric Hewitt, Esquire,
to be Members of the Executive Council of Queensland;

(c) appointed—

The Honourable Johannes Bjelke-Petersen, to be Premier and Minister for State Development of Queensland;

The Honourable Gordon William Wesley Chalk, to be Treasurer of Queensland;

The Honourable Ronald Ernest Camm, to be Minister for Mines, Main Roads and Electricity of Queensland;

The Honourable Peter Roylance Delamothe, to be Minister for Justice and Attorney-General of Queensland;

The Honourable Alan Roy Fletcher, to be Minister for Education and Cultural Activities of Queensland;

The Honourable John Alfred Row, to be Minister for Primary Industries of Queensland;

The Honourable Seymour Douglas Tooth, to be Minister for Health of Queensland;

The Honourable John Desmond Herbert, to be Minister for Labour and Tourism of Queensland;

The Honourable William Edward Knox, to be Minister for Transport of Queensland;

The Honourable Frederick Alexander Campbell, to be Minister for Industrial Development of Queensland;

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

The Honourable Allen Maxwell Hodges, to be Minister for Works and Housing of Queensland;

The Honourable Neville Thomas Eric Hewitt, to be Minister for Local Government and Marine Activities of Queensland.

I lay upon the table of the House a copy of the Government Gazette Extraordinary of 29 May, 1969, containing the relevant notifications.

Whereupon the hon. gentleman laid the Government Gazette Extraordinary upon the table.

LEADERSHIP OF OPPOSITION

Mr. HOUSTON (Bulimba—Leader of the Opposition) (11.10 a.m.): I desire to inform the House that I have been elected Leader of the Australian Labour Party; the hon. member for Townsville North (Mr. P. J. R. Tucker), Deputy Leader; the hon. member for Maryborough (Mr. H. J. Davies), Whip; and the hon. member for Salisbury (Mr. D. J. Sherrington), Secretary.

PAPERS

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

Reports—

Under Secretary for Mines, for the year 1968.

Anzac Day Trust, for the period 1 July, 1968 to 30 June, 1969.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Proclamations under—

The Acquisition of Land Act of 1967.

The State Development and Public Works Organisation Acts, 1938 to 1964.

Central Queensland Coal Associates Agreement Act 1968.

The Stamp Acts, 1894 to 1968.

The Thiess Peabody Mitsui Coal Pty. Ltd. Agreements Acts, 1962 to 1965.

The Sugar Acquisition Act of 1915.

The Sugar Experiment Stations Acts, 1900 to 1965.

Factories and Shops Acts Amendment Act 1968.

Orders in Council under—

The Beach Protection Act of 1968.

The State Development and Public Works Organisation Acts, 1938 to 1964.

The Local Bodies' Loans Guarantee Acts, 1923 to 1957.

The Racing and Betting Acts, 1954 to 1967.

The State Electricity Commission Acts, 1937 to 1965.

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

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

The Gas Acts, 1965 to 1967.

The Mines Regulation Acts, 1910 to 1958.

Mines Regulation Act 1964–1968.

The Grammar Schools Acts, 1860 to 1962.

The Rural Training Schools Act of 1965.

The University of Queensland Act of 1965.

The Libraries Acts, 1943 to 1949.

Factories and Shops Act 1960–1968.

The Apprenticeship Act of 1964.

The Traffic Acts, 1949 to 1968.

The State Transport Acts, 1960 to 1965.

The Industrial Development Acts, 1963 to 1964.

The Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act of 1967.

The City of Brisbane Acts, 1924 to 1967.

The Local Government Superannuation Acts, 1964 to 1967.

The Harbour Acts, 1955 to 1968.

Water Act 1926-1968.

River Improvement Trust Act 1940-1968.

The Irrigation Acts, 1922 to 1965.

The Valuation of Land Acts, 1944 to 1959.

Regulations under—

The Public Accountants Registration Acts, 1946 to 1968.

Public Service Superannuation Act 1958-1968.

Public Service Act 1922-1968.

The Workers' Compensation Acts, 1916 to 1966.

The Gas Acts, 1965 to 1967.

Mines Regulation Act 1964-1968.

The Petroleum Acts, 1923 to 1967.

The Education Act of 1964.

The Agricultural Standards Acts, 1952 to 1963.

The Apiaries Act of 1947.

The Dairy Produce Acts, 1920 to 1963.

The Fisheries Acts, 1957 to 1962.

The Fruit and Vegetable Acts, 1947 to 1959.

The Meat Industry Act of 1965.

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

The Stock Acts, 1915 to 1965.

The Tobacco Industry Stabilisation Act of 1965.

The Apprenticeship Act of 1964.

The Statistical Returns Acts, 1896 to 1935.

The Traffic Acts, 1949 to 1968.

Land Act 1962-1968.

Land Act 1962-1968 and the Brigalow and Other Lands Development Acts, 1962 to 1967.

The Stock Routes and Rural Lands Protection Acts, 1944 to 1967.

The Aborigines' and Torres Strait Islanders' Affairs Acts, 1965 to 1967.

Local Government Act 1936-1968.

The Picture Theatres and Films Acts, 1946 to 1961.

The Queensland Marine Acts, 1958 to 1967.

Statutes under the University of Queensland Act of 1965.

Notifications under—

The Coal Mining Acts, 1925 to 1967 (Amendment to Rule).

The Petroleum Acts, 1923 to 1967 (Variation of License).

By-laws under—

The Railways Acts, 1914 to 1965—Nos. 978 to 982 inclusive.

The Harbours Acts, 1955 to 1968.

Ordinance under the Traffic Act 1949-1968 and The City of Brisbane Acts, 1924 to 1967.

Report of the Dumaresq-Barwon Border Rivers Commission, for the year ended 30 June, 1968.

FORM OF QUESTIONS

Mr. O'DONNELL (Barcoo) having given notice of three questions—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member's last question is not quite in order.

Mr. HANLON (Baroona) having given notice of a question—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member is imputing improper motives.

Mr. HANLON: I am not imputing improper motives; I am just asking the reasons.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The question is not in order.

Mr. BENNETT (South Brisbane) proceeding to give notice of a question—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! It appears that the question seeks an expression of opinion. I will allow the hon. member to continue giving notice of it, but I shall have to have a look at it.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I advise the hon. member for South Brisbane that I will have to look very closely at his last question.

Mr. THACKERAY (Rockhampton North) having given notice of a question—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! Whether the hon. member is being facetious or not, I think he knows the correct manner to ask a question of a Minister. If in future he attempts to ask a question in any manner but the correct one, it will be disallowed.

DEATHS OF HON. SIR JAMES ALFRED HEADING, C.M.G., D.C.M., M.M., AND Mr. W. L. DART

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier) (12.22 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

"1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this State by the late Honourable Sir James Alfred Heading, C.M.G., D.C.M., M.M., a former member of the Parliament of Queensland and Minister of the Crown, and the late William Logan Dart, Esquire, a former member of the Parliament of Queensland.

"2. That Mr. Speaker be requested to convey to the relatives of the deceased gentlemen the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and

sorrow of the members of the Parliament of Queensland in the loss they have sustained."

Very often it is Parliament's duty to pay its respects to the memory of former representatives with whom sitting members have not had acquaintance. Many members of this House sat here with the late Sir James Heading, a former Minister of the Crown, but of course there are none here today who sat with the late Mr. Dart although I should say some had made his acquaintance as he was a very prominent personality in public affairs over a long period of time.

Both gentlemen followed identical paths in their progress to parliamentary representation, having been, in turn, pioneer farmers and leaders in the sphere of local government in their respective areas. The late Sir James Heading came from Victoria as a young man to the South Burnett and settled in the Murgon district at a time when land was being thrown open for closer settlement. He became one of the district's most successful farmers and was a noted stud breeder of Australian Illawarra cattle and Large White pigs.

For more than half a century he was an active supporter of agricultural shows as an exhibitor, as a judge—a role in which his services were in widespread demand—and as an official. He was chairman of the Murgon Show Society for many years, became a councillor of the Royal National Agricultural, Pastoral and Industrial Association in 1940, and was that association's president from 1951 to 1955.

Before the outbreak of World War I Sir James had become chairman of the Murgon Shire Council. He served with distinction in that conflict, in the 47th and 45th Battalions, and was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal and the Military Medal.

After the war he returned to Murgon and to the land, and renewed his public activities. He was chairman of the Murgon Shire Council for a total period of 30 years, and his sound judgment is reflected in the modern layout of the Murgon township. He devoted much energy to the promotion of primary-producer organisations and was a director of the Murarrie Bacon Factory and also of dairy organisations for many years. He was not averse to change when new methods meant increased efficiency, and his progressive and dynamic approach to all problems stamped him as a leader in advancing the interests of primary producers generally. He was a great man, who contributed so much to the benefit of many people in this State. He was a close personal friend of mine for many years, and I came to deeply admire and respect his character and ability, and his inherent capacity for leadership.

The late Sir James Heading entered the Queensland Parliament in 1947, which was the year in which Mr. Chalk, Mr. Low and I entered Parliament, and he represented the electorate of Wide Bay. In 1950 he was returned for the newly-created seat of

Marodian, and he retained his seat until his retirement in 1960. From 1957 to 1960 he was Minister for Works and Local Government, a portfolio to which his special talents and drive were eminently suited.

He was a friend and counsellor to many, including men who, though opposed to him in politics, admired his courteous manner and experience.

The late Mr. William Logan Dart, who sat in the Legislative Assembly from 9 August, 1938, to 14 April, 1944, easily qualified as a pioneer of the Brisbane River district. He was born at 17-Mile Rocks in 1877. His grandfather and an uncle were joint proprietors of one of Queensland's earliest sugar mills, which was at St. Lucia, near the site of the university.

At the age of 16 the subject of this tribute joined an elder brother in selecting land at Forest Hill. Later he acquired an additional 180 acres, which became his family homestead after he married, and on this farm he became one of the State's leading lucerne-growers and producers.

In 1903 he was elected to the Tarampa Shire Council, which was then centred at Gatton, and he was shire chairman in 1911. On the change of shire boundaries he was elected as a councillor of the Laidley Shire, and retained his seat until he left the Lockyer district in 1921 to live at Wynnum. There he became a member of the Wynnum Town Council, and, on the creation of the Greater City of Brisbane, in the same year he was elected to the Brisbane City Council as the first representative of the Wynnum ward. Shortly after his election to this Assembly he relinquished his long career in local government to concentrate on his parliamentary duties.

On his death at the age of 92 in January of this year he was one of the two original surviving aldermen of the Greater Brisbane City; the other is Mr. Arthur Lawrie.

I commend to the House this tribute to the two departed members, whose names are inscribed on the history of Queensland's growth and development.

Hon. G. W. W. CHALK (Lockyer—Treasurer) (12.29 p.m.): Briefly I want to support the remarks of the Premier and to express my own personal sadness at the deaths of two men who made a tremendous contribution to the relatively short history of this State. As the Premier has said, both Sir James Heading and Mr. William Dart each devoted about 40 years of service to this State, both in the local-government sphere and in Parliament. During that period they were responsible in no small way for a number of changes that took place. Both men were particularly active in rural life, Sir James Heading being extremely interested in the affairs of primary producers and primary-producer organisations, and Mr. Dart being interested principally in local government.

Sir James Heading was a man of great dignity. He was a very courteous gentleman who endeared himself to all with whom he came in contact. The Premier referred to his entry to this Chamber in 1947. It was my privilege, and the privilege of others at that time, to be closely associated with him in Opposition. We both lived at The Lodge, and I know that at all times he endeared himself to all members by the courteous way in which he conducted himself in the Chamber. He brought to the House a very wide knowledge of agricultural industries, which was also evidenced while he was President of the Royal National Association.

When the present Government came to power Sir James Heading was accorded the portfolio of Minister for Public Works and Local Government, and as he travelled around the State he evinced his keenness and desire to work for the betterment of the community as a whole.

As was indicated by the Premier, the late Mr. William Dart spent his early lifetime in the area that I have the honour to represent. Bill Dart, as he was known to most people, had the ability to converse on many matters. He also had the ability to speak publicly at some length on subjects of great importance to his area. While a member of the Gatton and Laidley Shire Councils he made a considerable contribution to the development of those areas. He also played a part in the development of lucerne-growing in that locality. By his contribution he became known to many people, not only in the Lockyer district, but throughout Queensland, as one of the pioneer lucerne-growers in Queensland. His contribution to the development of the State, like that of Sir James Heading, will be remembered by numerous people for many years to come.

Both of these gentlemen lived to what can be described as a fair score compared with the average span of life, and the tributes paid to them on their deaths were indications of the high esteem in which they were held.

I join with the Premier in asking the House to pay tribute to two men who served Queensland in an outstanding manner.

Mr. HOUSTON (Bulimba—Leader of the Opposition) (12.36 p.m.): On behalf of the Opposition I join with the Premier and the Deputy Premier in the sentiments they have expressed, and I hope that what they have said will help to overcome the sad losses that have been sustained. Both of these men had reached a good age, but the loss of any loved one is felt dearly by those left behind.

I did not have the privilege of knowing Mr. William Logan Dart, so that I cannot speak very much about him. However, from my knowledge of the Wynnum area, I know that his name is well known in that district and that his memory is well respected there. Although it is 25 years since he was in public life, his name and his activities, particularly

in the local authority field, were mentioned on more than one occasion at a function I attended in Wynnum a few years ago.

Sir James Heading was known to those of us who entered Parliament prior to 1957. Although I was not a close personal friend, I believe that I was a friend of his. He seemed to be able to make all people feel, after they met him, that they had known him for quite a long time. It would be true to say that he did not have one enemy. Both Government members and Opposition members in this House respected and liked him as a person.

The Opposition joins in this motion of condolence and hopes that the blow suffered by those left behind will be lessened as time goes on, in the knowledge that both men were well respected in the community.

Mr. WHARTON (Burnett) (12.39 p.m.): I join with the Premier and the Deputy Premier in this motion of condolence, which has been supported by the Leader of the Opposition. I did not have an opportunity of knowing Mr. Dart, but I was associated with Sir James Heading in his directorships of a dairy company and of the Q'ld Co-operative Bacon Assocn. and the Producers' Co-operative Distributing Society. I pay a tribute to him for his work as a member of Parliament, particularly his efforts for the Gayndah and Biggenden areas, which now form part of my electorate. Many public works and buildings there are monuments to his memory.

I feel sure, too, that the Royal National Association benefited greatly by his presidency, and his work on behalf of the primary producers of this great State is a cause for great pride and something for which the State is the better. Not only primary producers but all in Queensland pay tribute to a fine effort by a fine parliamentarian who earned a well-respected image in this State. I join with previous speakers in supporting this motion of condolence.

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

ORDER IN CHAMBER DURING MOTIONS OF CONDOLENCE

Mr. SPEAKER: Hon. members, before calling on the next business I might mention one matter that has caused me some concern in the past and I believe this is the time to mention it. I have been concerned that during condolence motions some members have been apt to engage inappropriately in audible conversations, move about the Chamber, retire from the Chamber, and re-enter it. This is not a ruling. I am simply putting it to members themselves: Is it desirable that this should take place? I leave the matter with hon. members.

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES

APPOINTMENT OF MR. K. W. HOOPER

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

“That Keith William Hooper be appointed Chairman of Committees of the Whole House.”

Motion agreed to.

ADMINISTRATOR'S OPENING SPEECH

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to report that His Excellency the Administrator of the Government, on Wednesday, 6 August, delivered to Parliament an Opening Speech of which, for greater accuracy, I have obtained a copy. I presume hon. members will take the Speech as read?

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Mr. HUNGERFORD (Balonne) (12.42 p.m.), who was received with Government “Hear, hears!”, said: I move—

“That the following Address be presented to the Administrator of the Government in reply to the Speech delivered by His Excellency in opening this, the first session of the Thirty-ninth Parliament of Queensland—

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

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

I am most conscious of the very great honour that has been accorded me in moving the adoption of the Address in Reply to the Administrator’s Opening Speech, and I should like to congratulate His Excellency on his statesmanlike address. If we can steer the destiny of our great State along his guide-lines, Queensland must continue to prosper, with greater progress in our industries, more amenities for our people, and, above all, an increase in our population.

Before proceeding any further, may I extend the continued loyalty and affection of my constituents to His Excellency, and also to the Throne and Person of Our Most Gracious Sovereign.

I should like at this stage to thank my constituents for entrusting me with representing them in this 39th Parliament on the retirement of Mr. E. J. Beardmore, who gave outstanding service to all the people of the Balonne electorate for 12 years. Nobody could have asked more of an elected representative than he gave, and if ever there was a member of the people then it was Mr. Beardmore. The needs of the humble commanded his attention before all others, and he was a renowned fighter, almost without equal, for what he believed in.

Mr. Beardmore’s work in the field of education was possibly his greatest interest. Many new schools and a host of school-bus runs bear testimony to his efforts in that field, and his poems and jokes for the children in schools throughout the whole Balonne electorate endeared him to them all. It is very pleasing indeed to see Mr. Beardmore in the gallery of the Chamber this morning.

The completion of the sealing of the Moonie Highway from Dalby to St. George—192 miles—and its official opening by the Honourable R. E. Camm on 18 December, 1968, saw an ambition of Mr. Beardmore’s fulfilled. He was also vitally interested in the extension of electricity and the further development of water conservation. The Government has been so appreciative of his great work for Balonne and for the State that it has seen fit to name the new weir above St. George the E. J. Beardmore Weir; also, a school bears his name, a street in St. George is known as Beardmore Place, and a street in Tara honours him. I know that the socialists do not approve of the names of our renowned citizens being associated with streets and national assets—they prefer numbers to names—but I believe that now that our nation is coming to its maturity and is forced to rely to a greater degree upon its own strength for survival, it truly needs a sustained memory of our past leaders because in times of crisis their achievements can be a great stiffener of backbones.

Unfortunately, Mr. Beardmore was involved in a serious motor accident late in 1968 and has since spent a considerable time in hospital. Fortunately, he is now on the road to recovery, and I am sure that all honourable members wish him a speedy return to good health and many years in which to pursue and enjoy his long-standing poetic interest and his recently acquired interests as a lapidary.

The last year of the 38th Parliament witnessed the untimely death in office of the Honourable J. C. A. Pizzey, who became Premier of Queensland after having been very well groomed and equipped to hold that high office. The name J. C. A. Pizzey was destined to be written in the annals of Queensland.

I offer my congratulations to the present Premier, Honourable J. Bjelke-Petersen. I believe that he has accepted the challenge to lead with a determination and fortitude that could be exhibited by few. Those of

us who live in the west are fortunate in his being chosen as our Leader, because he has a clear appreciation of western people and of their problems. He lived and worked in the brigalow areas of the Balonne electorate, clearing brigalow scrub with bulldozers in addition to spraying it from an aeroplane. This background, coupled with his other interests and his sheer hard work, determination, and initiative, has enabled him to become the successful figure that he is today, one whose integrity is beyond reproach. Surely such qualifications are essential to his office.

I regret that the hon. member for Somerset, Mr. Richter, had to withdraw from the Local Government portfolio because of ill-health. As a shire chairman, I have had a long and fruitful association with him and I hope that, with responsibility off his shoulders, he will be restored to his former good health.

My congratulations go also to the Honourable N. T. E. Hewitt, who has assumed the Local Government portfolio, and I look forward to working with him in his new role. I congratulate also my two new colleagues in the House, Mr. Muller, representing Fassifern in his father's stead, and Mr. Bird, who won the Burdekin seat vacated by an Independent, Mr. Coburn.

The serious drought in Queensland has plagued Country-Liberal Governments ever since they assumed office in 1957, and it is still with us. Coupled with a big recession in wool values, which also began in that same year, the drought has made this a very challenging era for the Government. However, in spite of depressed incomes, the Government has made large payments and concessions to help mitigate the effects of the drought over so many years.

I believe that we live in one of the most exciting periods of progress and development that Queensland has ever witnessed. We should be most grateful to this progressive, free-enterprise Government for the tremendous financial assistance it has been able to command from overseas, which has made this development possible. I hope that Mr. Chalk's recent visit overseas will produce more capital inflow that will further expedite the growth of industries and population of the State, which are so vital to our existence as well as our survival.

I believe it is appropriate to repeat the words of our Governor, Sir Alan Mansfield. In opening the third session of the 38th Parliament, he said:

"Queensland, as one of the world's sparsely populated parts, is going to attract covetous eyes as the world's population explodes. Succeeding generations might find it difficult to retain sole possession unless we and they exert every effort of a positive nature to settle and productively employ this domain."

In the light of this population explosion, Professor Fitzgerald of the Australian National University estimates that China

alone will have a population of some 1,000,000,000 by the turn of the century. That figure does not include the population of Japan and our near-North neighbours. We must hasten still more the development and settlement of Queensland or our tenure of this great State will be morally indefensible.

I can never understand the reasoning of anyone opposed to the use of overseas capital to develop our State. If we had to rely on our own financial resources, we would remain relatively dormant. Local funds were not available even to develop Brisbane and the Lord Mayor, Alderman Jones, had to procure loans from Geneva. How much more must Queensland as a whole depend upon overseas capital!

In its early history, America had to borrow money from England and the Continent to aid its development. Development of small properties would stagnate if landholders had to rely upon their own resources. They have to obtain outside capital from the banks and stock-houses and seek outside knowledge in order to make their holdings fully productive in the shortest possible time.

Drought of course is part and parcel of our weather environment and the further west one goes the more applicable is that statement. I only hope that, when this drought breaks and we are once again blessed with several years of good seasons, we do not forget the lessons—in fact the tragedy—of drought. Several factors could help mitigate its effects: more generous living areas, reasonable rents, greater freight concessions, larger income-tax zone allowances, more water conservation—to mention but a few. More generous living areas is the most important. I believe that we must do something to defeat the philosophy that to be a success on the land is almost criminal. A person can be the greatest success in almost any other field of human endeavour and go unnoticed. Financially stable rural communities produce similarly healthy urban centres which are so vital to rural welfare. Bad debts are minimised and urban areas expand, thus eliminating the huge drain on Government resources necessary to alleviate the plight of the man on a block that is too small. Past land administration, in designing land for settlement, has been unduly influenced by the expediency of the moment without looking at the situation over, say, a 10 to 20-year period.

To illustrate this point, at about the time of the First World War, the Weengallon area of the Waggamba shire in the Balonne area was subdivided into 640 and 1,280-acre blocks for closer settlement. It was red, light-carrying country in the lower rainfall area and the subdivision took place after several good seasons. The administrators of the day claimed that these areas could become the wheat granaries of the State. North and west of Goondiwindi land was subdivided into 1,280-acre blocks. The majority of these

small landholders had to sell out as the seasonal environment again exerted itself. Later on came the depression years of the late twenties, and in 1935, because of depressed prices, the very same land was opened for selection in blocks ranging from 16,000 acres to 24,000 acres. Many of these new selectors were allowed to subdivide their areas into half, which in fact produced healthy, sound, economic living areas; but, of course, these areas were short-lived because within a few years short-sighted land settlement again prevailed. Under the 1952 Land Amendment Act, on the basis of good seasons generally following 1947 and the wool boom of the 1950's, these 16,000-acre to 24,000-acre blocks were subdivided into areas of even below 3,500 acres but not exceeding 4,500 acres. This again demonstrated the emotional outlook of the Labour Government of the day towards land settlement.

Of course, history has forever demonstrated that with all booms come busts and that after all good seasons come droughts. By 1957 both came together, with a big slump in wool values coupled with rising costs and the beginning of the worst drought years in living memory, and a 3,500-acre block, which was adequate in good seasons and times of booming wool values, was found to be totally inadequate, so that additional areas had to be provided where they were available. Numerous unnecessary hardships have been forced upon holders of these standard blocks, and many of those landholders have not enjoyed even basic-wage standards. If the Government of the day had looked at land settlement over a long period of time and evaluated the effects of droughts, cost structures and temporary upward trends of our commodities, a much saner approach could have been made to land settlement, and the State as a whole would have benefited.

I believe that after the experience of the past the present Government realises that it is infinitely better to have two successful settlers on the land instead of three struggling settlers who require Government assistance as soon as the season turns dry. This realisation has been reflected in the size of blocks put up for ballot in recent times, including the size of the blocks that have been made available in the Fitzroy Basin. And what a transformation has taken place! What was once virtually waste land has been turned into a highly productive area supporting a large population.

During the long drought most good managers on holdings of reasonable size in my electorate were able to cope with it without having to receive hand-outs from the Government. Although their indebtedness to the banks and wool houses increased considerably, they had the equity in their land to compound the additional finance and the earning capacity to service their increased indebtedness.

Many landholders are very appreciative of the help that has been given to them by the Agricultural Bank and the Development Bank to restock their properties and to develop them. I do not refer to restocking in any derogatory sense towards the wool-brokers, because I believe that in most cases they aided their clients to the utmost of their financial ability. After all, they had a perishable commodity, which was their only security in the face of drought, and I commend them for the great part that they have played, and are still playing, in helping landholders throughout these trying times.

Landholders have been given help by the Government in many ways—in rent remissions, deferments, freight concessions, and so on—and I hope that sound suggestions will be made by the committee that is investigating freights. They are an important factor in the cost structure of primary production, especially the wool industry. Queensland's wool has to be produced on the State's home-cost structure, and over 90 per cent. of it is sold on overseas markets that are unrelated to this State's home cost. If the wool industry, which still represents an integral part of our overseas balance of payments, is not helped by some financial means, it will simply be costed out of the world markets and it will become uneconomical to produce wool.

The Government has provided assistance in many ways, but anomalies do exist in that, whereas help has been available to many people, others who are equally deserving have been denied assistance. Some time ago, when Mr. McEwen opened a United Graziers' Association conference in Brisbane, he challenged the industry to put forward to the Federal Government for examination a plan that could aid the industry in times of drought. I hope that the industry leaders will produce such a plan and present it to the Commonwealth Government for examination. However, we must do more than that to devise a formula for Government financial assistance to landholders in times of drought that is fair and equitable to all and capable of administration as well.

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

Mr. HUNGERFORD: The Federal Government's drought-bonds scheme could be of great value when good seasons return and the bonds can be purchased from higher incomes that can be expected. First, they will help to mitigate the incidence of high taxation in the years of good income, but, more importantly, they will provide a very handy, readily convertible nest-egg that can be used to help keep our stock alive. Such bonds will provide a landholder with means whereby he can help himself to a degree.

I have devoted much time to the subjects of land settlement, drought and costs, all of which are inextricably bound up in Queensland's progress. One problem we cannot overlook is loss of population in

rural areas. During the last decade almost every shire west of the Range has suffered a loss of population. I will expound on this further.

I am sure His Excellency appreciates the role played by the womenfolk of the West during the years of this heartbreaking drought. In fact, I am at a loss for words to describe adequately their great contribution in working alongside their menfolk, whether the task was helping to feed starving stock, carting water, helping with mustering, or whatever else had to be done. Even when those tasks had to be carried out in dust-storm conditions, and generally in over-century temperatures, they rallied to the cause. They still had their families to tend to, and meals to cook, and many of them were without rural power and had little water. By promoting flower displays, handicraft exhibitions and cooking contests, the Country Women's Association in particular, and generally all the women's organisations, played a great part in that they brought many of these women together in an atmosphere different from the tragedy of drought.

I believe that, today, we must recast our thinking and encourage people to live in the West. The shearer, the station worker—whoever he may be—is vital to the progress and development of rural areas. He is just as important as the landholder; one is complementary to the other. These men have to live and work in a harsh climate. They must travel long distances and, of necessity, must own a motor vehicle. Many western towns have no public transport and, of course, it costs everyone more to live in the West. It is little wonder that we have seen a population drift to the city since 1960. In fact, there has been a population decline of almost 1,000 people in the five shires within my electorate. In a young country screaming out for development this must be looked upon as a national tragedy. More must be done to arrest this trend. I am amazed that the Balonne electorate is not even included in the first taxation zone allowance which, in itself, is a mere pittance, being only \$90 a year. It should be revised and made much more realistic. People will not endure the hardships of western life without some help to meet the additional costs of everything compared with those paid by their city-based counterparts. A realistic zone allowance would be a great help.

To illustrate the cost difference of only a few commodities, I point out that a bag of sugar costs \$8.90 at Bollon compared with \$6.70 in Brisbane. One ton of cement costs \$36 in St. George, \$48 at Hebel, and \$25.95 in Brisbane. A carton of beer costs \$6.60 at St. George and \$7.80 at Bollon, but it is only \$4.28 in Brisbane—I could go on and on. In addition, education and medical facilities are very costly items of necessity. In the south-west zone, wages are more than \$50 above those in the eastern zone, so people living out in

these areas, who are helping to produce the wealth of our nation, in fact have to pay a premium for doing so. I think that is grossly unfair.

It was a great day when our Premier officially opened the E. J. Beardmore Weir at St. George. When fully completed, it will store 97,000 acre-feet of water. It is estimated that the annual production derived from its water could be of the order of \$2,333,600. That will create expansion of commerce and will uplift population, which is so vital to us all. Only water can achieve this.

Some of the best cotton in Australia is produced in the St. George area. With the expansion envisaged, a cotton ginnery could be a possibility in the not too far distant future.

The production of grain and lucerne to mitigate the effects suffered in this drought-prone area is of vital concern. However, such production should not be hampered by the unreasonable transport charges that have existed recently. It should be encouraged by all means at our disposal. The irrigationists should have a steady annual demand for these products from stock-owners so that they can accumulate a drought reserve of fodder. Again I stress that this can be possible only if realistic transport charges, and not the charges that have existed recently, are applied.

A letter from the chairman of the St. George Irrigation Farms Association, Mr. Salmon, to the Minister for Transport reads—

"It will be clearly seen that fodder can be landed from the Lockyer and other places much cheaper with rail rebates and road subsidies than it can be carted direct from St. George irrigation farms. But if a road subsidy were paid from St. George it would save both the Government and the grazier a considerable amount of money.

"The fodder producers at St. George are not after any special consideration but would like to be able to sell their produce on equal terms with producers from other areas."

The Annual Report of the Commissioner of Irrigation and Water Supply said that the proposed extension to the St. George irrigation scheme was based solely on drought mitigation. This was confirmed by the Premier at the official opening of the weir. This whole project must not be jeopardised by transport charges. We must have more projects such as the Beardmore Weir, because Australia is by far the world's driest continent. Our annual mean run-off is only 1½ inches compared with 9¾ inches for all other world masses. To further illustrate this, the average annual run-off from all Australian streams is only about half that of the Mississippi River in America. Therefore it is vital to our future progress that we develop more projects such as the Beardmore Weir.

It was of great interest to me to read the recent Press statement released by the Minister in charge of Aboriginal and Island Affairs, Mr. Sullivan, relative to Normanton Aborigines. He pointed out that in spite of a section of residents protesting, Aborigines responded to the improved standards of accommodation and that virtually no social difficulties have arisen.

This is also the case at St. George. The Government has built four homes for our fringe-dwellers there. Last August the Premier officially opened the first home, which was made available to Mr. and Mrs. H. Weatherall and their family. Another home was made available to the "grand old lady" of the fringe-dwellers, Mrs. Daisy Weatherall. Recent visits to these homes demonstrate that those Aborigines have accepted the challenge of living in modern homes. Their gardens are already comparable with many St. George home gardens.

It is most pleasing to note that the Government, satisfied of its success, is to build four more of these homes at St. George for our fringe-dwellers. Genuine help is needed to assimilate them into the white community. To simply give them a vote is surely not the end of our responsibility; it is only the beginning. To label Aborigines with their drinking habits is something that could be done to the white members of the community.

While on this problem of liquor, let me point out that beer would represent over 90 per cent. of all intoxicating liquor consumed. I can see no valid reason why the alcoholic content of beer should not be reduced. We live in a hot climate, and more beer would be consumed in Queensland than in, say, England or Germany, where the alcoholic content is less than that in Queensland. As beer is widely consumed in these cold countries, I fail to see why, in such a hot climate, the alcoholic content of our beer should be so high.

I am sure that lowering the percentage of alcohol would contribute considerably to a reduction of the toll of the road. Figures released by the State Government on 26 July of this year showed that in two months 19 of 44 drivers killed as a result of road accidents would not have passed the breathalyser test if they had been caught in time. To date the Government has done almost as much as it can to prevent the road toll. However, I believe that here is a solution that would help considerably to minimise this shocking social scourge that is with us.

As Australians, we are anxious that the growing of wheat is not in the long term unduly restricted. The best-quality wheat in the State is produced in my electorate, and the rate of expansion in area planted is in excess of 100,000 acres each year. Every day the world, with already over half its population underfed, gains a population of 180,000, so what of our moral obligation to help our fellow-man? Whether we need moral values or not, food has become the most powerful weapon in any arsenal.

I have not spoken at length of the dramatic progress in the field of all levels of education, nor of the great achievements in Central Queensland, whether they be mining, the giant alumina refinery at Gladstone, or the brigalow scheme of the Fitzroy Basin, which, in spite of the drought, has contributed to Queensland's record cattle numbers. Oil flowing along the 200-odd miles from Moonie at the rate of 4,400 barrels a day goes almost unnoticed. Natural gas also flows in a similar pipeline 300 miles long, at the rate of 1,250,000 cubic feet a day, from Roma to Brisbane to serve industry.

We have witnessed a terrific upsurge in the sealing of the State's system of main roads, and the sealing of hundreds of miles of beef roads that have already saved tens of thousands of the State's precious livestock.

Two oil refineries have been constructed in Brisbane in recent years. The once waste wallum lands are also being developed. In fact, wherever one looks great progress has taken place encompassing almost every field of human endeavour. But I believe that we must forever forge ahead; we must not bask in the glory of the past but use it only as a stepping-stone to greater progress and development, encouraging greater population growth.

We all pray that the signs of settlement of the war in Vietnam will soon come to fruition, and that our young men and women will be returned to a much more gainful occupation.

In moving the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply to the Opening Speech of His Excellency, may I assure him that we will apply ourselves in the State's best interests and be citizens as worthy as this great State demands.

Dr. CRAWFORD (Wavell) (2.28 p.m.): I thank the House for giving me the opportunity to second the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. I have listened with great interest to my colleague from Balonne, who dealt with problems that he has encountered in the West. I was also interested to hear His Excellency yesterday enumerate many of the new measures that are to be introduced in this session of the Thirty-ninth Parliament. I also wish to deal with some aspects of legislation.

I do not believe in platitudinous conversation; I do not believe in wasting time. I therefore feel that my ideas on certain aspects of health legislation might well be aired by me at this time. Churchill defined criticism in these terms: "Criticism may not be agreeable but it is necessary. It fulfils the same function as pain in the human body. It calls attention to an unhealthy state of things." I feel that that definition is pertinent to one who has practised medicine for the length of time that I have.

A friend of mine stated recently that the only difference between a rut and a grave was the depth of the cut, and that if one was in a rut, it was time one began to think constructively and move oneself from it. In general, these concepts urge us to examine critically all matters with which we deal and not to accept a face-value opinion without thoughtful analysis. This is especially true in medical practice, where frequently analysis of a situation must be followed by immediate action and prevarication can be followed by loss of life and not merely, in its definition, be a "thief of time".

It is not particularly easy to stand up in public and say that something is wrong. For any person to do this, he must be prepared to confront the establishment of his day and convince the powers of that establishment that he is right and they are wrong. History shows us many examples of this type of conflict, and I must admit that I admire the contemporary New South Wales Government, which decided that Sydney was being badly governed by the city council, dismissed that body, and appointed three commissioners, and, as a result, got a very successful administration.

Let us examine for a moment one historical element and revert to the British scene of the 1806-1807 era. Pitt died in 1806, but he had espoused during his lifetime Wilberforce's efforts to secure a critical reevaluation of the slave trade. Pitt, himself, was the epitome of the establishment of his day. He was otherwise not particularly interested in social reform, but he did, as I said, back Wilberforce in his early efforts. In spite of that, it was a further 30 years, and after Wilberforce's death, before any worth-while anti-slavery legislation was passed.

The year 1807 also saw the death of one John Newton, who had been a clergyman, a writer of some of the greatest hymns ever written in the English language, and a friend of many of the greatest men of the time. So ingrained, however, was the accepted order of his day (the establishment) that it was not considered unusual that Newton had been ordained into the Church when following his usual occupation as a captain of a slave ship. Some of the best hymns in our language were written by that man while his unfortunate cargo was wailing below decks. I use this example purely to point out that the very best and greatest of men can be so wrong in their judgment that the results of their mistakes continue for generations. Many of America's present racial troubles are due directly to the persistence of the slave traffic during last century. Hon. members will recall, of course, that there was a necessity for a civil war to free the slaves.

There is, of course, much misconception about the word "establishment", anyway. We are all members of the establishment, in all our various occupations. It has

been well said that people secure the Government that they deserve, and I believe that every citizen is responsible for the wealth and health of his Government. How often do we hear the expression, "Leave it to George". How difficult it is to find George! This attitude is simply one method of abdicating responsibility, and destructive criticism also is in the same category because it is based on the premise that there is wrong everywhere.

I believe that criticism, as long as it is constructive, is right and just, and I refer the House to an article in a recent issue of "The Australian" in which Henry Mayer discussed the subject "When Should a Public Servant Remain Private?" It is not irrational, to my mind, to allow in commerce, industry, or Government, unlimited constructive criticism of the actions or decisions of a subsection, a section, or the top echelons of management. As long as this was encouraged to occur without rancour or acrimony, it would immediately air many new ideas, encourage all personnel to develop their own initiative and efficiency, and force the higher echelons to either rationally defend their actions or adjust to, and therefore adopt, new and progressive ideas. The constructive element is essential and would preclude notice being taken of any irresponsible element in any stratum of society who have no real desire to improve any institution but only to destroy for personal gain and other doubtful motives.

We are all well aware of what is happening in the world along those lines at the moment. An adjudication system would be necessary to evaluate the more worthy of conflicting ideas. Henry Mayer points out that "repetition of the old slogans as if they were eternal laws of nature precludes even the asking of the key question, 'What kinds of freedom bring what sorts of benefits at what costs?'".

As one who has practised medicine for almost 25 years in this State, I have of course had some opportunity to study in depth the general health arrangement in this State and also to gain some expertise in administration of overseas hospitals and health units, and I have no hesitation in saying that our system as implemented in Queensland is wrong. One needs to be born and bred through our own university and hospital system to appreciate the full implications of the erroneous methods used to govern the various health and hospital services.

I do not believe in destructive comments, as I have said, and I am convinced also that any personal attack on any person presently or in the past associated with the health services is unnecessary and unjust. It matters little under the system pertaining in Queensland for the past three decades what individuals tried to do. The legislation relevant to the whole department is so constituted that it would take a veritable Solomon—a mixture of Solomon and the

Angel Gabriel—to implement it efficiently. The only real criterion by which a nurse, a doctor or a patient can gauge the efficiency of, say, a major hospital is the quality of the service to the “end product”, namely, the patient. The vast majority of the medical and nursing practising professional people who have passed through the Queensland schools would agree with my statement that it is necessary to work in institutions outside this State to find the “end product” of the type we all desire.

The late Winston Noble was aware of many difficulties during his tenure of office in this House, but even he, who had not graduated here, did not, I feel, realise the complete extent of the problem engendered by the legislation and the impossibility of really efficient implementation. I feel genuinely sorry for any Minister, or anyone else, who under these circumstances has to attempt to steer the health ship between the Scylla of legislatively-induced complacency and the Charybdis of legislatively-condoned inefficiency. Do-nothing complacency in any aspect of human endeavour is, to my mind, the worst possible mistake, and I think this applies to efforts in this House also.

It is fine to have great buildings and pleasant physical work environment, and in recent years we have acquired many great new buildings associated with our hospitals. But the best standards of work in medicine are achieved only by inspired leadership, maintenance of a high level of morale, and continuous training and supervision of junior staff. It is vital that this be believed as there has never been in my experience—my colleagues to a man would endorse this—any esprit de corps or sense of belonging (a necessary attribute in human relationship) fostered in any part of our hospital system. I knew a man in London who was a doctor and became a drug addict. As part of his drug addiction he killed a child. He went to gaol for many years but when he came out of that particular establishment he was rehabilitated by his own hospital in a non-medical aspect of work for which he was highly capable and was able to completely overcome it. That could not happen in this State.

I emphasise that what I am saying is not what some disgruntled constituent has told me for political reasons and not a situation for which any individual is to blame; it is purely the result of bad health legislation. The latter gives the impression, at best, of being framed in ignorance, and, at worst, of being the result of a persecuted paranoid mentality. It is used to always maintain the status quo, stifling all criticism, and has the complete and only object of protecting the political situation of the moment. I could be vicious and vituperative, Mr. Speaker, and quote examples of the “end product”—patient maltreatment—which would curl your hair. I do not intend to do this because it would only be destructive, but it is worth re-emphasising that although individuals are naturally involved in this

it is not the fault of the individuals but of the system. It is also worth reiterating that such examples are within the ambit of my personal knowledge.

I would ask in this context one simple question to give a very mild example of the system: how can a nurse who has just commenced the second year of her training run a 40 or 50-bed medical ward at night with only one other junior nurse to assist her, especially when that junior may also have to be available for the next-door ward? It is pertinent to point out that the second-year nurse is unlikely to have attended any medical lectures at this stage, and would not know, for example, the complications of diabetes. In this State the nurse wastage is 21 per cent.

There are many examples of this bad end-product, and hon. members who wish to investigate them should read the articles written by Arthur Richards in 1961. Since then some of the anomalies have been corrected and major advances have occurred in psychiatry, child guidance and the treatment of alcoholism, but the basic bad legislation remains unchanged. It is interesting to note that the articles by Arthur Richards resulted from a criticism of the hospital system by the then president of the British Medical Association, Dr. Earnshaw, who said that Queensland public hospitals were deteriorating and that they were offering second-rate service to the public, that is, patient care, and were seriously lagging behind hospitals in southern capitals. Of course, the usual platitudes from the hospital board spokesman of the day resulted from that remark. Perhaps the B.M.A., now the Australian Medical Association, could and should have done more over the years, but legislation of this type can be altered only in this House.

When we examine in detail the Hospitals Acts, 1936 to 1967, we find that the seniority of the Public Service is carefully protected in detail and that a representative of a local authority is welcomed as a hospital board appointee. As long as a man is not a criminal or insane he need have no qualifications whatsoever. However, there is a disqualification for all employees of any board in Queensland, and this quite satisfactorily precludes any nurse or doctor who is associated with the hospital from having any real say in the organisation of that hospital. Once the board is constituted it can pass by-laws, which shall not be questioned in any proceedings whatsoever and against which every offence committed shall be adjudicated upon and punished. The regulations under the Hospitals Acts then forbid any employee from commenting upon the administration of any section under the board's control and general hospital administration. These sections of the Act could not be more stultifying or more conducive to bad administration if they had been deliberately designed to be so by the paranoid mentality that I have already mentioned.

Hospital control may be by any one of three general methods—called in administrative circles the “pyramids” of administration—and they are: lay administration, the nursing set-up, and doctors. The ladies of many religious orders who are also practical and practising nurses often evolve into excellent administrators, but in general I feel that the role of nurses and doctors is the practice of their professions and not the administration of a big business.

A hospital or health service can be compared with a major industrial undertaking. I would consider that the ideal person to administer a major hospital or health unit is one who had a degree in commerce or economics, or his accountancy qualifications, plus a post-graduate course in administration from, perhaps, Boston. Our own institute of technology offers a diploma in business administration over a three-year, part-time evening course, and attendance at this course should be mandatory for any administrator in this State. This diploma very wisely follows other university or technology training, plus two years' practical experience in commerce, industry or public service. A person so qualified would be one whom a major industrial concern would be keen to employ. I can think of Mount Isa Mines Limited and the Broken Hill Company. In order to assist the administrator and advise him in each section, a commission or a board of governors of practising doctors, nurses and leading citizens, such as lawyers, accountants and union administrators, should be appointed. In Queensland a medical man who is, on the whole, non-practising or minimally practising is appointed to be in charge of a hospital or health unit, and then, as previously outlined, a board is appointed whose members electively have no qualifications.

This is almost a Gilbertian situation. Hon. members may recall “H.M.S. Pinafore,” in which it was said that the way to become the ruler of the Queen's Navy was to stay away from ships and the sea. The end result under our system is inferior patient care in all its forms. To correct the situation the Hospitals Acts must be repealed in toto, as no modification of the Acts would suffice. I suggest that after the old legislation is expunged the whole health service should be divided into three self-governing sections: first, mental health and welfare, second, public health, and third, hospitals.

The first two sections would each have its own board of governors which would be quite autonomous, responsible only to the Minister. Its members would comprise practising professional men and women and co-opted leading citizens. Any member of any section under the control of the board would be given the right—not forbidden as at present—preferably outside the specific Public Service regulations previously mentioned, to present constructive criticism to the board, and the collective decision of the

board of governors would then be binding on all and could be changed only by the Minister.

With hospital services a small, expert professional hospital services commission would control the country hospital services. The metropolitan hospitals, as with the other sections, could have autonomous boards of governors which, again, would consist of practising doctors and leading professional, business and industrial people. The hospital matron should always be a voting member of the board. The over-all administration of the whole service would be under the control of our specifically trained administrator, who would co-ordinate office work and accountancy, would be a member of all boards, and the co-ordinator between the boards and the Minister.

Wages in many parts of the Public Service are still paid in cash with an armed police escort in attendance, particularly in some parts of the Health Department. I do not know if that is because some people do not trust the “nasty cheque” type of payment, but re-organisation of the whole administration is necessary. However, the administrator would not have power to veto board decisions but could, in his co-ordinating role, call a conference of all parties with the Minister. For example, disagreement about financial policy or priorities would be ironed out by a collective attack. Efficiency throughout the service would be the keynote and the present pseudo-political marionette situation where people dance to the political tune would cease because each section would be composed of practising and practical experts whose collective opinion would give the best possible answer to each and every problem.

Under such a system hospitals would be proud institutions, and the esprit de corps that one finds in the best overseas institutions and service divisions, such as child guidance, school health and baby clinics, could be expanded to full capacity—and be much less expensive—as centres of preventive medicine, rather than indulging in the expensive pastime of correcting present illnesses. These service clinics would be expanded so that assessment and treatment of disturbed children would be immediately available and progressively organised, so that no child whose future is in jeopardy need wait the present six months for treatment.

The new organisation, with practising professional people in control, would apportion available finances where the greatest need existed. It would also preclude the situation I have seen in which a senior Government servant viewing a long queue outside a casualty department, has remarked, “Who's wasting time with all this diagnosis? Get on with the treatment.”

It is worth noting at this stage that one of the most efficient organisations we have had in this State was formed by the late Dr. Noble in 1961, when it was noted that maternal mortality in Queensland had risen

above the national average. He summoned a committee of all interested parties with as wide as possible cover and within two years the mortality rate in Queensland was the lowest in Australia.

On finances, the cost structure immediately arises. How much? First of all, efficiency is always an adjunct to keeping costs down. Under the new arrangements, with every person doing the job that he has been trained to do, costs should decrease, especially as many of the board of governors' positions would be filled by employees of the boards. As far as the over-all health costs are concerned, the latest statistics available—those for 1965-66—show Queensland as spending about 60 per cent. as much per bed-unit compared with New South Wales and Victoria. Of course, one cannot directly compare these costs statistically but I do know that my colleagues in southern hospitals are not displeased with the general efficiency of their hospitals, as is virtually every Queensland doctor.

It has been argued that southern hospitals waste money by competing with each other and that centralised control is cheaper. Competition between hospitals for the best equipment and the best staff is healthy, and promotes both pride of accomplishment and efficiency. I also point out that as far as over-all hospital financing is concerned we make no real effort to raise money for our hospitals from the public, or from wealthy philanthropists. I worked at one establishment in England in which one of the leading surgeons was very busily engaged in this and succeeded in getting £1,500,000 from a financier for a research unit. In our hospitals we have, for standard financing, fees, donations and Government hand-outs.

I do not wish to denigrate the "holy cow" of Queensland political thinking, namely, the free hospital system, but this is not nearly as important as it has been thought to be in the past. Most of the large Australian hospitals in the South collect only a very moderate amount of their income from fees. It is 29.5 per cent. in New South Wales, 25.3 per cent. in Western Australia, and generally over Australia it is less than 30 per cent.

The Nimmo Commission's report, resulting from the investigation of the whole fee structure in Australian medical and hospital practice, will, when its recommendations are implemented, help Queensland immeasurably. There will doubtless be, Australia-wide, a standard medical benefit cover which, being financed by the Commonwealth, will enable pensioners, deserted wives and the poorer members of our community to be treated "free," under the usual system, but to have their commitments paid for by the insuring agent.

It is here that the answer lies in Queensland, as elsewhere, for our major expense, namely, a standard hospital bed. The price of this unit in Queensland has risen from

\$9 to about \$14 daily in the past three years, and it will go higher. On some recent figures I saw, the present fee in Victoria is \$20 a day, and it is expected to rise to \$40 within the next decade.

This rise is inevitable and will continue rapidly for many reasons we cannot control. We will not control the costs of expanding technology, but we can promote efficiency by the methods I have outlined. It is, in effect, as one of my colleagues remarked the other day, cheaper to put a patient into Lennons Hotel and send him up and down to Wickham Terrace for investigations than to use the hospital-bed system with delay after delay.

These are only some facets of actual costing. I can assure you that cheapness, however relative, is not synonymous with efficiency, as has always been assumed in Queensland, even though I am convinced that the new system would, by presenting the ultimate in careful control by the best available people, reduce the relative costs.

Perhaps one more word on costs is pertinent at this stage. Neither the New South Wales or the Victorian means testing nor the United Kingdom nationalisation system is the answer. In the U.K., costs have skyrocketed to bankruptcy levels with decreasing efficiency of individual units. When I left England it took a patient three years to have a hernia operation done and it took five years to have his piles or varicose veins attended to, because of the waiting list. The waiting list in England is used as a political negotiating weapon. I was castigated at one stage in one particular hospital at which I worked for cleaning up the waiting list by working harder than most other people were prepared to do. My action was not popular, because there was then no negotiating weapon to put to the local government to get a new casualty department.

Let me turn now to nursing and nurse training. We have now reached the crossroads in nurse education where we have to make, in conjunction with the other States, new decisions of a permanent nature. Australia-wide thinking on these matters foreshadows radical changes from our past methods.

Nurses will need to be considered as students receiving tertiary education and, as such, will need to be housed for teaching purposes in technological institutes or their equivalents. These institutes—and we will need several in Queensland for regional training to be efficient—can be financed partly under the auspices of education departments and aided appreciably by Commonwealth grants. A girl who has not reached matriculation standard with her secondary education will have to be accommodated in the institute for a year or two educationally before proceeding to the full course.

It is quite farcical for the present Nurses Board in Queensland to organise, with its usual attitude of secrecy and omnipotence, a new curriculum to be introduced in the near future, however desirable the principle of a new curriculum in itself may be—and it is desirable.

We must first completely reorganise our teaching facilities both academic and practical, and for this, in the opinion of many informed and practising nurses and doctors who actually do the teaching, a technological institute-type approach is mandatory. The projected new curriculum for the State can be accepted as a rough guide to a future curriculum in principle—and I discussed this with Commonwealth educators—and a start can be made now, while the teaching institutes are being organised, to implement a much wider scope of general nursing subjects, practical and theoretical, in a greatly expanded number of hours.

Eventually, in a three-year training, almost one-third of the time will be used for instruction of the students and implementing the ideal that every nurse, even if she is based primarily at Barcaldine or St. George, shall be part of a regional training scheme. She will then work, by the exchange method, partly at her base hospital and partly in specialised units in big centres such as intensive care units and paediatric and geriatric units.

I emphasise that it is only second best when a Nurses Board or other unit, composed mainly of non-practising personnel, makes bureaucratic decisions without consulting the widest possible circle of doctors and nurses who are in active practice and are involved in active teaching. In theory the Nurses Board could work; in practice it does not work to anything like maximum efficiency, the main reason being that, as with hospitals boards, an entirely new concept is essential.

In Queensland lower fees are paid to nurses in the higher echelons than are paid in the South. The general remuneration of nurses in the lower grades is comparable, but it is not in the case of those in the more advanced teaching positions. Some of these things may be impossible now and miracles take a little longer, but this is something at which we should aim.

Our health organisation in general may have been sufficient for earlier, "horse-and-buggy" days, but it is wholly and totally inadequate for 1969. The complete reorganisation that I have briefly outlined will not conjure money magically out of the air, and it will not completely alleviate the shortage of nurses. In Melbourne, by the way, wards are closed in preference to lowering standards of patient care by spreading the cover of nurses thinly, as we do, and that "thin cover" is a very difficult thing for both the nurses and the patients. The end result of reorganisation would be maximum efficiency of available resources, because the best

brains available would make decisions in the fields in which they are specifically trained. Encouragement of constructive criticism would give esprit de corps, and individual effort to "my hospital" or "my unit" would result. An individual would then feel that he was working for the direct benefit of his section or his hospital, and that he actually could make his voice heard in management.

Costs would not increase per se because new employees in any large number would not be needed, and most doctors and nurses are still, in spite of our permissive society, prepared to give many hours of their spare time free and freely to worth-while projects. There is no need to pay members of boards of governors, and I still like a truly "honorary" visiting staff. I have heard non-medical Government personnel express the opinion that paid visiting staff "control" them. That attitude is quite ludicrous. With the correct spirit in hospitals as exists in many schools, massive fund-raising projects could be undertaken to involve the general public, and unlimited benefits would flow therefrom, as happens in the case of many of the best English hospitals.

The Queensland image of free hospital beds need not be disturbed, but, as I have indicated, I do not consider this aspect in any way a major problem, especially as implementation of the Nimmo Report submissions will overcome the basic difficulty of who is going to pay the unit cost. However, the time for decision and implementation is now.

There is a law in physiology called the "All or None" law. The whole rationale that I have outlined comes into the same category. If the health system is to be improved, it is useless to call for reports about the treatment of so-and-so, investigate why there is an out-patient delay, why a pathological report was lost for two years, or why patients lie around in bed in hospital for days or weeks waiting for X-rays. These various "inquiries" do not even chip the surface of the tip of the iceberg which is visible above water, and I have deliberately refrained from starting any witch-hunt or backing any move to replace this person or that. I am quite convinced that the majority of our present health personnel could work efficiently under the new aegis that I have outlined, but we are doomed to ignominy if we continue the present path.

Politicians must make these decisions, and I am speaking not from hearsay but from personal practical experience and my own knowledge. If this is thought to be prejudiced or motivated by parochial bigotry, I am wasting time, and health services will become less and less efficient. In situations where we have, in spite of the legislation, first-class practical and practising doctors in control of units, first-class establishments

result. One very good example in Brisbane is the State Health Laboratory. The same situation could not exist in a hospital in Queensland, for the reasons already discussed. Hospitals on an international scale have gradings given them by the various Royal colleges, and these gradings must be of an adequate standard to be recognised by those colleges for specialist training programmes. It would be tragic if a major Brisbane hospital was so down-graded as to denigrate its reputation permanently, and this could happen. I assure the House that I know something of hospitals whose standards are pitifully inferior, as I had the opportunity recently to study the local hospital and medical services in Vietnam from close quarters for some months.

I assure the House that with my system of legislative renewal, of which the vast majority of doctors and nurses will approve, we would be able to turn our health system away from "pro bono politico" to "pro bono publico"—for the good of the public. Abraham Lincoln said that individual meanness sometimes has to be instigated for the public good. If I may be sufficiently egotistical to quote Bertrand Russell and state that I agree with him, "It is vital for man's survival that we cease to regard each other as devils, that we cease to lie about each other, cease to suppress the truth and begin to disseminate facts and work for the survival of our kind while time permits. It is no longer adequate to simply point to the evils of others for this is, more often than not, no more than a reflection of our own behaviour or a projection of our own hostility." The correction of the health services legislation of this State warrants the support of every member of this House and is outside party or parochial issues.

After I had prepared this speech, I picked up last week a recent edition of the Medical Journal of Australia in which there was an article headed "Who will Nurse the Sick in the Seventies?" by a Victorian doctor. That paper gives a survey of reasons for nurse shortages in Australia and overseas and discusses the 10 per cent. to 60 per cent. drop-out rates in various hospitals in Victoria and elsewhere. An English survey stresses the importance of the optimum size of hospitals, as any hospital which wishes to recruit nurses must develop and maintain a reputation as a nurse-training centre; huge hospitals with an impersonal approach will lose the personal approach to its nurse trainees. Again, nurse wastage is symptomatic of how well a hospital is managed, and hospitals, therefore, are classified as "friendly", "cold", or "deserving no comment". In a good hospital "all staff members become confident in their work, comments are encouraged at all levels on patient treatment and thus an atmosphere of relaxation is created so that the very heavy responsibility found in a hospital can be readily shared".

The attainment of such a Utopian ideal in Queensland institutions will have to commence by repeal of the present health legislation. Reform is imperative.

Debate, on motion of Mr. Houston, adjourned.

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Orders in Council under—

Medical Act 1939–1968.

Health Act 1937–1968.

The Explosives Acts, 1952 to 1963.

The Pharmacy Acts, 1917 to 1967.

The Ambulance Services Act of 1967.

Regulations under—

The Hospitals Acts, 1936 to 1967.

The Mental Health Acts, 1962 to 1964.

The Explosives Acts, 1952 to 1963.

Health Act 1937–1968.

The Nurses Act of 1964.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

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

"That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 11 a.m. on Tuesday, 19 August, 1969."

Question put; and the House divided—

AYES, 44

Ahern	Knox
Armstrong	Lee
Bird	Lickiss
Bjelke-Petersen	Loneragan
Camm	Low
Campbell	Miller
Carey	Moore, R. E.
Chalk	Muller
Chinchen	Murray
Cory	Newbery
Crawford	Porter
Delamothe	Rae
Diplock	Ramsden
Herbert	Richter
Hewitt, N. T. E.	Row
Hinze	Sullivan
Hodges	Tomkins
Hooper	Tooth
Houghton	Wharton
Hughes	<i>Tellers:</i>
Hungerford	Hewitt, W. D.
Jones, V. E.	McKechnie
Kaus	

NOES, 32

Aiken	Jordan
Aikens	Lloyd
Baldwin	Marginson
Bennett	Melley
Blake	Moore, F. P.
Bousen	Newton
Bromley	O'Donnell
Casey	Sherrington
Davis	Thackeray
Davis	Tucker
Dean	Wallis-Smith
Hanlon	Wood, B.
Hanson	Wright
Houston	<i>Tellers:</i>
Inch	Harris
Jensen	Wood, P.
Jones, R.	

Resolved in the affirmative.

The House adjourned at 3.14 p.m.