

many families in New South Wales would agree that the Teachers Federation has adopted a course of action which, as the representative of teachers, it feels it must. The members of the executive of the federation obviously realize that it is not the teachers or the Government who will suffer from a shortage of staff or lack of teaching services; our children are the ones who will suffer. Next year the Minister for Education intends to dispense with sport in high schools. Probably many mothers and fathers in this State do not realize that the abandonment of school sport means that students will work only a four and a half day week. For that other half day students, many of them adolescents, may return home. Some will return to an empty home, particularly when both parents are required to work to make ends meet. No doubt some children will get on to the streets and become involved in mischief—perhaps even head towards juvenile delinquency.

It is regrettable that the education system in this State has reached this deplorable stage. On the odd occasion that the Minister for Education has said something about his ministry he has not expressed any regret at the state of our school system. Generally he has been conspicuous by his silence when requests have been made by students, teachers or parents and citizens' organizations.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. H. J. McPherson.

House adjourned, on motion by the Hon. J. B. M. Fuller, at 6.28 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, 17 August, 1971

Petition (Increases in Rail and Bus Fares and Hospital Fees)—Questions without Notice—Printing Committee (Second Report)—Governor's Speech: Address in Reply (Sixth Day's Debate)—Adjournment (Fairfield Zoning).

Mr SPEAKER (THE HON. SIR KEVIN ELLIS) took the chair at 2.30 p.m.

Mr SPEAKER offered the Prayer.

PETITION

INCREASES IN RAIL AND BUS FARES AND HOSPITAL FEES

Mr FERGUSON presented a petition from certain citizens of New South Wales praying that action be taken to revoke the recent increases in rail and bus fares and to maintain hospital fees at their present level.

Petition received on motion by Mr Ferguson.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

RURAL RECONSTRUCTION SCHEME

Mr MASON: I ask the Minister for Lands whether the proposed new Commonwealth involvement in rural reconstruction has commenced. Will the Minister inform the House of the number of applications that have been received by the Rural Reconstruction Board? In particular, is he in a position to indicate plans for people who may be rejected by the board and placed in the most unenviable position of having to leave their properties?

Mr LEWIS: The scheme went into operation some time before the end of June last. I am sorry that I am unable to inform the House of the exact amount that has been made available up to date from the State and the Commonwealth for the rural reconstruction scheme. In any event the State has been using its money in combination with the Commonwealth money and a division between the sums of money used from the Commonwealth and from State sources has not yet been made. All members of the rural community are grateful to the Commonwealth for advancing this money. May I just set at rest the mind of the honourable member for Dubbo and other honourable members about the availability of these funds. There has been some criticism to the effect that \$100,000,000 will not be sufficient to handle rural reconstruction, either financially or physically. The Commonwealth made it quite clear at the January conference and in subsequent talks that if the State boards ran out of finance a review would be made and additional finance would be forthcoming.

The honourable member directs his question also to the situation of persons who have made application and have been refused. He asks me as well the number of applications, roughly, that have been made. From memory, I should think that there are about 1,300 applications. May I say that applications vary according to the circumstances, in that applications are often made in multiple names. In respect of partnerships or co-ownership of a lease or freehold property there would obviously be two applications because both individuals must apply. Therefore, the number of cases would be somewhat under 1,300 and would be, I suggest, about 700 or 800.

Because of delays in handling these cases, I have had a conversation with the new president of the Rural Bank of New South Wales, Mr John Oliver, who has informed me—and I expect to meet him first thing tomorrow morning—that a deputy director or secretary is likely to be appointed to the Rural Reconstruction Board, and it is likely that this officer will be an officer of the Rural Bank. This will help in processing the applications. Additional space has been made available at the premises of the Rural Bank, and more clerks also will be made available. In addition, it has been suggested—and no doubt Mr Oliver and I will be discussing this tomorrow morning—that it may be necessary to ask for assistance from private enterprise in the way of valuers and the like. I had a discussion this morning with a sort of brains trust that was set up by me.

[Interruption]

Mr LEWIS: I said that it was set up by me: quite obviously nobody from the Opposition side contributed to it. The Opposition may think that this is an amusing matter, but it is not amusing to people in the rural community, with the way wool prices are today. At least Government supporters are interested in my reply, and I am sure that the rural community also will be interested. Mr Bill Vines, head of Dalgety and Company, and Mr Keith Steel have offered their services, together with Mr John Lord, a grazier from the Western Division, and the former Western Lands Commissioner, Mr Ted Greig. In a conversa-

tion with them this morning I was given to believe that there would be no difficulty in obtaining assistance of persons on secondment from private industry.

Mr NEILLY: It is not only the wool industry that is in trouble; all industries are in trouble.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Cessnock to order.

Mr LEWIS: They will help us to process applications that are coming forward in increasing numbers. As the result of the discussions with these gentlemen this morning, and with the head of the Rural Bank, and as a result of discussions that have been held at Cabinet level—and, if I may say so, at Government level, with most Government supporters representing country electorates taking part—it has been agreed that there should be a counselling service for persons who may not yet have applied for rural reconstruction, physically or financially, or may have applied but have not yet been dealt with, or have applied and been refused. We have agreed that it is necessary to obtain staff and to train them so that counsellors will be able to travel through the various regions of the State, particularly areas in which large numbers of applications are being made for rural reconstruction. Those counsellors will give assistance, social and humane; they will give advice on where persons should go if they need employment, where they may obtain houses, where tuition is available for their children, or where they or members of their family may be re-trained. The idea is to make counsellors a sounding board of practical experience for persons who live in the rural community and find themselves in some difficulty.

I hope that this answer will satisfy honourable members that the Government is doing everything humanly possible to assist the unfortunate people who, through no fault of their own, but mainly as a result of bad seasons and low prices for primary products, now find themselves in a desperate position.

SECOND HIGH SCHOOL FOR BROKEN HILL

Mr JOHNSTONE: I ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Minister for Science a question without notice. Did the Minister in 1967, on his only inspection of the school system at Broken Hill, state that a second high school was urgently needed to relieve pressure on the Broken Hill high school, which at that time was the largest in the State, with an enrolment of 1,900 students? Did the Minister say in 1968 that a new school would be completed in time for the commencement of the school year in 1972, and did he later amend this to 1973? Is the Minister aware that due to the rural depression and the normal increase in population, enrolment at the Broken Hill high school in 1972 could be in the vicinity of 2,500 students, making the high school the largest in the southern hemisphere, and that this will adversely affect the education of the students there? Will the Minister tell the House whether construction of the new high school at Broken Hill can be commenced immediately as promised, so that students at Broken Hill will obtain education equal to that available to students in other parts of the State?

Mr CUTLER: I recall that in 1967 or 1968—I am not sure which—I visited Broken Hill to inspect education facilities in that city. I found some of the services in Broken Hill worse than I have seen in many parts of New South Wales. For instance, I saw an old corrugated iron building with a bougainvillea growing over it. This had been built originally as some sort of an outhouse but had been converted into a classroom. I visited also the Broken Hill high school and found that it had a population, from my recollection, not of 1,900, as the honourable member mentioned, but one approaching 2,100 or 2,200. I know proposals had been put forward over a number of years to divide the high school and to build a second high school and that they had been opposed by local people and, I think, the parents and citizens association. I gathered also from my visit that the former Minister for Education, who happened to be the member for Cobar, had refused to make a decision on whether the high

school should be split in two or whether a new high school should be built. Because of the number of children in the high school at that time, I made an immediate decision that a second high school should be built at Broken Hill and that there should be a division made to bring the number in each high school down to what is considered a reasonable size these days—that is about a 1,000-student high school.

It is true also that following the acquisition of a site which I authorized some time later, I said that I hoped the school might be built for the opening of the 1972 school year. However, local representations were made to me by the parents and citizens association, and I think also by the honourable member for Broken Hill, asking that air-conditioning be included in the new school. A special design was required to incorporate some form of air-conditioning or air-cooling in the school at Broken Hill, and I authorized action to that end. The local parents and citizens association felt not only that I should keep to my original undertaking to build the school by the opening of the 1972 school year but also that the new planning ought to be included in that building. This, of course, was clearly impossible, as I pointed out to the honourable member for Broken Hill at the time. I emphasized that if the school was to be redesigned on special lines, obviously the Department of Public Works and its architects would need additional time to do this work. This view was finally accepted and I was hopeful that with the new planning, the school would be built for the opening of the 1973 school year with air-conditioning or an air-cooling system in it.

In due course I received from the Department of Public Works an estimate of the cost of building the new school with air-conditioning. This was somewhere in the vicinity of double the amount of money it cost to build a 1,000-student high school anywhere in New South Wales, except in one case here in Sydney. Naturally enough, I requested the Department of Public Works to have a second look because the amount of money was, in my view anyway, quite extreme for building one high

school. It was pointed out to me that with a building in an isolated area such as Broken Hill, there were additional costs that had something to do with industrial conditions that exist there and that a certain amount of additional cost, running into about \$500,000, was quite reasonable having regard to all the circumstances. So I finally approved the preparation of plans and following action on the proposal to build that particular high school.

I should not like it to be thought by the honourable member for Broken Hill—and I know he does not think this—and I should not like it to be thought by anybody, that Broken Hill is being neglected in its education requirements. In fact, I have given special attention to Broken Hill, as I am trying to give special attention to the people who live in isolated areas of this State. I consider that Broken Hill has had a good run as far as the expenditure of funds in that area is concerned. I might mention that Alma public school has had \$670,000, in round figures, spent on it; Broken Hill public school, about \$28,000; Broken Hill high school, \$300,000; and Morgan Street public school, \$315,000. I can hear my colleagues on the Government side of the House starting to protest at this. The Silverlea school, a special school for subnormal children in Broken Hill, has had \$60,000 spent on it. This makes a total of \$1,371,000 spent on schools in the Broken Hill area since I became Minister.

I am happy to be able to inform the House that agreement has been reached on the design of the new building. As I said, this represents a considerable departure from what is normal for high schools in New South Wales but results from the special difficulties existing in Broken Hill. The new school will be of about three storey construction and though the accommodation will be equivalent to that provided in the new Canobolas high school at Orange or Mount Austin high school at Wagga Wagga, the cost of this new building in Broken Hill will be almost double the cost of those other major high schools.

Because of the tremendous additional cost involved in providing this building in Broken Hill, I have one further problem

Mr Cutler]

and that is, of course, the provision of finance. As I do not know yet what the loan allocation for the Department of Education will be for the year 1971-72, I am unable to inform the House when tenders will be called. I have taken a special interest in this project at Broken Hill. It was my decision and mine alone; it was a personal decision to split the old high school in Broken Hill from a school of 2,200 pupils into two schools of 1,100 pupils. Because it was my decision I shall continue to take an interest in the school and I assure the honourable member and the House that tenders will be called as soon as I have the money.

SALE OF FIREWORKS

Mr N. D. WALKER: I address my question to the Minister for Mines. Is it a fact that consideration is being given to the banning of fireworks in this State? If it is decided to ban the sale of these hazardous objects, will the Minister consider giving small shopkeepers in the State an opportunity to dispose of the stocks that they have on hand?

Mr FIFE: As I intimated to the House last week, I am considering whether some further restriction should be placed on the sale of fireworks in New South Wales. Concurrently with giving consideration to all aspects of this matter I am considering representations made to me on behalf of retailers and manufacturers of fireworks in New South Wales. It is true that a request has been made that if a decision is taken to ban the sale of certain types of fireworks, these types should be phased out over a period. Though I appreciate the concern of the small shopkeeper and manufacturer in this matter, I and the Government have an overriding responsibility to consider how it affects children and the rest of the community. However, I shall have regard to the points made by the honourable member and other persons who have made representations on this subject.

SECOND INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Mr COADY: My question is directed to the Minister for Local Government and Minister for Highways. Is it a fact that

since jet aircraft have come to Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport, Mascot, many thousands of citizens have suffered from the cruel noise that disturbs the privacy of their homes? Have there been many interruptions to school lessons and church services in the flight paths to the aerodrome? Does one flight path pass over the Drum-moyne electorate? Is the real solution of this problem a matter for the Department of Civil Aviation, but can the State assist in finding a site for a second international airport in a non-urban area, as was done at Tullamarine near Melbourne, with much less noise nuisance to the people? Will the Minister intimate whether the State Planning Authority and the Commonwealth Department of Civil Aviation are making any progress in finding a suitable site for a second international airport in New South Wales?

Mr MORTON: It is a fact that aircraft noise has become a major problem in settled areas around Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport. As honourable members know, discussions have taken place between the State Planning Authority and the Department of Civil Aviation in relation to future building development within that area. The honourable member asks in particular whether any progress has been made with the new international airport for Sydney. I am sure progress has been made, but quite frankly we have not yet received from the Department of Civil Aviation a report by the federal inter-departmental committee on a future international airport in the Sydney region. I must confess that I do not know what is in the report.

I noticed in the press this morning that the Sutherland council is again protesting to the federal authorities about the possible location of the international airport at Kurnell. The Commonwealth authorities declared some time ago that in no circumstances would Kurnell be considered as the site of an international airport for the Sydney region. I have stated this on a number of occasions and the Premier has confirmed it without qualification. Other areas are, of course, under consideration. I am afraid an airport is like a hospital: everybody wants one unless it is put next door to him.

I know honourable members will agree that, as I have said before, it takes ten years to plan an international airport. The authorities say that Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport will reach its peak by 1980, so the site for a new international airport is of major importance. I am hopeful that in the near future we shall receive advice from the Department of Civil Aviation on its thinking in relation to the new site.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS AT SCHOOLS

Mr OSBORNE: I direct my question to the Minister for Transport. Are many requests received from parents and citizens associations for marked pedestrian crossings in front of or in the vicinity of schools? Are many of these requests rejected by the department on the ground that traffic is light, or for some other reason? Will the Minister agree that many of these crossings, though required, would be mainly used for an hour before school, during the luncheon break, and possibly for an hour after school? In these circumstances, will the Minister ask the traffic accident research unit to investigate the possibility of designing illuminated signs to be energized when in use by electric batteries or by some other suitable means, and of having them placed at these points? Will the Minister obtain a report on the feasibility of this suggestion?

Mr MORRIS: Frequently parents and citizens associations request the provision of pedestrian crossings in proximity to schools. For a variety of reasons some of these requests are refused. I am always concerned that pedestrian crossings give a false sense of security to some young boys and girls who, having been taught to use them, feel that they are completely immune from oncoming traffic when they use the crossings. At the other end of the span, some older people also use these crossings with a false sense of security. I have no doubt that this is a reason why a large number of pedestrians were killed last year on or near pedestrian crossings. I wish that the Government had enough money to install traffic lights to be operated by pedestrians at road

crossings. I should then reduce the number of zebra crossings. I promise the honourable member that I will refer his question in relation to the illumination of signs in proximity to pedestrian crossings to the traffic accident research unit. I shall certainly ask the unit to investigate what seems to be a worthwhile suggestion.

BEECROFT INFANTS SCHOOL

Mr SOUTHEE: I ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Minister for Science whether on 5th August he joined the honourable member for Northcott in an attack on the staff of the Beecroft infants school on their decision to dispense with open day at the school due to the crisis in education. Is the Minister aware that 159 parents of children attending the school have dissociated themselves completely from the honourable member's attack on the staff? Will the Minister agree that the teachers of the Beecroft school are a sincere, dedicated professional group who are devoted to their work and do a superb job for the children attending the school? If the Minister agrees with this statement, why did he lend his name to the irresponsible, slanderous attack made under parliamentary privilege by the honourable member for Northcott?

Mr JACKETT: On a point of order. Mr Speaker, standing orders are quite clear that a question which is argumentative or poses argument is out of order. I submit that the whole of this question is completely argumentative and invites argument; therefore it is completely out of order.

Mr SOUTHEE: On the point of order—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member may complete his question.

Mr SOUTHEE: Does the Minister intend to apologize to these teachers or does he intend to continue with his provocative attitude to these dedicated people?

Mr SPEAKER: The question is in order.

Mr CUTLER: I am completely at a loss to know what I am to apologize for. I have not made any attack on anybody. I heard

only about half of the honourable member's question, and perhaps it would be better for me to defer my answer to what I understood of his question until tomorrow, by which time I shall know how many teachers went on strike this afternoon.

UNDERGROUND RAILWAYS: SMOKING

Mr DARBY: I ask the Minister for Transport whether he has been informed of conditions on the underground railways of Paris, New York and other major metropolitan cities. Has he been informed that on the platforms and approaches to the platforms of underground railways in such cities as Paris and New York, and on underground trains as well, smoking is prohibited? Will the Minister consider the possibility of introducing such a regulation for the underground railways of Sydney?

Mr MORRIS: I shall give consideration to the honourable member's suggestion.

TEACHERS: RESIGNATION AND RETIREMENT RATE

Mr BEDFORD: I ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Minister for Science whether the resignation rate of teachers is running now at 13.1 per cent. Did the Minister announce some weeks ago that a survey would be made of the reasons for teacher wastage? When will this report be made known to honourable members of this House and to the public?

Mr CUTLER: I think it is true that the resignation and retirement rate from the teaching service is now in the vicinity of 13 per cent. This is not unusual, but it is an increase on what has happened in the years prior to 1971. However, an increasing number of young women are coming into the service, so much so that this year I believe women constitute 57 per cent of the teaching service. It is not unusual for young women to marry, to set up homes and to resign from the teaching service. Also, these days it is not unusual for young people to save early in life. When they first go to work they usually earn quite large wages compared with those that most

of us received when we started work. These days many young people enter the teaching service, save for a year or two, and then decide to take a trip overseas. Eventually they come back and re-enter the teaching service. I believe that they are then better teachers, and I should not discourage them from going overseas, even if I could. I believe it is a good thing.

Four weeks ago I set up a committee headed by Dr Bell of the Australian Mutual Provident Society; also on the committee are Mr Hughes, the head of the teacher training component of the College of Advanced Education in Canberra, and Miss Langley who is the head of the women's college at the University of Sydney. I set up this committee to look into the reasons why young people drop out from the teaching service and, more particularly, why they drop out while they are receiving teacher training. My action in this regard was brought about by the fact that at the beginning of 1968 the Department of Education awarded 2,491 scholarships to enable young people to enter universities and train as secondary school teachers. It is expected that, as a result of the drop-outs when these young people finish their three-year degree course, only 800 of them will go into the secondary school service next year. This means that the secondary service will lose about 66 per cent of the students who took up teachers college scholarships. The Government and I believe that this is unfair and unreasonable to the taxpayers, who have to pay for these young people to go through colleges and universities. As representatives of the taxpayers we believe that, if young people who have obtained their higher school certificate elect to go teaching, they should be expected to teach if the taxpayer pays for their training.

As I said, I have set up a committee to go into the reasons for the drop-out, as it is called. The committee will report to me as Minister for Education. Everyone has the right to make submissions to that committee; in fact, in press advertisements it has called for submissions. I recently heard that in four weeks of sitting the committee has received about 100 submissions. Within two or three weeks I expect to receive the report from that committee. Certainly,

I hope to have it in time to determine what the position will be for scholarships to be awarded at the beginning of 1972. At this stage I cannot anticipate what submissions or recommendations the committee will make. However, I make it quite clear to the honourable gentleman and to the House that it is my intention to save New South Wales taxpayers' money: it is my intention to tell the new 1972 intake into teachers colleges and universities exactly where they stand and what their responsibilities are with regard to the money that will be invested in them by the taxpayers of this State.

NATIONAL PARKS

Mr COLEMAN: I direct my question without notice to the Minister for Lands. Has the Minister received representations requesting the Government to sell, under strict conditions, portions of the State's national parks to private conservation societies with a view to introducing greater variety into administrative policies of the State's national parks? Is it true that the National Parks and Wildlife Service, which was set up by the Minister and enjoys the highest possible reputation for its achievements in this State, has a monopoly in the administration of national parks in New South Wales? Is the Government planning any steps that would reduce the dangers inherent in a monopoly of this nature?

Mr LEWIS: The question asked by the honourable member for Fuller is most interesting. Offhand, I do not recall an application by any group wishing to buy a section of a national park, state park or historic site, so that it may be run under private auspices. I do not think there is any danger in the National Parks and Wildlife Service having a monopoly in this field. The policy of this Government has been that should an area of land within a national park be needed for concession development it is offered to private enterprise on a competitive basis. The National Parks and Wildlife Act provided for a plan of management to be prepared as soon as possible. That plan of management allows areas to be designated for high density recreation or for the provision of facilities.

For example, it might be desirable to construct a restaurant or snack bars within the boundaries of a national park. In the Kosciusko National Park facilities for skiing and ski tows are available. Private enterprise is invited to tender for the right to provide these services on a competitive basis. If a new skiing area were required in Kosciusko National Park and it conformed to the plan of management for that park the Government would either call tenders or invite private enterprise to develop it. I believe that that system is competitive and that there is no need to allow private enterprise groups to purchase parts of national parks as suggested by the honourable member who asked the question. In several national parks there is competition between concessionaires who have a lease agreement. I believe that this is sufficient.

It is important that national parks should have co-ordination of development. For that reason this Parliament agreed, under the National Parks and Wildlife Act, to set up a statutory committee of architects so that the aesthetics and planning of national parks might be achieved in harmony. If an area of a national park were sold or given to private enterprise that area might be developed in a way which would clash heavily with existing forms of architecture in the area. The National Parks and Wildlife Service wishes to maintain aesthetic harmony within each area. Of course, there would be no objection—and to this extent I agree with the honourable gentleman's sympathies—if conservation groups or developers wished to purchase for themselves an area which they felt they could develop in the national interests and in conservation interests, and they would be supported by the Government.

The Government is already giving assistance to people who have nature reserves for the conservation of animals, particularly for birds, and has set up several game reserves, both private and government, where shooting can take place. There is a lesson to be learned here. In the United States, in Canada in particular, and in the United Kingdom there are fishing and game reserves which are of great assistance.

There are two organizations, incorporated or not—such as the National Trust—that of their own volition run national parks or historic areas and greatly add to the conservation objects of a particular government. I am sure the Government would not allow any private enterprise to purchase from it any areas designated under the National Parks and Wildlife Act for the purpose of private enterprise developing a park on its own.

TEACHER SHORTAGE

Mr L. B. KELLY: My question is directed to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Minister for Science. Is it now a well established fact that there is an acute shortage of teachers in New South Wales schools? Have many married women, now free from family ties, studied and passed the higher school certificate? Are these women, because they are over 35 years of age, disqualified from receiving teacher training scholarships? Does the Minister agree that these women of mature years, most of whom have raised a family, possess the mental aptitude necessary for teaching our children? Will the Minister inform the House and me whether the Government intends to relax this restriction and thus allow more women to enter the teaching profession?

Mr CUTLER: I agree with the honourable gentleman that there is a shortage of teachers in New South Wales. Of course, this is not very unusual; it occurs in many overseas countries and in most States of Australia. Canada and the United States of America have been put forward as ideal places, but a great many teachers in Canada who would be willing to come to Australia would not be acceptable in this State, being one year trained teachers. They would not be acceptable to my department or to the Teachers Federation: in our terms, they are unqualified.

The question suggests that things in this State are worse than in other States, but this is not true. The latest Commonwealth Statistician's figures prove that New South Wales—though not the perfect State educationally, and I do not wish to imply that

it is—is at least better than most other States in Australia. I do not wish to rubbish any other State, either, but I think it is fair to put on record the actual position in Australia at present. The Commonwealth Statistician's figures for 1970 show that in Australia the ratio of pupils to teachers averages out at 22.5 to 1. In Victoria, the best State in Australia from this point of view, the figure is 21.4, in Tasmania, 21.5 and, in New South Wales, 22. In South Australia—and in passing I draw attention to the fact that it has a Labor government—the average is 23.8. Western Australia—which again I mention in passing has a Labor Government—has an average of 25, and for Queensland the figure is 24.1.

I should not like it to be thought, from what the honourable gentleman has said, that New South Wales is very badly off in this regard. I admit that there will be a shortage of teachers next year, owing to a number of factors to which I have referred previously. Apparently, when one speaks about these things, anything positive does not get any publicity, but anything negative gets a stream of publicity. This is perfectly normal.

In regard to women over 35 years of age who may be available to teach, I agree that they are a source from which to train teachers. I know of two women over 35 years of age—and there are obviously many others—who have undertaken teachers college courses at their own expense, have topped the course and have become available for quite a number of years as teachers. This is a source that ought to be investigated. It is being investigated by the department but, in view of the honourable member's question on the subject, which is highly constructive, I shall have some further inquiries made to see whether anything more can be done.

NATIONAL FITNESS CAMPS

Mr CHAFFEY: I, too, direct my question to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Minister for Science. Is it a fact that the public is greatly disturbed about the projected closing of the national fitness camp at Keepit Dam in the last

term of this year? Is it a fact, too, that this camp is used not only by groups of pupils from schools but also by a number of other public organizations such as the scouts and service bodies? Is the Minister able to say whether this is a general proposal throughout the State, to apply wherever camps exist, or is it localized? Is it due to financial difficulty, which could possibly be overcome? If the difficulty is finance, will the honourable gentleman say exactly what the position is and, if it is a staffing matter, will he say what action is being taken to solve the staffing problem? Will the Minister say also whether there is any possibility of the camps remaining open for pupils and the bodies that organize these camps?

Mr CUTLER: Last Tuesday my attention was drawn to the fact that there was some problem with the appointment of staff not only at the national fitness camp at Lake Keepit, but also at the camp at Lake Ainsworth, near Ballina. Apparently the camps have been organized to take in children for the school holidays and also for the third term of this year, but it was then found that the necessary finance was not available to employ ancillary staff, supervisors, chefs and so on, for the two camps. The children in a lot of schools throughout New South Wales having been informed that these camps would take place, I was most concerned at any proposal that they might be cancelled and therefore I made a special approach to my colleague the Premier and Treasurer, and also I had talks with officers of the Treasury.

The honourable member for Lismore, the honourable member for Tamworth and the honourable member for Castlereagh have made representations to me on this matter and the Minister for Housing and Minister for Co-operative Societies also has spoken to me about it. As a result of the approaches I have made to the Premier and Treasurer and as a result of the discussions that I have had with officers of the Treasury, I am now very confident that by five o'clock this afternoon I shall have word from the Treasury that approval has been granted for employment of the ancillary staff in these national fitness camps and that we

shall be able to proceed with the normal programme for the school holidays and for the third term of 1971.

PRINTING COMMITTEE

SECOND REPORT

Mr COLEMAN, as Acting-Chairman, brought up the Second Report from the Printing Committee.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH: ADDRESS IN REPLY

SIXTH DAY'S DEBATE

Debate resumed (from 12th August, *vide* page 328) on motion by Mr Viney:

That the following Address in Reply to the Governor's Opening Speech be now adopted by this House:

To His Excellency Sir ARTHUR RODEN CUTLER, upon whom has been conferred the decoration of the Victoria Cross, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Knight of the Most Venerable Order of St John of Jerusalem, Governor of the State of New South Wales and its Dependencies, in the Commonwealth of Australia.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY—

We, Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, in Parliament assembled, desire to express our thanks for your Excellency's Speech, and to assure you of our unfeigned attachment to Her Most Gracious Majesty's Throne and Person.

2. We beg to assure Your Excellency that our earnest consideration will be given to the measures to be submitted to us, and that the necessary provision for the Public Services will be made in due course.

3. We join Your Excellency in the hope that, under the guidance of Divine Providence, our labours may be so directed as to advance the best interests of all sections of the community.

Upon which Mr Hills had moved:

That the Address be amended by the addition of the following words to stand as paragraph 4:

We also desire to inform Your Excellency that the Government does not possess the confidence of this House, because of its unjustified action in imposing unnecessarily heavy increases in public transport fares and

because of its failure to take any positive, practical measures to alleviate and effectively cope with the rural crisis.

To which proposed amendment Mr K. J. Stewart had moved:

That the proposed amendment be amended by adding after the word "crisis" the words "and its imposition of unnecessarily high and unjustifiable increases in hospital fees".

Mr FISHER (Upper Hunter) [3.24]: I welcome the opportunity to join honourable members who have supported the motion and opposed the amendments. I congratulate the mover, the honourable member for Wakehurst, and the seconder, my Country Party colleague the honourable member for Sturt. I congratulate also other new members upon the way in which they made their maiden speeches, particularly my colleague the honourable member for Clarence.

His Excellency's Speech disclosed the programme of the Government for the ensuing term, which will ensure the continuing progress of this State in the fashion that we have seen since the Government's election to office. This will include the further development of public utilities such as schools, hospitals and roads, to the betterment of the welfare of the people of New South Wales. I refer in particular to the programme of development and decentralization that has been carried out by the present Government, particularly by the Minister for Decentralisation and Development. That programme has helped tremendously in the growth of more than 550 industries throughout the State, involving an expenditure of about \$34,000,000. With the general decline in primary industry, there was never a time when assistance to country industries was more needed.

I believe that during the present session of Parliament honourable members will have a unique opportunity to assist the growth of industries in country areas even further, with the introduction of a payroll tax administered by the State. I suggest that the tax be imposed on a sliding scale so that industries willing to go to country areas will be given more favourable treatment in respect of that tax. Many country industries operate under a disadvantage in

having to pay rail freights and high telephone charges, and other industries that might be willing to set up in country areas are deterred from doing so by the prospect of having to meet these additional costs. The imposition of payroll tax on a sliding scale to the advantage of industries in country areas would offset the tremendous disadvantage being experienced by country towns today.

Industries that draw raw materials from country areas should be encouraged to set up manufacturing plants in those areas, and so lessen the tremendous burden of rail freights and other charges now being borne by them. I refer to the recent report of the Department of Decentralisation and Development on an industry location survey. This valuable document indicated that there was a difference of less than 1 per cent in sales between industries operating in country areas and those operating in the cities. I believe that this relatively small margin could be offset by the imposition of payroll tax on a sliding scale, and I ask that urgent consideration be given to that suggestion before the relevant legislation is introduced.

I want to say something now about the development of coal-loading facilities, and the coal industry generally, particularly in relation to the electorate of Upper Hunter. Honourable members are well aware of the vast reserves of both coking and steaming coal in the Hunter Valley. This State still retains the tradition of exporting the greatest value of minerals of any State in the Commonwealth and this has been due almost entirely to the export of coal. The Government's programme of developing coal-loading facilities, not only in Sydney and on the South Coast but also in Newcastle, with a feasibility study foreshadowed for the Port Stephens area, indicates its firm determination to encourage greater production and export of our coking coal. Valuable markets throughout the world are developing due to shortages in Europe and higher costs in America and Canada.

Over the past few years we have been able to increase our exports of coking coal by approximately 10,000,000 tons a year.

This has been done only by considerable co-operation with the Government, vast investment by industry and private enterprise and, up to date, co-operation with the unions. Last year New South Wales produced approximately 35,000,000 tons of coking coal. The Joint Coal Board has estimated that by 1975 coking coal exports from New South Wales should exceed 53,000,000 tons a year. It is regrettable that because of strikes on the waterfront at the end of last year and early this year, and other factors, many Japanese orders have had to be diverted elsewhere. For the first eight months of this year our coal exports have fallen by more than 500,000 tons, yet in the same period Queensland has increased its exports of coal by 1,750,000 tons.

I wish to refer to an editorial that appeared in the Singleton *Argus* of 11th August, indicating the fall of exports from Newcastle to Japan, which has been our best customer. The editorial reads, in part:

The cause of the decline was the industrial disputes at mines and ship-loading plants in the first quarter of the financial year. Two years ago New South Wales shipped 95 per cent of its export coal to Japan; last year only 76.5 per cent. Japanese coal ships standing idle at Newcastle while mines strike for higher and higher pay makes our coal unprofitable to the Japanese steel mills that use such vast quantities of our "black diamonds", and they naturally seek an alternative supply that will not halt and interfere with their production.

A coalmine in my electorate at Gunnedah has issued dismissal notices to its employees, due almost entirely to its inability to dispose of coal production. Some 89,000 tons of coal are at grass and unless a further freight concession is granted to the company it is almost inevitable that that mine will close down. Though I am still hopeful that further consideration will be given to freight reductions, I regret that even while these efforts are being made, the Miners' Federation has called its employees out on strike. I am confident the men do not want to strike. This type of irresponsible action makes it much more difficult to obtain assistance for these men. Every effort is being made at government level to keep this mine in production. How can the union, if it is really genuine in its desire

to protect the jobs of the men in that mine, justify its action in calling a strike? How can it be sincere in its wish to develop the coal industry of this State?

One of the arguments put forward by unions and coalowners has been that the freight rates on coal are such that they cannot compete successfully against mines situated closer to the coal-loading facilities at Newcastle and elsewhere on our seaboard. It is interesting to note that already concessions are granted to some coalmines in new areas some 200 miles from the coast. I am hopeful that further freight concessions will be granted. However, it is ironical that in this House last week the Labor spokesman for transport complained bitterly that rail freights did not rise recently when railway fares were increased. He said that fares had risen by up to 75 per cent and that this had an effect upon workers in the city, but he obviously had no regard for the effect that an increase in rail freight would have on coalminers in my electorate.

MR QUINN: He advocated concessions for the transport of coal.

MR FISHER: I am saying that the Labor spokesman advocated an increase in rail freights. How would a wheat farmer in my electorate feel if he was Minister for Transport and increased rail freights as he suggested here last week? Some concessions exist already, and I am glad to say that rail freights on coal for export and wheat and coarse grain were not altered recently when other rail charges were increased. If our valuable export market for coal is to be extended, it must always be borne in mind that like every other great primary industry our coal has to compete on world markets, and that this calls for a restraint in wage demands and the utmost co-operation by the mining companies. It calls for every assistance at government level, as has been given, and a sense of responsibility by all parties.

I wish now to touch on another matter mentioned in His Excellency the Governor's Speech—the commissioning of the giant Liddell power station in the Hunter Valley, where recently the first generator commenced to feed power into the com-

mission's grid. I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Electricity Commission for the job it has done to reduce progressively the cost of bulk power to the distributing county councils and supply authorities throughout this State, at a time when almost every other commodity in the community has risen steadily in price. Surely that is a remarkable achievement.

MR PETERSEN: A tribute to the Labor Government that started that dam.

MR FISHER: I am glad that the honourable member for Illawarra has mentioned that. I give the Labor Party full credit for starting that work, but it is interesting to note that Liddell has a coal dump of 1,000,000 tons. Were we to have a coal dump of 1,000,000 tons on the South Coast we should all hear a great deal about it. Apparently it is quite all right to set up a coal dump, complete with a conveyor belt to carry coal eight miles right across the beautiful Hunter Valley. Were there any complaints about this coal dump and the pollution that it might cause? Of course not. I cannot believe that any genuine cause for complaint can arise when coal dumps are properly sited—as has been done at Liddell and can be done wherever coal is required to be moved and stored.

The record of the supply authorities has not been so outstanding as that of the generating authority, the Electricity Commission. Despite the tremendous assistance that has been given by the coalition Government—and an increase of \$10,000,000 over the next five years was announced in the Government's recent policy speech—more must be done to assist rural electricity county councils to sell power at a uniform tariff. It is regrettable that rural councils sell electricity at widely varying rates, all considerably higher than those applied by the Sydney County Council. This disparity is primarily because most rural councils do not have a sufficiently heavy base load in the form of some major industrial consumer. The time has come to examine closely the boundaries of electricity county councils with a view to ensuring that they are able to distribute electricity at a uniform tariff throughout the State. A wide disparity can

be found; the rate for high voltage electricity in country areas can vary by as much as 25 per cent over city rates. Even the Sydney County Council has a rate 10 per cent above at least one other county council supplying power to heavy industry.

As an example I refer to what happened recently in my electorate. A local lucerne dehydration plant had planned to expand operations considerably and had good prospects of selling on the export market. Because electricity costs are prohibitive it has declined to enter into any expansion. It is interesting to note that the cost was \$2 a ton more in one rural council than in an adjoining county council with a heavy base load. Encouragement of secondary industries into country areas can be accelerated only if action is taken to remove this disparity. I urge the Minister for Local Government and Minister for Highways to look sympathetically at a relocation of the boundaries of these county councils. I trust that some alleviation can be offered further to encourage decentralization of industry.

I turn briefly to water conservation and storage. The record of the Government in river regulation storage has been most impressive and I commend the Government for its progress in this field. Since the Government came to office the Carcoar and Wyangala dams have been completed and Lostock and Toonumbar dams also are in operation. The \$45,000,000 Copeton Dam has been started. All these projects are proof of the Government's determination to provide storages on our major rivers. I want to stress the great need in country areas for river regulation storages. Stability in our rural industries and the realization of our agricultural potential can occur only where an assured water supply is available. I deplore the attitude of many economists and academics who argue that a need for water must exist before a storage is fully planned. I assert that, to encourage development and decentralization, water storages must be in operation and water must be available.

Evidence of this contention is certainly available in the Upper Hunter electorate, where the Glenbawn Dam, in particular, provides an assured regulation on the river.

I know that honourable members opposite will take credit for the construction of this dam, too; but those who watched the progress of its construction will not derive much satisfaction from the fact that the dam cost almost four times as much as the original estimate and took almost 12 years to build. In the northern part of my electorate, the Keepit Dam guarantees water supplies along the Namoi River. In addition, large ground water supplies have been developed on the Liverpool Plains. All these works are providing adequate water for large-scale irrigation development.

The development of coarse grain production, especially maize and grain sorghum, in the past several years has been phenomenal. Two years ago the production of coarse grains, in particular grain sorghum, from the north-west was approximately 38,000 tons. Last year the area exported 350,000 tons. A tremendous potential exists for the development of export markets in these coarse grains. In addition, the growing of crops such as soya beans, sunflower and lupins for export shows considerable potential. I am pleased to report to the House that even trial oversea shipments of popcorn and waxy maize for baby food have met with considerable success. All this development can take place only where adequate supplies of water are available. In addition, assurance of adequate water means that existing cattle and livestock enterprises are guaranteed to be drought-proof. I assure the House that no better way can be found to provide security to the primary industry and to give the farmer a wide range of alternative enterprises than by providing a regular water supply.

I direct the attention of the House to the expansion of the wine making industry in the Hunter River Valley. Some \$15,000,000 is being invested in extending vineyards in the lower part of the electorate of Upper Hunter. There is no need for me to remind members of the tremendous importance of this industry to the region. Though the vineyards are comparatively small, their effect on employment in the valley in the next few years will be tremendous. This

development can take place only when basic requirements of settlement, water conservation in particular, are provided.

To summarize, I ask that consideration be given to fixing a sliding scale of payroll tax with the object of assisting decentralization of industry in country areas. I stress most urgently that the trade-union movement and the Miners' Federation, in particular, be asked to exercise restraint and responsibility in making demands for higher wages. Unless they do so, our export markets for coal will be adversely affected. It is opportune to examine methods of electricity distribution so that savings achieved by the Electricity Commission's policy of constructing large generating stations near coalfields can be passed on to the consumer. I make a plea that water resources be conserved in the interests of continued expansion of primary industry. The prime function of this House is to work for the advancement and welfare of this State, and I ask all members to join me in supporting this motion for adoption of the Address in Reply.

Mr MULOCK (Nepean) [3.54]: At the outset, I congratulate members of the Government parties and the Opposition who have made their maiden speeches in this debate. I support the amendments that have been moved by the Leader of the Opposition and the honourable member for Canterbury. This is not my maiden speech but it is the first opportunity I have had to speak about my electorate, which is one of the fastest growing in the State. I take this opportunity of thanking the electors for their faith in electing me. On my part, I undertake to represent the whole electorate without fear or favour. In order to give full attention to the electorate, I have made arrangements in relation to my professional practice that release me from day-to-day commitments and the conduct of individual matters. While still retaining my interest in the legal practice that I began some sixteen years ago, I shall not be obliged to participate actively in it.

In a few weeks I shall complete my term as mayor of the city of Penrith, which position I held at the time of the State general elections. I announce with regret

that I shall not be a candidate at the local-government elections to be held in September. My participation in local-government affairs has been an enriching experience for me. The decision to curtail my activities outside Parliament will permit me to devote myself unreservedly to my electoral duties and to fulfil to the best of my ability commitments to my young family. I readily assume those responsibilities, and I look forward to promoting my entire electorate at the State level. I thank all members of the Australian Labor Party, personal friends and my own family for their support and assistance when I was a candidate for the State seat of Nepean.

Since I became a member of this House I have become well acquainted with the cry of Government supporters, when defending the Government against accusations, that the Labor Government in its twenty-four years of administration did this or failed to do that. This defence carries no weight whatsoever. Of the forty-five members of the Australian Labor Party in this Assembly, only twenty-five, including four former Cabinet members, were members when the Labor Government led by the Hon. J. B. Renshaw was defeated in 1965. I am only too proud to be identified with the Labor administration which for twenty-four years governed this State efficiently—during wartime and in the post-war years when there was a substantial population increase from both immigration and from natural growth. I am sure the people of New South Wales have benefited from Labor's administration. As a new member, I am concerned not with the past but with the future—not only my future but also the future of my children. I prefer to look ahead and to adopt a positive approach. I feel sure that this is the feeling of every new member in this House.

We hear a good deal about the shortage of money. People often pose the question: where is the money coming from? I pose the question: where is the money going? In this regard priorities are most important. When there is a shortage, the question of priorities becomes paramount. I feel that the attention of the Government should be directed to priorities. I did not derive much

comfort from what His Excellency had to say in his Speech about the priorities and needs of this State. As this is Education Week, it is pertinent to discuss the education crisis in this State. The confrontation between the Minister and the Teachers Federation is unfortunate. It is having an adverse effect on schoolchildren. Both parties should realize that the problems can be faced by adopting a reasonable approach. The Minister would be more of a statesman if, without wrangling, he accepted some of the suggestions initially put forward by the Teachers Federation.

I believe in equal education opportunities for all children in Australia. Needs must be the basis for determining priorities in the field of assistance in non-State schools. I believe the situation can be eased in the State school system by calling superannuated teachers back to service. The position is so critical that the Government should not hesitate to take the necessary legislative action by amending the Superannuation Act so that this can be done. Another cause for complaint by teachers is that a teacher must be absent for three days before a relief teacher can be obtained. This causes undue hardship not only to classes lacking a teacher but also to the entire school, the activities of which are disrupted. On the question of trainee teachers leaving the teaching service, I believe that the best and fairest way to retain them is not by increasing the bond, though this could perhaps be done as an adjunct, but by attracting people interested in education into tertiary studies purely and simply directed to education. In my submission, a bachelor of education degree course would attract people genuinely interested in education and would eminently fit them for the vocation of teaching.

Teachers indeed are concerned about the future results of the teacher shortage. Last year there was a reduction of one teaching period a week. This year it has been increased by two periods as a result of the abolition of compulsory sport in high schools. I have received letters of complaint and other representations on this matter from genuine educators, genuine professional people in this field, who are concerned that next year the two periods

might become four, and later still they might be increased to eight. The Government has not made a clear, definite statement on this most important issue—not, one would hope, that it does not know what will happen next year, the year after next or the year after that. Surely problems like this can be solved and the solutions implemented.

Education was not an issue in Nepean at the 1965 elections when the Liberal-Country party Government came to power. My electorate has four high schools. Another one just outside the boundary serves part of my electorate. The high schools in the Nepean electorate are Penrith high school, Nepean high school, Springwood high school, and the newly built Kingswood high school. St Mary's high school is the one just outside the boundary to which some of my constituents send their children. Though shortage of accommodation at Penrith high school was the subject of a bitter campaign at the 1968 elections, little has been done to improve the position since then. This school has 22 temporary classrooms, and although it was stated that a new wing would be built at this school, any work done there has been financed with Commonwealth money. I refer to a science-library block that has been constructed. That building, however, does not relieve the temporary classroom problem in any shape or form. Next year the 22 temporary classrooms will still be in use at Penrith high, and it might be necessary to obtain more of them if the first form intake rises at the beginning of next school year.

At Nepean high school there is a shortage of permanent teachers, with no full-time student counsellor on the staff. Ancillary staff required at the school include a groundsman-caretaker to look after the 25 acres of grounds, and a technical assistant in the manual arts department. Moreover, an assembly hall and a gymnasium are needed at this school. In spite of persistent requests over a long period for these two buildings, they have not yet materialized. Springwood high school has teacher problems, and it also lacks an assembly hall. Kingswood high school, which was supposed to be ready for the

beginning of this school year, was only completely occupied towards the end of second term. It is necessary to press on urgently with the next stages of this high school so that the buildings will be ready for occupation in 1973 as planned.

Thanks to Commonwealth assistance, St Mary's high school is to receive a science-library block. However, some extensions are needed as well as an assembly hall. The people there will have to wait to see whether the Government's promises materialize. In view of what has happened over the past three years the standard of education at this school is at a very low ebb. The decline in the standard is attributed to the failure to restore accommodation and equipment that were destroyed in a fire. In my electorate we have St Dominic's Catholic high school, which is the only Catholic secondary boys' high school between Blacktown and Lithgow. There is no Catholic secondary girls' high school in my electorate. The closest one is at Rooty Hill, and another one is situated at Katoomba. The breakdown of the Catholic education system in this part of the Archdiocese of Sydney is particularly noticeable at the secondary level, and it is another reason for some of the undue strain that is being placed on the State system.

St Dominic's high school is situated in an area where modest incomes are the norm, and the position there is a classic example that lends support to my plea for basing assistance to non-State schools upon needs. If that were done this school would rank high in allocations for secondary schools in the independent system.

At the primary level persistent claims are being put forward for additional accommodation at the long-established Penrith primary school as well as at Penrith South primary school. Both schools are located in an area where development is occurring at an alarming rate. Kingswood South primary school is situated in a similar area. Emu Heights primary school is in course of construction, and I sincerely hope that it will be ready for occupation at the beginning of the next school year. If it is not, there will be complete unheaval at the school. Though Lapstone primary school

has been completed, it is important that the second stage proceed immediately, otherwise the all too familiar accommodation shortage problem will raise its head there. It is essential that work on Springwood North school commence as early as possible. Work on this project has been delayed for three years since the announcement that it would proceed. Blaxland East primary school, which is also centred in a fast-developing area, is awaiting availability of funds to finance extensions. For a considerable time extensions have been needed at Lower Castlereagh primary school where a village hall has been pressed into service. At Mulgoa temporary classrooms have been provided.

I feel that in the future tertiary education will play a prominent part in the Nepean electorate. Early in the 1960s the Labor administration acquired a site of some 70 acres at Kingswood for use as a teachers college. It was reprehensible for the Government to bypass Kingswood when it was deciding to establish three new teachers colleges in this State with the \$8,000,000 that the Commonwealth made available three years ago for this purpose. The decision was made on purely political grounds. As the largest number of school age children in New South Wales live in the western part of the metropolitan area it is important that plans be made to provide for the tertiary education of these children. The Minister for Education and Minister for Science has informed me that a special committee is inquiring into the acquisition of sites for additional universities. The Sydney outline plan provides for the establishment of a university at Werrington in the western part of Sydney, where growth is continuing rapidly. It is important for the Government to keep this aspect to the forefront when planning for future tertiary institutions.

It is most unfortunate that the Government should have seen fit to establish the Institute of Technology in the heart of Sydney. Surely it is evident to most people that the majority of graduates from technical colleges and most of our future tradesmen are coming from the western suburbs of Sydney. The construction of the Institute of Technology in the heart of Sydney

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will stifle commercial development on the one hand and, on the other hand, will cause transport to be cluttered up. Surely the decision to place the building there indicates that the Government is not looking far enough into the future and is not taking sufficient notice of the areas from which the demand for service is coming.

Education was not an issue in the 1965 election campaign in the Nepean electorate, and neither was the provision of hospital accommodation. It certainly now is an issue. In the five years from 1960 to 1965 Labor governments established the Governor Philip Special Hospital at Penrith for geriatric patients. It build also an annexe to that hospital and a fifty-bed maternity wing at the Nepean District Hospital. These works involved an outlay of almost \$750,000. In the six years that this Government was in office until the holding of the last elections it had not spent anything on hospital accommodation in the Nepean electorate. About this time last year the Government promised to spend \$130,000 on an eight-bed intensive care unit at Penrith hospital. That work is on its way to completion.

It is well to remember that the Nepean District Hospital serves not only the Penrith city area but also Mt Druitt and the lower Blue Mountains as far as Springwood. Despite the airy-fairy talk of another hospital site at Mt Druitt, it is one thing to talk about a site and another thing to have a hospital. In the meantime, the Nepean District Hospital has to cater for an estimated population of about 120,000, with 173 beds. On the Hospital Commission's figure of four beds for every thousand persons, it should have 480 beds.

I assure the Government and the Minister that hospitals are an issue causing concern in my electorate. Not long after becoming a member of this House I received a letter from the Minister telling me that he was upset by what I had said in my electorate during the election campaign. It is all right for the Minister to be upset by what I said, but I assure him that the people of my electorate are upset by what they do not have. I am not concerned that I should have upset the Minister. Indeed, I declare that the Min-

ister had ample opportunity to answer my criticisms but did not avail himself of that opportunity either before or since the election.

A request has been made for the establishment of a hospital at Springwood. My party promised that a hospital would be built there, as an ancillary to the Nepean District Hospital, in the same way as the hospital built at Woy Woy is ancillary to the Gosford District Hospital. The proposal contained in this promise has not been adopted by the Government. Recently, in response to representations made by me to the Minister, the Minister intimated to the Blue Mountains City Council, through me, that at this time and in the foreseeable future a hospital could not be built at Springwood. Such a hospital would be a valid means of easing the problem at the Nepean District Hospital. There are plans to expand the Nepean District Hospital, but the planning will take some two years, and I do not know how long the building would take. I expect that a catastrophic situation will arise before extensions materialize.

The Government has abrogated its responsibility in relation to the provision of hospital services on the lower Blue Mountains. This is borne out by the Minister's suggestion last September that a committee be formed to establish a co-operative community hospital. This would be throwing the responsibility on to the community, and asking it to provide the services that should be provided by the Government. Indeed, it was a clear acknowledgment of the existence of the need for more hospital services in this area.

It is imperative that the twenty-acre site at St Mary's, which is adjacent to my electorate, should not be surrendered by the Hospitals Commission but should be retained as an ideal site for the establishment of a children's hospital in the western sector of Sydney, where a large proportion of the children in this State reside. I hope and sincerely trust that the Minister will see the wisdom of retaining this site and establishing there a children's hospital to meet the needs of the children in this sector of the State.

Transport is a burning question in the Nepean electorate. The public complaints about irregular services and shortage of carriages, are now supplemented and intensified by the recent increases in fares which, when related to my electorate, are excessive and discriminatory. The increase of 70 per cent is unjustifiable. I was pleased to hear my leader say quite clearly that if Labor had been in office we should have increased fares by only one-half of the amount by which the Government increased them, that is to say, one-half of 50 per cent, and that consolidated revenue would have borne the remainder of the burden. The Government's fare increase is discriminatory in that, by long-established practice, return fares from the outer fringe areas were one and a half times the single fare. They have been altered, detrimentally to those most affected, the people in the lower income group, to one and three-quarter times the single fare.

This will have a crushing effect on the people in the area. It will mean an increase of \$2 a week for many of the people who use the rail service in my electorate. Of course, a reduction was made, and I suppose it is better to have some cake than no cake at all. However, this is only a reduction of from 35c a fortnight to a little over \$1.20 for people on the outer extremities of the electorate, and a substantial part of my electorate does not gain any relief at all. The Government arbitrarily fixed 41 miles as a basis, when 35 miles is the limit of the metropolitan transport area.

Planning is another matter that concerns the people on the outer fringe of the metropolis. The Sydney region outline plan was introduced about three years ago as a virtual blueprint of what Sydney should be in the next thirty years. The planning implemented under the Sydney region outline plan is planning by stealth and subterfuge; I say that advisedly, for this plan is to be implemented without the *imprimatur* of the Government or of the Parliament, and is a means of implementing planning by stealth and subterfuge. If the Government believes that the Sydney region outline plan is a blueprint for the Sydney region in the next thirty years, it should bring it into this Parliament for debate. In the meantime

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people are being subjected to pressure, and the plan is being implemented although it has never been adopted. Open space corridors have been laid down in my electorate. For instance, at Horsley Park a portion of the Sydney region outline plan is being implemented through the local planning scheme. Some people might not share my feelings in this regard, but I assure members that this form of implementation of planning through local planning schemes is planning by stealth, individually through the local planning areas and municipal bodies. It means that, piece by piece, the regional plan will be implemented. When the pieces are put together it will be found that thousands, and not hundreds, of people will have been affected. I appeal to the Minister to bring the Sydney region outline plan forward as a matter of government policy so that it may be debated in this Parliament, as a means of regularizing activities in the implementation of that plan.

The South Creek open space corridor in the area of the city of Penrith has been suggested, and about nineteen months ago, the chief planner told the Penrith City Council at a conference that it was intended to put this planning corridor on exhibition so that any objections might be made. It was to be placed on exhibition when the first early release order was put on exhibition. That time has long passed and still the South Creek corridor has not been exhibited. Yet the State Planning Authority requires the local authority to implement the plan, which has never been subject to public scrutiny or debate.

I believe that the policy on early release areas, as they are now being released, despite the good faith of the Minister concerned, is leading to increases in land prices, which are taking land far beyond the reach of the ordinary person in this State. Further, they place land in the hands of a few major developers. The imposition of betterment tax provides a further inflationary element in land prices. Services cannot be provided, and this is the reason why early release orders of land are notified some time ahead, for the authorities are not in a position to provide sewerage and water extensions for some

areas. The amplification of water supplies is required sometimes, but when these announcements are made the developers purchase the land.

In 1969 in the South Penrith area land sold at \$4,000 an acre. Today's price is \$7,000 an acre which includes the betterment tax, met by the purchaser on behalf of the vendor. In the Cambridge Park area, land which a few years ago sold for \$4,000 an acre now sells for about \$7,500. The same thing applies at Werrington where the price of land is about \$9,000 an acre. At Orchard Hills, land not due for release until 1980 or 1990 according to the Sydney region outline plan and statements made by the Minister, has been sold recently for \$6,000 an acre. Building allotments in Penrith have been rising at the rate of \$1,000 to \$2,000 a year. On the lower Blue Mountains building blocks have doubled their price in the past twelve months. In the same period building blocks at St Mary's have increased in price by \$600 to \$1,000.

The Government's policy is leading young people headlong into disaster. I ask the Minister to review his thinking. I ask him to reconsider the matter of holding tax. Many things should be done in an area before land is released for building purposes. Last year the Minister announced the early release of land at Penrith and St Mary's but these areas will first need drainage schemes costing \$1,500,000 and \$1,250,000. Land should not be released until all development details including finance have been worked out.

In the Blue Mountains area planning is following growth and unfortunately it is a long way behind it. There is no final planning scheme for the Blue Mountains. People living in that area are anxious to know what provision will be made for open space. Young members of our community urgently need playing areas. At North Springwood land was subdivided and sold as residential blocks but subsequently, under the interim planning scheme, a minimum area of 50 acres was decided upon for development in this district. No doubt honourable members agree that this is an injustice: it can be rectified only by the acceptance

of a final planning scheme. In that way people who might be affected may have the right to object.

Time does not permit me to refer in detail on this occasion to many other matters concerning my electorate but I shall do so in the budget debate. I shall refer to the question of police protection, particularly in the lower Blue Mountains area. I shall refer also to the need to expedite sewerage services under the country sewerage scheme. Residential areas in the lower Blue Mountains are entitled to a subsidy under this scheme and the people in that area are anxious to benefit in this way. Rural areas in fringe regions have suffered a substantial loss by being excluded from Commonwealth Aid Roads grants. The Minister for Highways and the Commissioner for Main Roads have attempted to restore the situation and have succeeded to some extent but I believe they have not gone far enough. Local authorities are endeavouring to meet problems associated with growth in their areas. They must provide miles of rural roads and the people are demanding better roads. In my view there should be created an inner and outer ring of decentralization and development. For decentralization to occur in fringe areas transport problems must be eliminated. I believe that industry will follow people. Therefore everything should be done to encourage people to set up their homes in fringe areas. Industry will follow the work force.

Since being elected to this House I have been most concerned about housing in New South Wales. People demand reasonable accommodation but in my electorate accommodation cannot be found at less than \$26 or \$28 a week even for a house with only two bedrooms. This is difficult for people on a low income, such as those in my electorate. I am honoured to represent the electorate of Nepean and I shall do all in my power to do so honourably. I am conscious of the fact that for the first time in forty-four years in the Blue Mountains area a Labor member has been elected to this Chamber. It is my honour to follow, as a Labor representative, the Hon. J. Dooley, a former speaker of this House and Premier of this State.

Mr GRIFFITH (Cronulla), Government Whip [4.25]: I move:

That the question be now put.

The House divided:

AYES: 46

Mr Barraclough	Mr Lewis
Mr Jack Beale	Mr McCaw
Mr Brewer	Mr McGinty
Mr Bruxner	Mr Mackie
Mr Cameron	Mr Maddison
Mr Chaffey	Mr Mason
Mr Clough	Mr Mauger
Mr Coleman	Mr Mead
Mr Crawford	Mr Morris
Mr Cutler	Mr Morton
Mr Darby	Mr Mutton
Mr Deane	Mr Osborne
Mr Doyle	Mr Punch
Mr Duncan	Mr Ruddock
Mr Fife	Mr Stephens
Mr Fischer	Mr Taylor
Mr Fisher	Mr Viney
Mr Freudenstein	Mr Waddy
Mr Griffith	Mr N. D. Walker
Mr Healey	Mr Willis
Mr Hughes	
Mr D. B. Hunter	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr Jackett	Mr Cowan
Mr Jago	Mr Singleton

NOES: 44

Mr Bannon	Mr Mahoney
Mr Barnier	Mr Mallam
Mr Bedford	Mr Mulock
Mr Booth	Mr Neilly
Mr Cahill	Mr Nott
Mr Coady	Mr O'Connell
Mr Cox	Mr Paciullo
Mr Crabtree	Mr Petersen
Mr Day	Mr Quinn
Mr Durick	Mr Ramsay
Mr Earl	Mr Renshaw
Mr Einfeld	Mr Ryan
Mr Ferguson	Mr Sheahan
Mr Gordon	Mr Sloss
Mr Haigh	Mr Southee
Mr Hills	Mr J. J. T. Stewart
Mr M. L. Hunter	Mr K. J. Stewart
Mr Jackson	Mr Wade
Mr Johnstone	Mr F. J. Walker
Mr Jones	
Mr Kearns	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr L. B. Kelly	Mr Degen
Mr R. J. Kelly	Mr Flaherty

Resolved in the affirmative

Mr SPEAKER: The question now is, That the words proposed to be added to the proposed amendment be so added.

The House divided.

[In Division]

[Interruption from upper gallery]

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call off the division. The attendants will open the doors, and clear the upper gallery.

Question—That the words proposed to be added to the proposed amendment be so added—again put. The House divided:

AYES, 44

Mr Bannon	Mr Mahoney
Mr Barnier	Mr Mallam
Mr Bedford	Mr Mulock
Mr Booth	Mr Neilly
Mr Cahill	Mr Nott
Mr Coady	Mr O'Connell
Mr Cox	Mr Paciullo
Mr Crabtree	Mr Petersen
Mr Day	Mr Quinn
Mr Durick	Mr Ramsay
Mr Earl	Mr Renshaw
Mr Einfeld	Mr Ryan
Mr Ferguson	Mr Sheahan
Mr Gordon	Mr Sloss
Mr Haigh	Mr Southee
Mr Hills	Mr J. J. T. Stewart
Mr M. L. Hunter	Mr K. J. Stewart
Mr Jensen	Mr Wade
Mr Johnstone	Mr F. J. Walker
Mr Jones	
Mr Kearns	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr L. B. Kelly	Mr Degen
Mr R. J. Kelly	Mr Flaherty

NOES, 46

Mr Barraclough	Mr Lewis
Mr Jack Beale	Mr McCaw
Mr Brewer	Mr McGinty
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Mr Chaffey	Mr Mason
Mr Clough	Mr Mauger
Mr Coleman	Mr Mead
Mr Crawford	Mr Morris
Mr Cutler	Mr Morton
Mr Darby	Mr Mutton
Mr Deane	Mr Osborne
Mr Doyle	Mr Punch
Mr Duncan	Mr Ruddock
Mr Fife	Mr Stephens
Mr Fischer	Mr Taylor
Mr Fisher	Mr Viney
Mr Freudenstein	Mr Waddy
Mr Griffith	Mr N. D. Walker
Mr Healey	Mr Willis
Mr Hughes	
Mr D. B. Hunter	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr Jackett	Mr Cowan
Mr Jago	Mr Singleton

Question so resolved in the negative.

Amendment of amendment negated.

Mr CLOUGH (Eastwood) [4.45]: I wish to join previous speakers in complimenting the honourable member for Wakehurst and

the honourable member for Sturt on their most interesting and informative contributions to this debate. I wish to congratulate also other new members who have made their maiden speeches in this debate and I express the hope that each of them will enjoy his sojourn in this House.

I should like to refer to a few matters that affect my own electorate. Balaclava Road, which is a secondary road, is of considerable importance in my electorate. Last year the Ryde Municipal Council, in conjunction with the Department of Main Roads, reconstructed a portion of Balaclava Road. However, a good length of it remains to be done. I understand that, subject to a few minor matters, the Department of Main Roads has approved the council's scheme for completion of this work at least to Epping Highway. I hope that the Department of Main Roads will soon reach full agreement with the council, so that the work can be completed. In addition, just north of the Epping Highway and Balaclava Road intersection, near the entrance to the Macquarie University, there is about 200 yards of road which is in a most deplorable state, which is a disgrace to both the Ryde Municipal Council and the Department of Main Roads, particularly the former because that body has the prime responsibility in this matter. This portion of roadway is near the entrance to one of our major universities.

Ryde Municipal Council has refused to take any action because it says that when some lands were resumed on behalf of the university it got no compensation, and so it will not spend money on this small portion of ingress to university property. I hope that the Department of Main Roads, which is doing work there, will take the opportunity to confer with the Ryde Municipal Council and bring an end to this disgusting situation.

Rutledge Street, Eastwood, is a secondary road that will eventually become a county road. Ryde Municipal Council has done some minor maintenance work there west of Wentworth Road on the southern side but all of this road needs attention. Again there is conflict between the Department of

Main Roads and the Ryde Municipal Council in regard to this matter. I hope that this also will soon be resolved.

There is a clamour in my electorate in regard to additional underpasses or overpasses contiguous to both the Eastwood and Epping railway bridges. Considerable delays have occurred at both overpasses at Eastwood and Epping and this is another matter that needs urgent attention.

I bring to the attention of the Minister for Health the need for an additional allocation of funds to the Ryde District Soldiers Memorial Hospital. This hospital is doing magnificent work and, though the Government has been generous to a point, considerably more funds are needed to enable it to function properly.

Let me now deal with some planning matters. In North Ryde, under the jurisdiction of the Ryde Municipal Council, planning in some areas has been suspended; development plans have not been submitted to the State Planning Authority. At Epping, particularly west of the railway in the Parramatta municipality, an area has been the subject of much dissension and unrest among residents. The Parramatta city council is endeavouring to have the proclamation of some areas changed from residential to commercial and other similar zoning. I hope that the Minister, when completing the plan, will put a residential proclamation over the areas about which complaints have been made.

I invite the attention of the Minister for Education to the North Epping school, which needs additional classrooms, the Epping Heights school which needs administrative and library blocks, and the Eastwood school which is petitioning for consolidation of its building complex. The Eastwood school is in good condition, considerable funds having been spent there since I was elected, but there is a case for consolidation. I hope the Minister will give serious attention to these matters as soon as possible.

One of the policies of this Government which were acclaimed by the people of New South Wales when we were recently returned to office, was that the Department

of Railways would be relieved of some of its present responsibilities for the capital it has spent. In due course the people of this State will, I am sure, see this policy undertaking honoured fully. I have heard and read much ill-informed comment by members opposite on the need to relieve the railways of debt charges. I therefore propose to devote a little time to putting the record straight and informing members of the Opposition of some of the facts of this important matter so that in future, if they choose to comment on this topic, their remarks may at least be based upon fact rather than the figment of a rather barren imagination.

The machinery for relieving the railways of debt charges is to write off part of their capital debt to the State or, in other words, to transfer to the State Treasury the obligation for meeting payments to the Commonwealth for interest, exchange and sinking fund on loan funds advanced to the railways. Overall, all that happens is that the general revenues of the State are called upon to meet the liability in respect of debt charges on the portion of capital transferred, instead of the railway user being called upon to meet the cost. Members should note, however, that simply transferring a cost from one area to another does not really present any long-term solution to the problem of transport costs as Opposition members erroneously seem to think. It is clear from a review of the State's accounting publications that in every year in which the railways have run at a loss there has been a short-payment of debt charges by an amount approximately equivalent to the loss. In other words the inter-relationship of government finance is such that general revenues are already geared to relieve the railways automatically of debt charges whenever a loss is incurred. Members may be interested to know that to 30th June, 1970, subsidies provided in this way have amounted to \$129,519,180 and these have been provided from the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

One of the criticisms that can be made is that short payment of debt charges by the transport undertakings is in reality a first charge on the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

Mr Clough]

Mr MALLAM: Is the honourable member defending the administration of the railways?

Mr CLOUGH: Having regard to all the circumstances, I am defending the situation.

Mr MALLAM: Shame on you!

Mr CLOUGH: I have not time to answer the honourable member's question in detail, and I do not propose to attempt to do so at this juncture. As I said, one of the criticisms that can be made is that short-payment of debt charges by the transport undertakings is in reality a first charge on the Consolidated Revenue Fund. This is because of the operation of the financial agreement. It has the effect, however, of compelling the Government to restrict the services provided for in budgets of the Consolidated Revenue Fund and because of this, the Government has a real interest in the financial operations of the Department of Railways and cannot allow policy in this area to be determined on the narrow basis of railway operations alone without a full consideration of any losses or deficits. To do otherwise could result in a reduction of funds available for education, social services, health and the other essential public services. This, of course, the Government would not want to do. It should be evident therefore that railway charges should regularly be adjusted in keeping with the cost of providing rail services that will ensure that essential public services are not harmed as a consequence of unexpected movements in railway costs. The latest wage increase given to railway workers last week will cost the department, I estimate, about \$8,000,000 to \$9,000,000 per annum, which was not contemplated when the fare and freight rates were recently adjusted. It seems inevitable therefore that this additional expense will have to be passed on to the railway user in the form of higher charges if there is not to be a reduction in the amount spent on education and other essential public services.

I do not consider that relieving the railways of portion of their capital debt is any solution to the problem of railway losses, though adjustments in respect of specific assets which have ceased to exist can be

justified on the ground of sound business practice. The solution to the problem lies in developing the railroad services along lines similar to airlines and road transport for which, as honourable members may be aware, facilities of the highest standard are provided by the Commonwealth. First-class airport facilities have been provided for airlines and the most efficient equipment has been installed as part of a nation-wide policy of ensuring that air travellers are provided with a safe and economical service. Though charges are made for the use of airport facilities, there is no doubt that a major part of the cost of civil aviation services in Australia is met by the general taxpayer. I do not cavil at this practice; in fact I strongly support it, because the taxpayer gains many indirect benefits from a modern, efficient and safe civil aviation system. Most members know what a first class air terminal the Commonwealth has provided at Tullamarine in Victoria together with an approach road of expressway standard. Facilities of this standard can only win praise and attract custom for its users. One can only imagine what the position in this State would be if the Commonwealth accepted some responsibility for providing railway services of a comparable standard.

Rather than effect some bookkeeping entry—and that is all it is—and transfer or write off railway capital, thereby relieving that undertaking of debt charges, I should like to see the strongest representations being made for part of the national revenues to be directed towards the provision and maintenance of railroads, terminal stations and safety factors. This would cover the cost of maintaining the railway and signalling systems as well as providing the cost of appropriate and modern services at railway stations. The railways are a national asset and are a vital element in the defence plans of a continent such as Australia. They certainly have been in the past; they serve this purpose at present, and will no doubt do so in the future.

Mr CRABTREE: Not if we have this Government.

Mr CLOUGH: Yes, they will. A huge amount of public money has been spent on them in the past, and history shows clearly the part the railways have played in opening up this country and in raising living standards for almost all the citizens of this State. It is wrong, therefore, that the full cost of operation of the railways should be met by the railway users, who are tending to become far fewer as other forms of transport are becoming more convenient and cheaper. As the railways are a national asset, part at least of the cost of providing and maintaining them should be met from national revenue, in the same way as airline operations are subsidized and roads are constructed for use by all, from national resources.

If the national government can be persuaded to accept financial responsibility for the railway track, the provision of modern station services, and the safety systems in operation, I estimate the saving to the railways would be \$35,371,939, based upon the railway accounts for 1969–70. That would be more than sufficient to allow the recent salary and wage increases to be absorbed and would, in addition, provide a margin that would allow fare and freight rates to be reduced. The effects of such a move could well have a chain reaction, leading to a reversal of the inflationary spiral that has been in evidence since the end of World War II. The deflationary effect of such action alone could well be sufficient to justify the cost to the Commonwealth.

Lower fare and freight charges also act as a brake on the numbers of persons and firms who prefer to use motor vehicles for transport. No doubt the increasing number of vehicles on the road is in some respects a wasteful deployment of the nation's resources, which has a bad effect on the economy of the nation. No doubt members will agree that transporting goods by road when there is an empty capacity in freight trains is a waste of the nation's facilities and adds to the cost of goods. It can therefore be demonstrated quite clearly that the Commonwealth has a vital interest in transport costs, and I hope it

can be prevailed upon to accept certain financial responsibilities for the provision of railway services.

I shall not expand on the extent of Commonwealth subsidies where the national interest is involved. Many documents that are freely available contain this information. Let it suffice to state that the operation of a modern and reliable rail service is of paramount national importance and is, therefore, worthy of subsidy by the Commonwealth. It is unreasonable, however, to expect the railway user to pay for and maintain a national asset which, in times of need, is taken over to serve the interests of all. One real problem facing the heads of departments and Ministers is the present-day court decisions. The conciliation and arbitration system has probably gone too far. Previously the employer, who is in turn the person responsible to the Minister and Parliament for the proper administration of his undertaking, now finds in some cases his decisions are being overruled by other tribunals which are not responsible for the effect or implementation of their decisions, particularly in regard to matters of a technical nature where a knowledge of law is not involved. This procedure is further evidenced by an increasing tendency for important public issues to be decided by various statutory tribunals, instead of by those directly responsible to Parliament.

Having made those comments concerning those particular matters, I shall now compliment the Government on its record since coming to office. The Government had a particularly hard time in relation to a number of matters. Notwithstanding the difficulties of alternating droughts and floods and the resultant loss of revenue on the one hand and large expenditures on the other, to assist rural industries and country residents in their dire distress, the Government has done a magnificent job in maintaining full employment and general economic stability. In addition, the Government has spent record sums in all its major departments. In doing so, it has achieved many notable firsts and has brought to all sections of the community throughout the State considerable advancement and progress, despite the unrelenting

Mr Clough

vicissitudes with which it has had to contend. One has only to look at the massive sum that is spent on education.

MR CRABTREE: And the result is the demonstration by teachers outside this House.

MR CAMERON: Is the honourable member for Kogarah supporting that?

MR CRABTREE: My word I am. They have the right to demonstrate. They are not dictators, like the honourable member for Northcott.

MR CAMERON: You are glorifying lawlessness.

MR ACTING-SPEAKER (MR DARBY): Order! I call the honourable member for Northcott and the honourable member for Kogarah to order, and I ask the honourable member for Eastwood to continue.

MR CLOUGH: The Government, by its splendid efforts in the field of health—

MR CRABTREE: You were talking about education.

MR CLOUGH: I have already referred to the Government's splendid achievements in the field of education. The Government has done a magnificent job in that field. Although there are shortcomings, these are unavoidable and are no fault of the Government. In the field of health the Government has a splendid record of achievement, despite the unfortunate need recently to increase certain charges in this regard, which again is no fault of the Government.

MR CRABTREE: If the honourable member is proud of the health situation, I am not.

MR CLOUGH: The medical health services, especially the hospital services throughout the State are, generally speaking, in a good condition and are a credit to the Government and the Minister. I have had—as the honourable member for Kogarah has had—some experience of hospitals and I am able to say with some knowledge and certainty that this is in truth the case. Again in the field of conservation, of highways and of general public works, the Government has achieved a,

splendid record of which it may be proud. Today we live in a rather paradoxical environment: though interest in religion has probably never been greater, loss of authority of the accepted kind—no unhealthy sign—is most evident among Christian churches. If therefore we are to maintain a democratic way of life, in which we may enjoy the basic freedoms of speech, expression, worship and assembly, and freedom from fear and from want, it is apparent that a responsible laity must emerge to fill the void and to cushion radical diversions, digressions and transgressions.

I believe the Government is fulfilling this role by its steadfast determination to maintain law and order in the face of disorderly demonstrations, by its strenuous efforts to combat the evils of drug addiction, pornography and prostitution, by its avowed rejection of claims for more liberalization of our laws in regard to abortion and by its constant attention to important social welfare questions.

Despite all the strange, distracting and irritating nuances in our midst, I believe the world is as full as ever of opportunities both for service and reward, and of an endless need of goodwill, a goodwill that can spring ultimately only from some kind of belief in the value of life. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion before the House.

Mr MALLAM (Campbelltown) [5.15]: I wish to congratulate the mover and second-order of the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply and the other supporters of the Government who have spoken in this debate. They have done their best to put a case for the Government and to suggest why it has been returned, and I should like to put my case to show why I have been returned for the electorate of Campbelltown.

I wish to refer to certain very serious happenings in the electorate of Campbelltown during the counting of votes. When counting ceased on the Saturday night of the poll it seemed that the Government was in dire danger and the final result would depend on the results in two electorates, Campbelltown and Wollongong. In Camp-

belltown the figures had see-sawed. I finished on that night with my nose in front by a single vote and this was the position for the remainder of the week. The returning officer decided on a recount on Sunday, 21st February, 1971. On that day, one of the scrutineers acting for me was the Hon. R. R. Downing. During the morning, on a submission by him, the returning officer ruled out certain votes that were cast at Holsworthy that resulted in my being, at lunch time, about twenty votes in the lead. Apparently at the lunch interval an SOS went out to the Liberal Party.

To everyone's surprise the Chief Secretary, who is the Minister in charge of the Electoral Act, turned up at about 3 p.m. as chief scrutineer for Mr Dunbier, accompanied by a lawyer who is a member of the council of the Liberal Party. The votes in dispute were in a parcel that a poll clerk in the Holsworthy subdivision had initialled on the front of the ballot paper instead of on the back as required by the Act. Most of these votes favoured Mr Dunbier. The Chief Secretary argued that they should be counted for Mr Dunbier, that the intention of the voter was clear. When he tried to force his opinion on the returning officer, the Hon. R. R. Downing pointed out that the Chief Secretary could not presume on his position as a Government Minister and that he had no more rights or status than had any other scrutineer representing a candidate.

Mr WILLIS: He did not claim any more than that either, and the honourable member is straying from the truth if he wants to say otherwise.

Mr MALLAM: The other day in this House the Minister told the public what he was. That will be imprinted on your forehead—

Mr ACTING-SPEAKER (Mr DARBY): Order! The honourable member for Campbelltown will address the Chair.

Mr MALLAM: I am sorry, Mr Acting-Speaker. On the following Sunday, 28th February, 1971, at the direction of the Electoral Commissioner the returning officer conducted a further recount, at which the

Chief Secretary again attended as scrutineer for Mr Dunbier. The votes previously rejected by the returning officer again came up for consideration, but the Chief Secretary persisted with his stand-over tactics all day. The returning officer pointed out that the provision in the Electoral Act was quite clear and that the only valid votes were those initialled on the back. He was fortified in this contention by the fact that printed instructions from the chief electoral officer, issued to deputy returning officers and poll clerks had printed on top of every page an instruction that to be valid, votes had to be initialled on the back.

The returning officer, having given his decision, stood to his guns. I was fortunate that a man of such high probity and integrity should be occupying the position at such a critical time. The fact that the Minister was the man in charge of the electoral machinery did not deter the returning officer from doing his duty as he saw it.

Mr WILLIS: On a point of order. I take offence at the fact that I have been accused of being the Minister in charge of the electoral machinery during an election, when in fact everyone knows that the Electoral Act provides for no one but the Electoral Commissioner to have responsibility for administering the electoral laws during an election. To suggest otherwise is offensive to me and to go further and suggest that I abused that position by bringing undue intimidatory influence on one of the officials, who it is said was responsible to me, is so great a distortion of the truth that I think the honourable member for Campbelltown should be directed not to continue this line of misleading information which is so offensive to me.

Mr ACTING-SPEAKER: Order! We all appreciate that the Chief Secretary would not be pleased at the remarks made by the honourable member for Campbelltown, but thus far no offensive language or imputations as to character have been observed by the Chair. In view of the Chief Secretary's obvious distress at some of the implications, the Chair will indeed be careful to ensure that any criticism levelled at any actions of the Chief Secretary in his official capacity

Mr Mallam]

will be very carefully watched. The honourable member for Campbelltown will continue with his speech.

Mr MALLAM: I appreciate your ruling, Mr Acting-Speaker, but I am endeavouring to stick to the facts. The Hon. R. R. Downing, who had been Minister in charge of the bill when the electoral legislation went through the other place, pointed out that the letter of the law had to be observed and there was no room for alteration or interpretation to suit the political convenience and desire of the Minister. The action of the Minister, in attempting to interfere with the returning officer in the execution of his duty, was completely reprehensible and it was a betrayal of his trust as custodian of the Electoral Act. Especially during an election, it was his duty to remain completely non-partisan and unbiased in the discharge of his duty. By attempting to stand over the returning officer the Chief Secretary violated every cardinal principle of executive government.

Mr WILLIS: On a point of order. I take great exception to the remark that I attempted to stand over an electoral official. I regard that as most offensive. Not only is it untrue, but if it were true it would be a criminal act. I regard it as so offensive that I demand an immediate withdrawal and an apology.

Mr MALLAM: It was a criminal act—

Mr SHEAHAN: On the point of order. The Chief Secretary and Minister for Tourism and Sport has risen on a point of order where no point of order is involved. It may involve a personal explanation, but that should be made at the appropriate time. It is merely a tactical technique so that the time of the honourable member for Campbelltown is cut down and he is denied the opportunity of making this criticism. It is a denial of democracy to have brought down the half-hour limit on speeches.

Mr HEALEY: On the point of order. The honourable member for Campbelltown made the point that the Chief Secretary and Minister for Tourism and Sport was

at the time in question the Minister responsible for the Act. However from the Friday night prior to the election he was no longer the Minister responsible for the Act.

Mr MALLAM: Then tell me why Mr Askin signed the Clutha Act.

Mr HEALEY: Until the declaration of the poll he was no longer the Minister.

Mr ACTING-SPEAKER (Mr DARBY): Order! When the Chief Secretary and Minister for Tourism and Sport took a point of order a short time ago, I ruled that so far as I could determine no parliamentary offensive imputation had thus far been expressed, but I said that in view of the obvious distress of the Minister I would be vigilant and would watch the matter closely from then on. The Minister then took a point of order, saying that the words "stand-over tactics", which had been used by the honourable member for Campbelltown, were offensive to him. I concur with the submission made by the Chief Secretary and Minister for Tourism and Sport and say that it is an unparliamentary imputation to accuse a Minister of the Crown of "stand-over tactics", as I understand that term. I therefore call upon the honourable member for Campbelltown to withdraw and apologize.

Mr MALLAM: I did not hear the last part of your statement, Mr Acting-Speaker.

Mr ACTING-SPEAKER: I therefore call upon the honourable member for Campbelltown to withdraw and apologize.

Mr MALLAM: I withdraw and apologize, but I say it was grossly improper.

Mr WILLIS: You should take the advice given by your leader last night to be humble.

Mr ACTING-SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Campbelltown will continue his speech. The courtesy of the House will be extended to him so that he will be able to continue without interruption.

Mr MALLAM: Thank you, Mr Acting-Speaker. The next shocking development in this story occurred on 21st February, 1971, after counting had been completed. After

everyone had gone home, the Chief Secretary proceeded to the home of the returning officer and persisted in his attempt to make him change his mind.

Mr WILLIS: You have things out of sequence.

Mr MALLAM: Yes, you went to the returning officer's home and you continued

Mr WILLIS: On a point of order. I take offence at the remarks now being made by the honourable member for Campbelltown. He is claiming that I did certain things, but he was not there and he could not possibly know what I did, what I said, how I said it or anything else. Although he was not there he is prepared to make these allegations.

Mr SHEAHAN: You should not have been there.

Mr MALLAM: The Minister went to the returning officer's house.

Mr ACTING-SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order involved. The Chief Secretary and Minister for Tourism and Sport will have an opportunity during the debate to correct any matter that has been mentioned by the honourable member for Campbelltown.

Mr MALLAM: Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. I just want to add this, that the returning officer was a perfect gentleman, otherwise he would have booted the Minister out of the front door.

Mr WILLIS: Why?

Mr MALLAM: Because you had no right to be there and you know it.

Mr ACTING-SPEAKER: Order! Will the honourable member for Campbelltown please address the Chair?

Mr MALLAM: The Minister still refused to accept his defeat and the next day he turned up at the returning officer's office, accompanied by a leading Queen's Counsel, who had been briefed by the Liberal Party, and had given an opinion in his favour.

Mr WILLIS: You do not know what you are talking about.

Mr MALLAM: Meanwhile, the opinion was given by the Crown Law Office that the returning officer was right in rejecting the votes that the Minister said were valid.

Mr WILLIS: You are far away from the truth. That is not right.

Mr MALLAM: On the second count I received a majority of the votes and——

Mr WILLIS: If the objections of the electors had been counted you would not be here today.

Mr EINFELD: You are casting a reflection on the court.

[Interruption]

Mr ACTING-SPEAKER: Order! I call the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to order. I call the honourable member for Monaro to order, and I suggest that all members of this Assembly permit the honourable member for Campbelltown to proceed with his speech without interruption.

Mr MALLAM: Not only did the ministerial head call at the man's home but also his ministerial boss, the Minister for Lands, visited his office. What for? We are not all children; we know why he visited his office. We know why the Minister went to his home. He went and told a lie in the newspaper when he said he did not go to the home of the returning officer.

Mr WILLIS: I am not going to put up with this sort of thing. You are a dirty smearer.

Mr ACTING-SPEAKER: Order!

Mr WILLIS: You ought to get back in the gutter.

Mr ACTING-SPEAKER: Order! I call upon the honourable member for Campbelltown to withdraw and apologize for using the term "liar" as an epithet against another member of this House.

Mr MALLAM: I apologize. What I said about lies was that he stated in the newspaper——

Mr ACTING-SPEAKER: Order! You are not allowed to canvass my ruling in an attempt to excuse your use of a word for which you should be ashamed. Will you please continue your speech.

Mr MALLAM: I wish to go a little further with this matter. What happened was that when this matter was to go before the Court of Disputed Returns, no other than the Premier made a statement in the press that it was only a trivial matter.

Mr SHEAHAN: He said it in this House.

Mr MALLAM: In this House he said that I would not be here for long. That was while the matter was before the court.

Mr WILLIS: When a majority of the people do not want you, I do not wonder about that.

Mr MALLAM: You are disputing the court's decision now; you are disputing the decision of Mr Justice Hardie.

Mr WILLIS: No I am not.

Mr MALLAM: Yes, you are. You tried to influence the judge as well as the returning officer.

Mr WILLIS: On a point of order. I take offence at the statement just made that I attempted to influence a judge of the Supreme Court of this State. I demand the withdrawal of that remark and an apology.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Minister has taken exception to the statement, and I ask the honourable member to withdraw.

Mr MALLAM: I withdraw and apologize. I am only stating the facts about what the Premier said.

Mr WILLIS: On a point of order. The honourable member says that he stated the facts and that I attempted to influence a judge of the Supreme Court. I want to make it clear that I have had no communication whatever with Mr Justice Hardie, either before the Campbelltown electoral dispute or at any time afterwards. In the

circumstances, I could not possibly have had any influence on him. In any event, Mr Justice Hardie is a man of stature and would not be influenced by anything said by a politician. To suggest that such a thing is factual is completely false.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Do I understand that the honourable member for Campbelltown was repeating the statement by putting the words in the mouth of someone else?

Mr MALLAM: I referred to the Premier's statement. I did not refer to the Chief Secretary.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! In that event the honourable gentleman may continue if he makes it clear that he is not seeking to proceed with that sort of statement.

Mr MALLAM: The matter before the Court of Disputed Returns was an important one; nobody but the Premier has said that it was a trivial matter. He should not have made the remark he did when the matter was *sub judice*. He said in this House that I would not be here for long. The leader of the Opposition took exception to his remark. Members must agree that the Premier's remark was intended to influence the judge. It would be childlike to think differently. Fortunately, that Supreme Court judge could not be influenced. The Premier ran up against a returning officer who could not be stood over or influenced in any way—a perfectly honest man.

Mr HEALEY: The honourable member is suggesting that other judges could be influenced.

Mr MALLAM: I am suggesting that people could take a hint. The Premier gave a hint in the newspapers. The Premier's own political writer made a statement in the papers that I would be the member for one day and I would not even be paid. That statement was made when the electoral dispute was *sub judice*.

Mr WILLIS: On a point of order. It is regrettable that the Premier is temporarily absent. I take offence that the leader of our party, the Premier, has been accused by innuendo of attempting to influence a Supreme Court judge in the discharge of his

duty. I therefore ask that you direct the honourable member to apologize for that offence caused to the Premier.

Mr SHEAHAN: On the point of order. The honourable member for Campbelltown has mentioned a statement in this House by the Premier when the electoral dispute was before the court and therefore *sub judice*. It was heard by everybody and should not have been made. The Premier said that the honourable member for Campbelltown would not be here for long. It is fair for anybody to say that that remark was made with improper intent. It is not a matter for objection. It cannot be offensive to the Chief Secretary. The statement was made in the House within everybody's hearing. I submit that the Premier's statement ought not to have been made in the circumstances, when the matter was before the court for adjudication.

Mr WILLIS: On the point of order. If there was anything improper in what the Premier said when he said it, that was the time to take exception to his remark. What is now said is that the Premier had an improper motive in making the remark. I take offence at the statement by the honourable member for Campbelltown that the Premier's motives were improper. I submit it is a breach of the standing orders to impute improper motives to any honourable member in this House.

Mr EINFELD: On the point of order. This is not a parliament of morals. If there is anything wrong with the statement by the honourable member for Campbelltown, let the Premier make a personal explanation if he so desires.

Mr CAMERON: On the point of order. I submit it is particularly important that this imputation by the honourable member for Campbelltown be withdrawn. It is not only a reflection upon the Premier, who is absent; it is also a reflection upon the judiciary. The honourable member for Campbelltown says that the remark by the Premier was intended to influence a member of the judiciary. He goes further and says it was lucky that the particular member of the judiciary involved could not be influenced,

the clear imputation being that there are other members of the judiciary of New South Wales who could be influenced.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I am not sure that I understand what remark the honourable member for Campbelltown has made that is said to be offensive. As I understand it, he is putting his own construction on some remarks made in the Chamber at some time or other by the Premier. As I understand the honourable member, he says that the remark could have been intended to influence a judge of the Supreme Court. I should have to strain the matter to conclude that any member present in the House now would be justified in taking offence at it. If the Premier himself takes offence at it, he can deal with it in another way. At this stage I do not think I can ask the honourable member to withdraw the statement that he made.

Mr MALLAM: Thank you, Mr Speaker. In my view, this was a matter on which the Government was afraid it would be defeated. Ministers panicked and resorted to most improper tactics. The Government was afraid it was gone. Ministers would have pulled out every stop to prevent it, if they could. If at this late hour the Premier wants to do the proper and decent thing, he would dismiss this Minister of the Crown from his position as Chief Secretary.

Mr EINFELD: He has already dismissed him as Minister for Labour and Industry.

Mr MALLAM: Yes. The Chief Secretary has proved that he is not worthy to be in charge of the electoral laws in this State. If this position arises again, with a closely contested vote and a weaker returning officer, the whole course of government could be changed. I say that it was a most improper thing to do. First, I ask the Premier to dismiss the Chief Secretary and send him on his way. Second, I ask the Premier to dismiss the Minister for Lands, who did the second most improper thing. The returning officer concerned works in the Lands Department. The Minister called at the office—not just for a joke—when the fate of the Government was in the balance. The judge gave the decision completely my way, upholding the

returning officer's decision and commending the returning officer. The Chief Secretary has never apologized to him; he has never apologized to anybody.

Mr WILLIS: I have done nothing for which I should apologize. Why should I apologize?

Mr MALLAM: You should apologize. I hope no other member has to put up with what I had to endure for four months. I was declared elected by the referee—the returning officer. One day when I wanted to speak in this House a certain party wanted to know whether I was elected. I was elected by the people and declared elected by the returning officer. The judge said in his judgment that if the votes in question were declared valid, I should still have won, because a lot more votes could have been counted in my favour. The Chief Secretary has the hide to say here that I did not get enough votes, against Mr Justice Hardie's decision that I had more than enough votes. In the judge's own words, even if the votes in question had been declared valid, I would have won the election. The Chief Secretary is casting aspersions on the judge's decision. I hope no other member of Parliament has to put up with what I had to go through.

If a man is declared elected and comes into this Parliament, he should be recognized by everyone from the Speaker down. If the court's decision had been against me, I would have taken that decision that meant someone else was declared elected. But I was the elected member. I had to put up with the indignity of having a Liberal council in my electorate moving a vote of thanks to me and then holding it up until the judge's decision was announced.

Mr EINFELD: They probably held it up for the Chief Secretary's decision, too.

Mr MALLAM: They probably did. No one knows what he might do in that area. He would do anything. I could not let this session of Parliament go by, in fairness to all members, without saying these things and urging that the electoral laws should be upheld by the Government. Who could trust a government that allows its Chief

Secretary to go into the house of a returning officer? Who could trust a government that allows the Minister for Lands, the ministerial head, to visit the returning officer? At every close election in future the Government will never be trusted while the present Chief Secretary retains his portfolio and the Minister for Lands remains in his present position. In the interests of democracy and this Parliament, I claim that every electoral officer should be given immunity from this sort of thing. This could happen at every election throughout the State, with returning officers being stood over. If you want to know the sort of things I am talking about, you know why you visited the returning officer's home, and I have witnesses to prove you did.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member must address the Chair.

Mr MALLAM: I have witnesses to say that you went inside his house. You said you did not do so but I can produce them at any time. Why not call the returning officer to the bar of this House so that he can give us his story of what has happened. The Minister is not game to move in that direction.

Mr WILLIS: He did not tell you that I intimidated him.

Mr MALLAM: Everybody knows you did.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr WILLIS: On a point of order. The honourable member for Campbelltown is now flouting the ruling given by the Acting-Speaker a few minutes ago, when he told the honourable member for Campbelltown to withdraw and apologize for a remark he made to the effect that I had attempted to intimidate an electoral officer. I ask you again to direct him to withdraw and apologize.

Mr CRABTREE: On the point of order. There was an interjection by the Chief Secretary which you, Mr Speaker, will regard as grossly disorderly.

Mr SPEAKER: All interjections that I hear are.

Mr CRABTREE: I have a lot of sympathy for you, Mr Speaker. But the Chief Secretary used the word intimidate.

Mr WILLIS: I said I did not intimidate.

Mr CRABTREE: The Chief Secretary implied something about intimidation. In fact, the honourable member for Campbelltown made that remark in response to the interjection. It was brought upon the head of the Chief Secretary by his own interjection. I claim there is no point of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The simple fact is that the honourable member for Campbelltown did say that the Chief Secretary attempted to intimidate a returning officer. As exception has been taken to that part, it must be withdrawn.

Mr MALLAM: I withdraw that part but I do not withdraw my statement that he visited his home.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member's time has expired.

Mr HEALEY (Davidson) [5.45]: I extend my congratulations to the honourable member for Wakehurst and the honourable member for Sturt, who moved and seconded this motion, and also to the other honourable members who made their maiden speeches during this debate. I congratulate particularly the honourable member for Wakehurst, who has taken over the seat that I previously occupied. I am sure that in future we shall hear more fine speeches from him in this Chamber.

Today, outside and inside this Chamber, honourable members have been subjected to a demonstration by members of the teaching profession who have taken it upon themselves, as a result of a direction from their professional body, the Teachers Federation, to strike and to come here and make demands upon the Parliament. I wonder whether those who have come here today realize that the only people who will suffer from their actions are the children they should have been teaching.

As one who is the son of two teachers and has three sisters who are teachers, I am greatly concerned at what is happening in the teaching profession. My conception of the Teachers Federation has always been that it is the industrial body that would seek to improve the industrial and professional relationships of the teaching profession in this State. Many teachers regard teaching as a profession, but the attempts by the federation to intimidate the Government militate seriously against the teaching profession. It is a great shame that one of the noblest positions in the community should be reduced to its present position by the federation, which is merely taking away from the teacher his professional standing. It is time that all teachers took a greater interest in the federation's activities. Unfortunately, not all teachers exercise their right to vote at the election of federation executives. However, many of them are becoming increasingly disturbed by what is taking place.

I had a discussion yesterday and this morning with a large number of teachers who have expressed to me some concern about what is happening. I understand that a stand will be taken by teachers to demand that the Teachers Federation concentrate on industrial and professional matters and, by doing so, bring about better industrial conditions for its members. I realize that there are a number of problems in the teaching profession today, and I should be the last to minimize them. However, the present actions of the Teachers Federation do nothing towards improving the situation.

The Teachers Federation claims that it has put forward ideas but has received no replies. However the Minister has stated that many of these suggestions have been examined by the Department of Education and most of them have been found wanting. If there is a need for more teachers to take over classes in our schools, surely denigrating the profession by the federation is the last thing that will bring former teachers back to teaching; it certainly will not encourage people from Canada, the United States of America, England and elsewhere to come here to take up teaching in this State. I implore the Teachers Feder-

Mr Healey]

ation and teachers generally to take a positive attitude in these matters and to try to find a solution to the problems that exist in the profession, instead of taking their present action which seeks merely to establish a situation between themselves and the Minister whereby they will be unable to be brought together. Outside this House today groups of teachers have been demanding that sport be returned to the curriculum. [*Quorum formed.*]

Before the interruption, I was saying that the teachers outside this Chamber today claimed that sport had been taken from the education curriculum. This is not so. What has happened is that the Director-General of Education has suggested that compulsory sport should be removed from the education curriculum, but sport will become an elective subject within the schools and the teachers will receive additional remuneration for their supervision of sporting activities of students. Many children who have not had any interest in sport will not have to engage in it, and many teachers with a similar lack of interest in sport, who have made little effort to ensure that children engage in some healthy outdoor activity, will also be relieved of their responsibilities in this regard. In schools which elect that no sport will be taken, the teachers will be asked to do two more face-to-face teaching periods in the week, out of the three periods that normally would have been occupied by sport. To say that sport had been taken out of the curriculum completely is quite wrong.

It has been said also that the Department of Education is not doing enough to provide more teachers. Since this Government came to office in 1965 the number of teachers graduating has increased from 3,404 to 6,591 and those at present in training in colleges number 15,000 whereas the number of places in colleges in 1965 totalled only 7,900. The present Government has in six years doubled the number of teacher trainees. It has been said by many people—and in recent weeks I have been talking to some of the best known educationists in this State—that the problem of

providing sufficient teachers for the population explosion in New South Wales is such that it is unlikely that any system proposed either by the Government or by the federation will produce enough teachers to cope with the number of children that will be in our schools in the future. We cannot go any further in the number of teacher scholarships that are made available, as the department now offers scholarships to almost every matriculant student who has passed the higher school certificate examination.

Recently a young person who came to me saying that he had been sent by the Teachers Federation demanded that I go to the Minister for Education and get him a scholarship. His father and sister were teachers, so I can understand that perhaps he thought he should follow in their footsteps. On checking with the Department of Education I found that this student's aggregate marks were sixty below the cut-off point for teachers college scholarships. I said to the lad's father: "Would you want someone to teach your children in school if his school marks cannot rise to the lowest cut-off point?" The father agreed that there had to be a point below which the Government could not offer teachers scholarships to those who had completed the higher school certificate course. The federation's practice of sending all these young hopefuls to their local member demanding that the department provide them with a teachers college scholarship is misleading and does the federation no credit.

There are ways to overcome the shortage of teachers. Perhaps present plans will not enable us to catch up, but there are technical means available that can provide some assistance and perhaps allow teachers who are already available in our schools to spread themselves so as to cope more readily with the teaching situation. Dr H. W. F. Philp, Professor of Education within the Macquarie University, has suggested that we should do much more in the technical field and in the long term to ensure that the time of teachers is used to best advantage. Perhaps this can be done by more extensive use of radio, television, film and sound tape, enabling the school

teachers to reduce the number of hours of contact with their pupils and leaving them more time for supervising and helping the children, and spending less time in the drilling of students in classes. These techniques are expensive and will need some teacher retraining, but at present very little of this sort of activity is taking place in this and other States.

I am told by Professor Philp and others to whom I have spoken that other parts of the world which are said to be ahead of us in some ways have not yet attempted to do what should be done in this field. I was surprised to hear that the country doing most in this field at present is the Ivory Coast in Africa, where the Ford Foundation, UNESCO and the local federal government have now eight educational television stations, and teachers are being trained in the techniques and uses of these aids. We could well consider establishing an educational television channel in New South Wales, in the Sydney metropolitan area, where training techniques could be taught to many teachers and where also we might look at the possibility of finding teachers who can help most. In the teaching profession there are probably some teachers with the personalities necessary to get the message across—perhaps people similar in character to Professor Julius Sumner Miller—with the ability to instruct through the television medium. They could use special educational radio and television programmes to provide types of demonstration lessons and thus fill the gap between the number of teachers and the number of students in our schools.

The present education system is fairly inexpensive per pupil-hour, but when the techniques of film, radio and television are used the system becomes much more expensive. Roughly, the cost of education is about \$1 for each pupil-hour, but in some countries using these techniques—especially in France, which is using computers and other expensive hardware—the cost of education has gone up to \$80 for each pupil-hour. There is a big gap between what we are doing, what is being done in other countries, and what can be done to improve the present situation. Despite the fact that

we are spending on education about 45 per cent of our total funds, it appears that we shall have to spend more.

One example is the Lindfield demonstration school where the teachers are engaged in reading laboratory exercises in which all the children are graded according to capacity to read. Remarkable strides have been made in bringing together all those with similar reading ability and teaching them in a class at the same time, with those low in reading capacity advancing normally with the special books and aids available at the library. Good readers, high on the scale, make tremendous strides, but the interesting thing is that the gap between the two extremes is closing. Students from the William Balmain teachers college are going to the Lindfield demonstration school to use this laboratory and are able to serve the classes that are at present being taught in these reading laboratory techniques. However, I worry about what happens when they leave that school to go out to schools of their own. They are being taught the techniques of using new equipment and ways and means in which the general education of children can be improved, but very few schools will have this equipment when the teachers go out to take up their posts.

[Mr Speaker left the chair, at 6 p.m. The House resumed at 7.30 p.m.]

Mr HEALEY: The present system in operation at the Lindfield demonstration school with reading laboratories is one which must be favoured by all who have an interest in education, but equally, we must be concerned that teachers will go from this demonstration school and from the William Balmain Teachers College into schools where this equipment may not be available. It is all very nice to have wonderful school buildings which cost millions of dollars, but one wonders whether buildings make the greatest contribution to education. Some of these funds might be diverted to the provision of this very necessary equipment in reading laboratories and that would go a long way with the other technical aids I mentioned, by the use of radio, television and tapes, towards overcoming the shortage of teachers. It could provide also opportunities for teachers to spend a little

less time in face-to-face teaching, enabling them to get the message over with the most modern methods available. It is to be hoped that the opportunity is given to develop these further aids in schools.

I have been wondering what the Department of Education is doing to ascertain the supply and demand for labour in this State, having regard to our education system. I sought to find out whether the federal Department of Labour and National Service provided any figures from various departments which would enable the Department of Education to assess manpower requirements in the professional, technical and sub-technical areas of our work force. I ascertained that the Department of Labour and National Service provides information to the Department of Education by way of a booklet of immediate figures that are used by school counsellors to determine roughly what the requirements are likely to be in the next 12 months in the various fields of activity, how many graduate positions are likely to be available, how many positions will be open to people in technical and sub-technical areas and so on.

Unfortunately this is not carried through as a projection into the future. It would seem that to know what the best value is from our education service and whether we are getting value for money, we ought to have some projection of this sort. A survey could be carried out among the population, of both a quantitative and qualitative nature, so that when we come to counsel students in high schools we shall be able to give them some indication of what the future holds for them. With the increased continuation rate of students—much higher than was ever thought of when the Wyndham scheme came into being—perhaps we are over-educating some proportion of our children. I do not mean to imply that any child should have less education than he or she needs, but some children today go on to higher education without any real knowledge available to them in regard to what they want to do or what jobs are open to them. We have a huge proportion of young people looking for prestigious jobs, and in fact there are more students looking for

these jobs than there are jobs available. We find students and young people going to universities or some other institution in order to get a qualification which they will not be able to use. It seems a waste if we cannot find out what the community's requirements will be.

We do not know, for example, what the demands of the economy are likely to be in the future. The Department of Education could well take that appraisal which they get from the Department of Labour and National Service and project it through five or ten years ahead so that we have some information available to indicate whether our money is being spent on all areas of education in a correct manner. A reference centre operated by the Department of Labour and National Service in Kippax Street provides some career information, but there being no requirement for a long-range projection, employers themselves are not looking ahead to the community's needs.

After the recent elections the Premier created a new ministry of sport, which has been added to that of the Chief Secretary and Minister for Tourism. I regard the nomenclature as a little unfortunate. I hope that the portfolio could involve more than organized sport, but also the recreation and leisure activities of the whole population. To limit it to organized sport is to make it too narrow. There is a need for it to go further. With the recreation and leisure activities of our community being so much under the microscope at the present time, this may be a worthwhile and important area for Government consideration.

The Premier and the Minister for Tourism and Sport might look at things that are necessary. There should be some consultation with local government throughout the State, particularly in regard to the provision of playing fields, and perhaps funds may be made available to the Ministry and consideration given to grants to enable facilities for sport, recreation and leisure to be made available. The Government may find it possible to arrange for repayment of loans for local government so that it can bring improvements to our playing fields and

bring other leisure and recreation facilities up to a required standard. This standard might well be set by the Ministry. There is such a need, especially as Sydney wants to conduct the 1988 Olympic Games. I said here in 1962 that this State and this city have the worst sporting facilities in the world for any city of comparable size. We lack a decent athletic track; we lack a decent cycling track. There is no place for indoor sports such as basketball. I hope that the Minister for Tourism and Sport will give some thought to this. It may be that some help could be given to local government to provide for these activities, or that private enterprise could be encouraged to come into the field and provide them. It might be possible for these to be constructed to a Ministry standard, and perhaps money could be made available at low interest rates to enable these things to be provided in this field of leisure and recreation, where local government is not involved at the present time. Reasonable terms could be worked out. We could amortize this over a fairly lengthy period so that demands for repayment of moneys would not be impossible to meet, particularly for amateur groups whose activities do not bring in much by way of gate receipts.

I am concerned about some of the activities for youth in our community, particularly in regard to recreation and leisure. Some good articles in the *Sun* newspaper last week highlighted what is happening. We are looking after those who want to be looked after and those who attend youth clubs, but what of those people in their 'teens who find the present type of youth clubs quite unsuitable for their needs?

The Ministry of Recreation and Leisure could perhaps encompass youth activities that need attention. The Government is doing first-class work. Through the Youth Advisory Council it has allocated \$75,000 a year to youth groups in the community. However, the requirements of young people between the ages of 16 and 22 are not being met. Something must be done to help this age group. We are buying respectability for youth and attempting to satisfy youth requirements by building magnificent youth

palaces in many suburbs, but as these provide nothing more than an outlet for physical activities such as fencing, boxing and other pastimes that have very little attraction for older youths, these clubs are becoming a recreationist's nightmare. There is great pressure on young people to play sport from the age of 6 or 7 years. Parents push their children into competitive sport so vigorously that by the time the children are 13 or 14, they are sick of organized sport and want to do their own thing. Figures supplied by the National Fitness Council and other youth bodies show a decline of about 50 per cent in organized sport participation by children from the age of 14 years. We have failed to come to grips with the situation by providing amenities for young people of 14 years and over.

The new Ministry set up by the Premier could advise on rationalization in these areas of youth activity. It could work out commitments and provide multi-purpose plans to solve the problems. There is a great deal of duplication of activities: many youth groups are doing exactly the same thing. There is a proliferation of clubs, and buildings are not used to capacity. Needs of the community must be rationalized to ensure that people in this age group get the kind of sport and assistance they want. Adequate funds must be made available for this work. Expertise is available from the National Fitness Council's trained officers, who will assist the new Ministry in its task of ensuring that in the near future this area of recreation and leisure is given proper emphasis and treatment, and an adequate share of State finances.

Environment and pollution are popular subjects. The question most people ask is, what is the Government doing? Everywhere one goes, that question is echoed. My experience has led me to ask the opposite question: what is the public doing about pollution of the environment? Experience shows that the worst pollution close to residential areas is caused by the activities of people who live in the neighbourhood. Man's greatest problem is his fellow man. The honourable member for Wakehurst and I are trying to assist in the improvement of

Mr Healey

Davidson Park in my electorate. We have found that the entire park, which is administered by trustees, has been despoiled by man himself. All sorts of rubbish, old cars, and indeed most things that the average householder tries to get rid of, have been dumped within the park. Governments can legislate to restrict pollution from industry, but the worst pollution is caused by ourselves and our neighbours. This is one facet of the problem that must be brought to public attention.

People must be educated to understand that they are responsible for their own environment. They are the source of pollution that is causing much concern in our parks and reserves. Some government instrumentalities are not as aware as they should be of the need to curtail pollution. The honourable member for Wakehurst and I, with other members, have told government authorities about unnecessary despoilation of primitive park areas. To maintain breathing spaces like Davidson Park in a rapidly developing urban community like ours, people who use public parks and recreation areas must adopt a responsible attitude. They must ensure that nothing they do will spoil primitive areas designed for public enjoyment as a breathing space in closely built-up areas. Though it is all very well for people to demand in a general way that the Government do something about pollution, and the Government must legislate against pollution emanating from factories and other establishments, it is important to realize that man himself is largely responsible for pollution of his own environment.

MR SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member's time has expired.

MR RENHAW (Castlereagh) [7.45]: I congratulate the mover and seconder upon their speeches in support of the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. I appreciate their feelings in discharging such an important task, which I undertook when making my first speech in Parliament a little more than thirty years ago. A new member is hampered by the greatest difficulty he can experience in this place—nerves of the tummy when first he

risers to address this honourable Chamber. I congratulate all members who made their maiden speeches in this debate.

Let me now deal specifically with rural problems. They are not the only urgent problems in the community, but they are perhaps the most pressing. There are, of course, problems in education, health, transport and local government, and difficulties arising from added costs following upon inflation, which is a common denominator affecting every section of the community. To put the matter properly, I shall place on record certain things that have taken place recently between the public on the one hand and the Premier on the other. Information has been sent out that serves only to highlight the difficulties confronting many country people. The Government has said that it will attempt to overcome their problems, but it has failed to do so.

Over a period of many months, country people and organizations, municipal and shire councils, and public meetings have requested the Premier to take certain action to avoid an increase in unemployment, which has already reached an alarming extent in country areas. If the drift from the country continues, the country will soon be denuded of its labour force. A grave social problem is quickly arising. Representations made by members on both sides of the House culminated in a letter last June to the Premier. That letter, which I directed on behalf of many organizations in western districts, set out basically the problems and the dire need for urgent action by the Government. It stated that unemployment in most country areas, particularly related to the wool industry, was of the order of 7 per cent or 8 per cent and emphasized that this percentage was growing daily. The Commonwealth Statistician's figures of registered unemployed paint a bleak picture. Mark the word registered: for every person registered unemployed in country districts, there are several unemployed persons who are not registered. They may have left the area, they may work one or two days a week, or they may follow the shearing sheds and be not eligible to register as people seeking gainful employment for a period.

This morning's figures indicated that this problem is widespread. For instance, 64,300 people are registered as unemployed in the whole of Australia, but 29,990 of these are in rural areas. Almost 50 per cent of the total number of unemployed people live in rural areas, but when this is related to the work force in country areas and the major country cities like Albury, one finds that it applies to only 19 per cent of the total work force. Therefore, five or six per cent of the country work force is unemployed.

When one considers this problem in relation to the areas adjacent to the wool industry alone, the gravity of the situation becomes most apparent. Incidentally, this grave situation has existed for a considerable period. I was unable to secure through the ministerial channels the figures I am about to quote; I had to go to Brewarrina and learn them from a member of the Rural Reconstruction Board who was addressing Graziers' Association members and informing them of the situation as he knew it as a member of the board. I shall not weary the House with the whole of his comments and his paper, but he said:

Statistics showed there were 38,000 wool-growers within the State of New South Wales, including 1,800 in the western district. During the past six months the board had received 1,057 applications from the whole of the State say a little over 2½ per cent. However, in the Western Division applications received in the past six months totalled 362 representing about 20 per cent of western woolgrowers in the period.

He went on to say that applications resulted in two being settled and 10 partly settled, and possibly 9 will be settled within the next few months.

That statement was made on 9th July this year and referred to the six months prior to 9th July. He went on to say that 40 were possibly to be settled, and it is expected that only a small number will be settled. One hundred were refused, five withdrawn, 141 awaited determination, and 64 were deferred pending possible rises in wool; making a total of 362.

Only 2 out of 362 have been settled. I am bringing these matters forward now before coming to the social problem that flows from them. One could reverse the

axiom about a sledgehammer being used to crack a nut, and say that a nut is being used to crack a sledgehammer. This is the position if this rate of progress is to be accepted as solving a grave social problem that involves many hundreds of people on the land.

Recently the honourable member for Dubbo asked a question and the Premier's reply was on the lines of a letter that we had received shortly before. What amazed me and country people was that one of the main arguments advanced by the Premier for resolving the problems of country people is decentralization. The Government speaks of decentralization, but it must realize that more people have left country areas in the past six months than were ever taken there through the Government's decentralization efforts in the past six to nine years. Also, the drift is rapidly increasing, not only with farm labour but also as a result of the closing of shops, dire problems affecting local government and the cessation of employment there. All these things have multiplying factors.

If there were ever a case for urgency on the part of the Government it relates to the problem confronting the work force in the rural areas. This was evident at the Premiers' conference in Canberra this year but, for some reason best known to the Premier and the Government, it was not advanced by the Premier of New South Wales, although the State of Queensland has consistently advanced it, having in mind the effects of drought and now the depression in the wool industry. As a result, Queensland has been able to secure substantial grants. The Premier went on to say that as a result of the action taken by the Government, through making funds available for rural reconstruction, the Government was assisting to overcome the problem.

Does any honourable member on either side of the House believe that the present rate of progress, as evidenced by two people out of 362 being settled in the Western Division during the six months ended 9th July this year, is solving the rural problem? If the Government believes that it is, it is time the Premier got out in the west and saw

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the problems for himself, and saw how these departments are dealing with these applications. It is idle for him to suggest to this House that over four years New South Wales will secure \$32,000,000 of Commonwealth funds for rural reconstruction. In two years or even in twelve months many of these cases will be resolved simply by people walking off their properties as a result of the inaction of the Government. Instead of accelerating the activities of the Rural Reconstruction Board and having these properties reconstructed, the Government seems to be dawdling along at the same tempo.

This problem affects other sections of the community, and the effects have flowed through the whole of the western districts. These problems are basically in the north-west and in the western area centred on Dubbo. The honourable member for Dubbo would suggest that the figures are alarming, but outside Dubbo in one area there might be fifteen or twenty job opportunities which, upon examination, turn out to be specialized job opportunities, and not available to the normal rural worker. In order to fill these jobs it is necessary to import somebody. In other words, no job opportunities exist in the whole of the Dubbo and western region at the present time. This relates to the figures that have been prepared in relation to the people who are out of work.

This brings the responsibility right back to the Government's doorstep, but the Government's answer has been that rural reconstruction will create more employment. The true position is that rural reconstruction will only re-finance farmers in place of the lending institutions. It will give a farmer an opportunity to carry on, but it will not give him the opportunity to employ even one person. It is ridiculous for the Premier to say that this will contribute towards overcoming the great social problem that affects country people today. The Premier even had the temerity to inform this House that the Government's decision to take over the full financial responsibility for the main and trunk road system would help to create more employment. Every member knows that funds are not available for this work and therefore these responsibilities will not be taken over this year.

For the reasons I have explained, the two major contributions that have been mentioned by the Premier towards overcoming the problems of the rural people are not effective. The first major contribution is rural reconstruction, but the Government's progress has been at the rate of only two out of 362 in six months. The other major contribution relates to the trunk roads of this State, but that will not be this year anyway; it will be next year, some time, never. Certainly it will not be until 1972. Any government that examines this great social problem in that light is not being realistic. I have mentioned the two matters that have been referred to by the Premier, and I have shown how they will bring no response whatsoever. Immediate action should be taken by the Government to review the whole works programme, to see that employment opportunities are made available to people in many country districts before those people have left the country districts.

Much could be done to improve the efficiency of the country. The Premier and the Government have their priorities horribly mixed when they can throw around \$250,000 for a race club or two but cannot subscribe a penny towards employment-giving opportunities for country people. The Government could do much by revising its railways and roads programmes. It could rearrange the priorities of the main roads programme and could spend money at an accelerated rate on western roads around problem centres. This would be to the detriment of some inner areas where there are huge construction programmes, but the Government could by a change of priorities attack the social problem that exists. The people for whom I am pleading, having grown up on the land or in country areas, are great country men and women. Once lost to the country, they will never return to it. They will be lost to the country if the situation that has obtained in the past twelve months, especially in regard to employment, continues.

The Premier said there was some doubt about responsibility and that in relation to unemployment relief, the Commonwealth had the responsibility. This is true but still

no one offers country people full time, gainful employment on construction work. When these people are out of work they can obtain a social services payment, but one must consider the dignity of man and the social implications of unemployment. A ratio of unemployment of 7 or 8 per cent only highlights the effect. These people, workers and landowners, seeing the slow progress that is being made with the rural reconstruction scheme, will walk off their properties, drive taxis around the cities, or look for alternative city work, and will never go back to the country.

This evening the Premier said that he had communicated with the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister is a little indisposed and at present has other matters to distract him, but it was not yesterday or the day before that the Premier communicated with the Prime Minister. The Premier has not intimated when he got in touch with the Prime Minister. I have a letter showing that prior to 25th June he had applied to the federal Treasurer for funds to finance employment-giving works. It is true that one of the great problems of the primary industries has been that they have been caught up in the inflationary spiral. Good roads and cheap freights are important to people on the land for the transport of their goods. Country councils have submitted works programmes, some costing up to \$1,000,000 and some about \$500,000. These programmes, submitted to the Minister for Public Works, are gathering dust in their pigeon holes.

So far the Premier has not had a reply from the Prime Minister in relation to this great social problem, though daily things are getting worse. The House is entitled to ask what I would do, and what would be the attitude of the Opposition. I am here not to express the attitude of the Opposition but only to offer my comments. Many things can be done, apart from revising priority programmes, which would be simply an adjustment. Many factors contribute to inflation, such as the cost of housing, capital issues, the wage structure, prices and interest rates. One of the greatest difficulties is high interest on any overdraft that people on the land obtain. This Government

amended the Farmers Relief Act to permit the rural reconstruction board to charge a rate of interest higher than it had imposed previously, even before the Government went to the Commonwealth to get \$32,000,000 to spend on rural reconstruction over the next four years. The Commonwealth demanded 6½ per cent interest on the money used for reconstructing or building up properties, the obvious reason being that this Government had already amended the Act in relation to these matters so that interest could be charged at rates higher than those previously charged for rural reconstruction.

Further, I contend that there should be a re-enactment of the stay order provisions by which the board can stay proceedings while adjusting all a landholder's debts. Today this action must be taken separately in respect of each creditor and renewed every three months. It becomes a tortuous process. A stay order is a moratorium for the individual and is a procedure that was developed nearly forty years ago.

All the creditors ought to be represented in the reconstruction. At present unsecured creditors are left out, and usually these are the local storekeepers. They should be permitted to sit around the table, too. The property should be written down to its present value, based on what it can produce, as was done in the South-west years ago. If the real value on the realization were 80 cents in the \$1, or 50 cents in the \$1, and secured and unsecured creditors alike were gathered around the table, many of them would accept that settlement. The unsecured creditor is the person who keeps the bread and butter up to the local people and the graziers who, because of wool prices and inflation, are going downhill. These unsecured creditors are not even considered, but they should be.

Let us not imagine that everyone who is to survive out in the west must be big. Some big firms, which paid \$6 an acre three or four years ago, when prospects for wool were fairly good, have sold out for \$2 an acre, but they have other resources behind them and taxation advantages that an ordinary person does not possess. They have the right to write off losses against other classes

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of investment. The people I mentioned earlier are those who ought to be helped under the rural reconstruction scheme—not the people who can get taxation benefits in relation to advances not repaid or trading losses. Last night we went to a function where people spoke of charity. The most charitable person in the rural community is the storekeeper who lets a man have tucker when he has no security to offer, but the same storekeeper is completely disregarded under these reconstruction provisions. He is an unsecured creditor. Let me go a step further. I should like to quote this passage from a letter that I wrote in July, 1969, when a constituent asked me what I would do to curb the problem of inflation:

In answer to your question: what are your views on how inflation can be halted and indeed reversed, this cannot be effectively done unless a government is prepared to have certain controls to cover costs which include wages and prices and interest rates. To have it on wages alone, where it is necessary to establish the return they are entitled to, without the same measuring stick being applied to other factors in the community is discriminatory, will not solve the situation and only aggravates industrial unrest.

The views expressed there in relation to this important matter are views that I still hold today. The amazing part of it all is that under our system, as in most expanding countries, the system has to break down completely before any action is taken at Government or any other level to institute the controls that were inevitable. We saw that situation arise only yesterday in the great United States of America which has experienced grave problems of inflation and a high incidence of unemployment, together with a high cost of production of consumer goods which have been heavily subsidized, particularly primary produce. Inevitably and grudgingly, in order to cope with the situation, the government of the United States of America has imposed controls to operate until tribunals are set up that will establish a proper measuring stick to ensure that everybody gets a fair go.

MR EINFELD: No Government here has the guts to do it.

Mr RENSHAW: No government is willing to step forward and do it. If there are priorities of urgency in our community, whether they be in respect of rural matters, education problems or in the field of health, it is the duty of the Government to determine those priorities and to arrange its finances and its budget in a way that will overcome the problems of the community. Some difficulties, handled properly, are perhaps short lived. I am one who contributes to the point of view that proper reconstruction involves a writing down of debts and a low interest rate on the remainder. Nothing is achieved by reconstructing debts with fictitious interest rates. One board is not enough. The urgency and gravity of the situation require two or three boards to deal with these matters. Then it would be possible to begin to put farmers back on a solid footing. Despite the present low prices for commodities and inflation, even before goods are sent overseas many organizations get together and impose their own controls to see that they get their share, whether it be from shipping or anything else.

I do not know what the federal Treasurer has in mind in his Budget tonight, but he will probably keep to the conventional system that has already failed. For many years Labor has advocated that there should be acquisition of wool and marketing with one voice, but it seems that will be the last thing to be done instead of being the first. The tragedy is that something should be done about these problems today instead of waiting to deal with them tomorrow or the day after. The Government is dealing with things that it should not be bothering with at all. It is rushing in to prop up a system of marketing which is inefficient. The difficulties of the whole of the country areas are related to the general cost structure.

The thing I cannot understand about this rural crisis is that there are members of the Country Party in this House who do not seem to be anxious to say very much about it. They either want to sweep the problem under the carpet or cling to secure ministerial jobs, instead of looking at the problem and endeavouring to overcome it. On other occasions Country Party members

have sat on the crossbenches. There have been Country Party members who have governed with the assistance of the Labor Party, and vice versa. Although the number of people who elected them is small, they are powerful in this House and many other Houses of Parliament in this country. These sentiments have been echoed by many country people. However, it seems that only a few Country Party members are raising their voices to see that these problems are analyzed.

I suggest to the Premier that he should treat rural unemployment as an urgent matter, and that he should reorganize his works programmes to see that relief is given before there is a calamity in the western areas of New South Wales. I ask him not merely to wait upon the Prime Minister to give him a reply to his request, but to see that funds are made available immediately to overcome one of the greatest problems that has confronted the people of western New South Wales and the other grazing areas of this State in the past thirty years.

Mr TAYLOR (Temora) [8.15]: I join other speakers in congratulating the mover and seconder of the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech. I congratulate also the other members who have made their maiden speeches in this debate. Speaking in this House is different to speaking anywhere else, no matter how much experience a member might have had elsewhere and whatever walk of life he might have come from. It is especially difficult for a person to stand in this House and make his maiden speech. That does not mean that it is always easy from then on. [*Quorum formed.*]

I wish to deal principally with matters that concern rural areas but before I do so I must speak of something else that concerns me deeply. Various speakers have spoken on this matter before me; it concerns everybody in this State. It is one of the things that goes to the heart of our existence. I agree with the honourable member for Castlereagh that there is a serious economic crisis in rural areas, and I agree that there are problems in other areas, but there is no problem greater than, nor one that is likely to destroy us as a State and

as a nation more effectively than allowing moral standards to be destroyed. If we permit ourselves to be betrayed by professional agitators who are eager to take every opportunity to stimulate any group that may be disgruntled, upset or anything else, we shall pay a heavy price. Despite the economic problems that exist, there is no shadow of doubt that one of the things that is rampant from one country to another is a feeling of unrest and general insecurity—not just economic insecurity—among young people and others not so young. This is something that all of us should think about seriously before we commit ourselves to a cause. The one thing this great nation has had has been the firmness of its people in the knowledge that when their security was threatened it would be defended, as it will always have to be.

I find myself in complete agreement with a number of points made by the honourable member for Castlereagh, particularly in relation to country areas partly or completely dependent on the wool industry. Rural reconstruction is the system by which the Government endeavours to keep men on the land until marketing difficulties, cost factors and whatever else is causing the rural depression, are surmounted. That involves helping farmers to stay on their properties. However, rural reconstruction alone is not the solution to the problems of the rural areas. The solution involves much more than that: it involves, for example, a consideration of what each farmer is receiving for his product, and what he is paying to produce it. The history of primary production in this country shows that almost always rural depressions have followed serious droughts and national disasters.

The year 1964 saw the beginning of a disastrous drought, the worst that the State has recorded. Some farmers were without rain on their properties for five, six or seven years, and had no real opportunity to produce in that time. They were enabled to carry on by a gigantic drought relief scheme, implemented by the State of New South Wales and supported with Commonwealth money. The crunch for the primary producer came when the drought was over,

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at a point when he had accumulated an enormous debt, was receiving low prices for his product, and was incurring high costs to produce it.

The honourable member for Castlereagh spoke of job opportunities. I agree with what he said. There are problems in trying to keep men on the land through rural reconstruction schemes, for the Rural Reconstruction Board is required by the Farmers Relief Act to be convinced that if it gives assistance to a farmer, he can get out of his difficulty. It is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that assistance is not given to any person who has reached a point where, even if assistance were given, it would still not be possible for him to become a viable farmer again. Two years ago the Rural Reconstruction Board looked at a number of applications from farmers in the light of wool prices and the cost structure existing then. At that stage the board was able to take those farmers on, believing that they would again become economic primary producers. The opposite happened. However, the board was then making no greater a mistake than was made by practically all lending authorities. One must not blame the farmers either, saying that they made a bad decision to borrow money. They applied for loans and the money was forthcoming in the belief that they could repay it.

Despite the belief of the Rural Reconstruction Board, farmers who, two years ago were given loans to help them carry on, got into greater financial trouble when wool prices went much lower and costs kept soaring. Many of those applicants are now having trouble meeting their commitments, and this has made it even more difficult for the board to decide later applications. In this connection the honourable member for Castlereagh referred to the Western Division. I went into the Western Division some five years ago or more. At that time, because of the drought, there were farmers there whose economic position would have been found to be hopeless if one honestly sat down and examined it. The tragedy of the situation was that they had been

there all their lives, but there was no way of helping them out of their financial difficulty.

The honourable member for Castlereagh spoke of suggestions that he had made to deal with the situation. I do not know how long ago he made them, but when I first heard early this year a statement by the then Prime Minister that because of inflation a restriction would be placed on the amount of money available for Government works, I immediately took action by telegram, by letter and by making personal representations to point out that works done in rural areas, such as mine and others further west, would not be inflationary: on the contrary, they would use up the available work force, which would otherwise become redundant. They would not compete for finance with other projects, or deprive anybody of jobs. One can say, despite our policy of decentralization, thank goodness jobs have been available in the metropolitan and industrial areas, and that a great many people from the country who were qualified for the work, have been able to take it. I have in mind builders and other persons who lived in the rural districts. The fact is that such persons do not register with the Commonwealth, but come to the city and find jobs themselves. Therefore they do not appear in the unemployment figures, which are misleading.

I believe that the Government must make jobs available in country areas. There is work to be done. I do not believe in wasting money. Sometimes we do waste money on schemes, but I sincerely believe that if we are to have anything left of our rural population, we should provide the sort of work that will keep people in country towns until the local industries are re-organized and are able to recoup their losses. Honourable members know that once people leave the country, they do not go back. The effects of the rural situation are just starting to be felt in the city. As an Australian, even though I represent a country electorate, I am proud of the city. I have been away from this country, and have felt proud to return to it, and in particular to the city. I do not want it to be thought that I am knocking the city, but I want to refute the argument heard in city areas

that we are off the sheep's back at last. In effect some people are saying: "Never mind the rural industries. They do not matter now. We will be able to manage as the result of industrial growth, through mining and other industry."

MR BREWER: They will soon find out how wrong they are.

MR TAYLOR: Already the city people are learning. I do not think anybody will be glad about the steep increase in railway fares, but it is virtually impossible to contemplate increased freights on wheat, wool or grain, which are the major source of railway freight earnings. This is one time when city people have found that being off the sheep's back is not as good as they might have thought. For the first time they are finding out that no longer can they load the rural industries to carry and absorb the increased costs.

It is rather interesting to see what has happened in some places since the Treasury came to the rescue and applied freight subsidies—a term that many wool men do not like. The Government reduced the maximum freight on wool from \$4.08 a bale to \$3 a bale. In the town of Temora, about 11,000 bales of wool were trucked in 1963. Last year the number of bales barely reached 100: they went somewhere else, not on the railways, not to New South Wales where people working in the wool stores get the benefit. Since that reduction in freight, more wool is coming back to the railways and being trucked from Temora. This message may be well worthwhile remembering.

It is fashionable these days to mention education, about which the Government has been criticized. However, I say without hesitation that education in my electorate, both in quality and in opportunity, is better now than it ever was, though of course there are problems. One of the things that has made a tremendous difference to the quality of education and has increased education opportunities was the Government's decision to take full responsibility for providing special school buses. I wonder whether city people realize what a boon this has been to students at central country schools in

my electorate. Unfortunately, there is still a big part of my electorate where a child can get public school education only at a one-teacher school or two-teacher school. Before school transport was improved, children from those areas seeking secondary education had to be boarded in a hostel or boarding school at considerable cost to their parents. Now, very few children remain in that predicament.

Naturally, concentration of children in central schools has brought about congestion that some people call a crisis. Nevertheless, there has been a big improvement in education. Larger numbers of children have meant improved services and an upgrading of central schools. This has transformed the quality of education in many schools in the western part of the State, improving opportunities as well. Schools such as Lake Cargelligo and Hillston need to be improved, though work is being done at a number of places. Schools are being developed to an extent that was never dreamed of a few years ago. People are now proud to send their children to worthwhile schools that provide a good education. It is tragic to hear people say that education is in chaos.

The work of many schools is now receiving recognition from the community. This is important. Years ago, people sent their children to State schools only if they could not afford to send them somewhere else. These days, both children and parents are proud of really worthwhile schools. A good deal of school building work is proceeding in my electorate, though more work is always needed in a rapidly growing community. I say categorically that children in my electorate have a much better opportunity of getting a good education than their predecessors did. Education services are improving almost weekly.

I should be remiss if I failed to mention the great progress that has been made in agricultural education, which is of the utmost importance. We hear talk about rural reconstruction and the need for industries to change their pattern of operation. The people best fitted to do this will have had the advantage of a good agricultural education. I am not talking of scientists, though

plenty of them are needed; I mean commercial farmers. I speak with personal knowledge of this, as I have a son not yet 20 years of age who is running a farm in trying circumstances and making a good fist of it. He had the opportunity to get an agricultural education and to find out how to do things before he was thrust into the position of having to do them.

The Opposition moved two amendments to the motion in an attempt to censure the Government. It is the thing to do, I suppose. Opposition members say that a good deal more should be done here and there. That is the duty of the Opposition. The plain fact is that in many fields this Government has done things that have never been done before. This Government is the first to make available direct Treasury assistance to local government. It is nowhere near enough, but the Treasury's finances are restricted. The fact is that this is the first Government to contribute to local councils in an attempt to relieve the heavy burden on ratepayers.

Some people believe that rates should not be paid. The Minister for Local Government and Minister for Highways is examining propositions along those lines which have been put to him by ratepayers associations. When one takes into account the crisis facing the rural areas one can understand why so many ratepayers are concerned about rates. Rating is something that has changed considerably over the years. Not many years ago as soon as a property had a bitumen road leading to it or electricity connected to it the owner enjoyed a capital gain. The property became worth more on the market than before. That no longer applies. Electricity is available in most areas of the State but economic circumstances are such as to make it impossible to sell a property. So many persons besides the farmer use the roads to make a living that the benefit which once accrued to a farmer by having a sealed road to his property is shared by many others.

These arguments are being put forward to bolster the case for abolishing the payment of local-government rates. However, I come back to the plain fact that it was this

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coalition Government that made the break by providing grants from the Treasury to local government. I am quite certain that these must be increased to a much higher level before they will achieve what the Government is trying to do. The important thing is that the principle—one never accepted before—has been established. Many people in the State have for a long time failed to take sufficient interest in the affairs of their local council.

Mr R. J. KELLY: Does the honourable member think that I am not interested in Bankstown?

Mr TAYLOR: I admit that the honourable member is interested in Bankstown but he is not the average citizen. Because things have been going along too easily many have failed to take an interest in local affairs. Now, when times are tough, they are blaming the council for having debts of thousands of dollars; they are complaining about many other things. A few years ago these very people were demanding electricity and sealed roads and now the council has to allocate loans funds to meet commitments for these works. Whichever way local government is financed it must be recognized that no local-government body can spend more money than the area itself can generate. In other words, no council can over-commit the area that it represents, which unfortunately has happened in many areas. For this reason governments will have to come in to try to rectify the situation. There is no way in the world that the ratepayer will be able to meet the commitments accepted by councils, or the councils themselves will be able to carry on, unless government assistance is forthcoming in considerable sums.

I again congratulate the mover and seconder of the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. Despite droughts, floods and serious economic difficulties, the Government has achieved much. I do not want to give the impression this evening that everything that has to be done has been done. I do not think I have done so. We have achieved much and we shall continue to achieve more while ever we accept the responsibility of government.

Mr R. J. KELLY (East Hills) [8.45]: I must say that I agree with the honourable member for Temora when he expresses grave concern for the future of this country and at the way it is going under this decrepit Government, which is responsible for the way the State has been governed. Honourable members need take little notice of me; the stock exchange plainly shows the drift. In January, 1970, the all series index was 665 and today it is down to 475—a tremendous drop in 18 months. It is impossible to fool those hard-headed boys on the stock exchange. Government supporters would be only kidding themselves were they to try to tell the stock exchange that everything is all right.

I congratulate the mover and seconder of the motion. I do not know whether they ever read the motion but whoever framed it did so in a manner that reflects the mediaeval or antediluvian thinking of the Government. In part the motion reads:

We, Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, in Parliament assembled, desire to express our thanks for your Excellency's Speech, and to assure you of our unfeigned attachment to Her Most Gracious Majesty's Throne and Person.

That most gracious lady, who once presided over the greatest empire the world has ever seen and on which the sun never set, now presides over a few islands off the coast of Europe on which the sun seldom shines and finds her country on its knees grovelling for admission to the European Economic Community. It must give her much satisfaction that we here have an unfeigned attachment to her Throne and Person. The motion continues:

We beg to assure Your Excellency that our earnest consideration will be given to the measures to be submitted to us, and that the necessary provision for the Public Services will be made in due course.

whatever that means—and then concludes:

We join Your Excellency in the hope that, under the guidance of Divine Providence, our labours may be so directed as to advance the best interests of all sections of the community.

After last night, we have a greater respect for Divine Providence, but it is a little rough to pass the buck for the mess the Government had made and expect Him to pull the Government out of the mire. The motion illustrates the Government's thinking. One would have hoped that the Government could have found something more expressive and more modern, indicating the ability of this House. I hope that we shall no longer have this sort of motion coming before the House.

I suppose that His Excellency's Speech was the most dismal dirge I have ever heard. Usually when the Speech is being delivered, especially since the Government took office, I take the opportunity to catch up on my sleep. This year the Speech was so short that I did not have time to doze off; the Governor's account of what the Government has done and intends to do could be scratched on the back of an aspro and still leave room to spare. I share with the honourable member for Temora and other honourable members of this House concern at the way this country is going as a result of the activities of the Liberal-Country party governments both here and in the federal sphere. Government supporters admit that country areas face a crisis. That is self-evident, and members of the Country Party who are supposed to be representing the most important person in the community—the man who produces our food—are in alliance with the party that is supporting big business, which, to use the term of the Chief Secretary, is bludging on the people who produce the food. Government supporters might look at the number of people who do not do a tap of work but are living off the man on the land. They get their corner before the produce reaches the consumer. The Country Party does nothing. Its allies or partners in crime are the ones who support this sort of thing. When my wife was doing some knitting recently she told me that she paid 32 cents a skein for wool. The grower gets 32 cents a pound for his wool. He does all the hard work, but by the time the wool gets to the consumer the price has increased sixteen-fold.

A former member of this House, Mr Al Grassby, M.H.R., stated that he bought a lamb in the Riverina for two cents, but

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honourable members know what people have to pay if they want to buy a couple of lamb chops. Indeed, it is impossible to buy lamb chops, for they simply wrap up a little bit of old hogget and sell it as lamb. Good lamb is hard to get, but the consumer has to pay about 67 cents a pound for it. At the same time, members of the Country Party are whistling in the dark, trying to tell the people that, despite the crisis in country areas, the country is going all right.

Members on this side of the House are gravely concerned for the people on the land—not only the producer but also the people who depend for their livelihood on the country industries. I have in mind people like share farmers and others who have become the unfortunate victims of mismanagement by the Government. Yet we have to listen to this awful dirge that was read out by the Governor. After hearing the speech, I had a heavy heart indeed, for I could see no future so far as the Government is concerned and no hope for improvement in conditions while the Government is in office. The other night we heard from the honourable member for Northcott.

Mr CAMERON: I thought I would get a mention some time.

Mr R. J. KELLY: I believe this is worth mentioning. The honourable member preached a sermon to us, basing his text on the gospel according to Saint Ming. It was out of a little red book, which looked like *The Thoughts of Chairman Mao*. It was the same colour, but it related to something that was framed in 1952. He is still trying to peddle the same philosophy twenty years later, and trying to make it fit into a modern world that is changing rapidly. The honourable member who lacks the ability to get down to tin-tacks, has failed to change with it, and does not even look at the problems that confront us today. The honourable member has a tendency to look upon all people who disagree with him and protest, raising their voices in opposition, as rat-bags, undesirables and wreckers. The honourable member will not appreciate that these people might have a complaint. He should get to them to analyse their problems and try to find out the cause of the

unrest. Anyone would imagine that these people do not have minds of their own, and that they are being led. Naturally, leaders arise, and people respond to their leadership because their causes are real indeed. One has only to look at the mess that the Government's federal colleagues have made in the sphere of foreign affairs. I do not know who is the Minister for Foreign Affairs at the moment.

Mr EINFELD: I do not, either; because I have not seen tonight's newspapers.

Mr R. J. KELLY: That is so. They come and go. However, since World War II the capitalist nations—or the free nations of the world, whatever they call themselves—have taken not one diplomatic trick off the communists. They have fallen for the three-card trick.

Mr SINGLETON: The honourable member should read the newspapers and follow world news.

Mr R. J. KELLY: The honourable member should not tell me that I should take notice of Packer's paper, like he does. I think for myself. The honourable member should travel further than Lismore some time. He cannot tell me one diplomatic trick that the party to which he belongs has taken off the communists. The communists would never confront the western bloc today; they will defeat them economically. That is what they are doing.

Mr CAMERON: Does that give the honourable member great satisfaction?

Mr R. J. KELLY: It gives me no satisfaction at all, and that is why I am worried for the future. The honourable member should face facts, and he should not kid himself that his party has not made a mess of things. Australia does not have a friend in the world today. The Americans are getting out.

Mr CAMERON: Mr Whitlam lost us a few.

Mr R. J. KELLY: He is a realist. We have to find markets if we want to sell our primary products.

Mr CAMERON: Mr Whitlam lost us the Philippines and Taiwan.

Mr R. J. KELLY: He lost us nothing. He went out and showed a little common sense, which is something that you have not done. You are offside with every nation in the world and you have not a friend today. Even when President Nixon was going to see Chou En-lai he would not tell your Prime Minister because of leaks in Cabinet. Indeed, he would not tell him that he intended to freeze prices. Of course, your supporters said that it could not be done, but the greatest capitalist nation in the world says it can be done.

Mr CAMERON: Every time Mr Whitlam goes overseas our friends are cut in half.

Mr R. J. KELLY: You have not a friend left now.

Mr MULOCK: Not even in Beecroft.

Mr R. J. KELLY: That is so, and you have got yourself in all sorts of involvements. The communist bloc has led you to be involved in these things—in the war in Korea and now in Vietnam. Of course, you have to get out of there. The Americans are getting out. Your party has at last decided to get out of Vietnam, after a war that could not be won. The Americans are getting out. Where do we go? We have not a friend left.

We are not a very important nation, no matter how big we are. We need important friends, and we cannot allow people to influence us into all sorts of situations that can bring harm to Australia. This is what you have done. Even your own Premier did harm enough with what he said when he was sitting alongside the former President of the United States. If he had done his homework he would have known that President Johnson was on his way out, but he was brought out here to bolster up an election. Our Premier sat beside him, and when the people demonstrated against the Vietnam war and were lying on the road he made this statement, big-noting himself in front of the American President. When an inspector of police asked him about the people who were lying on the road, our Premier said. "Drive over the bastards."

That was reported all over Asia, and it was said that this was how the Premier of the great State of New South Wales feels about the people who object to the war in Vietnam. What a shocking statement it was. The honourable member for Northcott talks about losing friends; he must realize that statement lost many friends over there.

These are the sort of stupid remarks that are made by the Premier, and although they might be made in a jocular vein, they are in very bad taste. This remark, which was publicized throughout the world, did us not a bit of good. Today we are looking for markets from the people who have been insulted. It was all right while we had the friendship of the United States of America, but we do not have it today.

Mr CAMERON: How do you think the people of Taiwan regard Mr Whitlam today?

Mr R. J. KELLY: I do not know how they feel. We should not care what they think in Taiwan. There is not much future for us in Taiwan. We are not too much interested in them. The mistake you people made in Taiwan was to teach them cricket when the game should have been ping pong. You were led up the garden path by bringing out here a team to play cricket, whereas ping pong is the game. This shows that you are not up on international affairs.

Even when the communists again manipulated the acquisition of the Suez Canal and Britain had to get back on the other side of the Suez, Australia should have been ready to fill the vacuum of British trade that had been lost. We did nothing about it apart from selling to the Japanese the raw products they could not take by force of arms but were given to them so that they could manufacture the goods to fill the vacuum. We now have the sorry Clutha show, and in a few years' time we shall be short of coking coal which you are now selling out of the country.

Mr JACKETT: Rubbish.

Mr R. J. KELLY: It is the truth. You will find that this country will have no coking coal in a few years' time.

Mr JACKETT: The honourable member should read what the Joint Coal Board said.

Mr R. J. KELLY: You will have no iron ore, either, for you are selling it and giving it away. Everyone has his finger in the till, taking what he wants out of this country and you are too stupid to stop it. It is people like you who talk such utter rot and do not know anything about the future; indeed, you do not care about the future of the country so long as someone is getting a quid out of it at the moment. That is all you care about. Irreparable damage is being done, and you cannot replace the material that you are sending out of this country today. There will come a day when you will be looking for these minerals. We shall be looking for them ourselves, but we shall find that they are gone. Once they go, there is no chance of bringing them back.

Though this silly policy is being pursued by both the federal and State governments, this Government is crying out that it does not have enough money. In spite of its cry it sells our birthright for a few crumbs. If it must be sold, at least let us use the proceeds to finance the construction of schools, hospitals and the other things that go to make up the good life. The Government is doing irreparable harm to this country. What is the future of this country if this policy is pursued? Our producers are being priced out of world markets because the Government will not do anything to control prices. It claims that this cannot be done unless wages are frozen. Wages are already frozen. To get a wage increase the worker has to apply to the arbitration court. A similar procedure does not have to be followed before a manufacturer increases the cost of his goods.

The greatest robbery ever perpetrated occurred on the changeover to decimal currency when the Government allowed prices to get out of hand. An article selling for ninepence was increased to ten cents, the equivalent of the former shilling. Many items were marked up in price by taking advantage of the changeover to decimal currency. That was when the big grab

occurred and the time when the race between wages and the cost of living began.

Recently the Chief Secretary spoke in this House about the trade-union movement and the Australian Council of Trade Unions. He attempted to make a bogey of Mr Hawke and added that we should get rid of him because everything he is doing is communist inspired. What utter rot. He is only the president of the Australian Council of Trade Unions and he is guided by the decisions of that organization, which is the parliament of the trade-union movement of Australia. If Mr Hawke gives up his position, somebody else will take over leadership of that body. Unionists are so far behind with the reduced purchasing power of their money that they are requesting their leaders to take action so that they may get a fair share of the goods that they produce and the profits that they earn for their employers. So much for all that rubbish about getting rid of Mr Hawke.

For the first time in forty years the Furnishing Trades Society went on strike recently to discuss wages. No one could accuse that union of being militantly led, for the secretary of it is the Hon. F. W. Bowen, a dedicated trade-union leader, and a sensible one at that. Even his men went on strike before the employers would agree to a measure of wage justice for them. I want to leave that aspect to deal with one or two other matters associated with that old hobby horse of mine, local government.

MR CAMERON: The Bankstown municipal council?

MR R. J. KELLY: That is so. I notice in this dirge called the Governor's Speech that amendments are to be made to the Local Government Act. I hope that the Minister for Local Government and Minister for Highways takes notice of what I have to say. At the last local-government elections in my area an alderman from west ward was helping a colleague of his in the south ward. He was one of his teammates. They are members of a group although they call themselves independents. This man, Alderman Duncan, printed bogus how-to-vote

cards. A person running as an independent in that ward had issued cards of a similar colour. The purpose of the bogus card was to ensure that preferences from the independent, Mr Vines, would go to Alderman Carruthers, Alderman McIlveen, and others in that group. Alderman Duncan admitted his infringement, and he was fined for not subscribing his name on the printed card. When he was elected to council he was permitted to retain his seat on it.

Subsequently when the votes were recounted I was present and I know that there is no doubt that sufficient of these bogus cards were distributed to alter the voting trend from a majority for the independent Vines to Alderman Carruthers and another member of his group, Gilman. In my book this action of Alderman Duncan was contemptible, especially as he, a solicitor, knew the law and could not plead ignorance of it.

MR KEARNS: He was convicted.

MR R. J. KELLY: That is so. The point I want to emphasize is that anybody who will stoop to doing something as low as Alderman Duncan did on that occasion should not be allowed to retain his seat on a council. It was a contemptible, stupid, childish thing to do, but it bore results in that his colleagues, who would not have been elected to the council had the normal pattern of voting obtained, were elected. I was invited to act as a scrutineer, and from the figures I know perfectly well that a certain percentage of votes did not follow the normal pattern. Alderman Carruthers would not have been elected if the normal pattern had been followed, and neither would his colleague, Alderman Gilman.

People like Alderman Duncan and any alderman who tries to fool the people should not be associated with local government. On this occasion he definitely fooled some of the people by issuing these bogus how-to-vote cards. The Local Government Act should be amended to provide that anyone who interferes with a local-government election should not be allowed to participate in a future local-government election for a certain period. The amendment should provide further that if such a man is

elected to council and subsequently found to be guilty of this malpractice, he should not be allowed to retain his seat on the council.

I hope that the Minister will include among the proposed amendments to the Act the contentious matter of giving to people who are affected by planning decisions the right of appeal to the court in the same way as the applicant. An amendment made to the Act last year applied only to people who own homes near a proposed development: they can object to a development application, but they have a right of appeal only to council, which can reject an appeal if it wishes. This procedure is most unfair to the ordinary homeowner who wants to go beyond council when its decision can adversely affect property value following a change of zoning.

The Minister would do well to investigate some of the town planning decisions of the Bankstown council. The local planning scheme was put on show and 1,500 objections were lodged to it. Most of them were from constituents in my electorate against areas proposed for high density development. Certain aldermen were keen to have provision made for this type of development, but no one else wanted it, and the council does not have a mandate for it. Though no ratepayer asked for it, the aldermen implemented this development in the scheme because real estate agents and developers wanted it at Bankstown. The 1,500 objections to the planning scheme were heard. I objected to the plan generally on the ground that this sort of intrusion was not wanted in our garden suburb and that the people living in it wanted to be left alone. I was followed by other objectors who stated that they did not care for this type of development.

When I was addressing the council I made general remarks about bringing another 80,000 people into the area with no provision for the extra hospitals, transport services, industries, schools and so on needed by the 80,000 people coming into the municipality. I argued that the plan provided only for high density development to cater for another 80,000 people. I spent about an hour and a half addressing the council.

Mr R. J. Kelly

The town planner, Mr Gilmore, subsequently resigned from his position in the council. However, he is now back there as a consultant town planner, receiving \$12.50 an hour. He is also in private practice.

After I had made all these considered submissions, Mr Gilmore said that my objections were too generalized and recommended that, because they were not specific, they should be disallowed. This was a cavalier way of dismissing what I considered to be reasoned objections. The council said that the majority of people were against high density and that it would not permit it. In one block though four people in the street had objected to a proposal, there were five who did not bother to object. The council concluded that the five were in favour of the proposal and permitted it. This awful development is going on there.

In the State general elections the contest in my area was fought on this local issue. Both Alderman McIlveen and Alderman Buchanan, the deputy mayor, opposed me. I contested that election on local high density development and the council's attempt to introduce it, and I got the biggest vote that I have ever received in my electorate. In the subdivisions where objections were strongest, I polled heavily. The vote for the mayor of Bankstown was down considerably. He ran against me last time. The deputy mayor, who was first on the ballot paper and would have polled 2,000 votes because of that fact alone, polled only 2,700. In other words, his personal vote was only 700 in a poll of 32,000. The mayor got about 4,000 votes. The election was fought solely on the local issue of high density development. The Bankstown council has no mandate for it and the people did not want it. The Minister, when he is looking at the planning scheme, should ensure that the wishes of the people of East Hills are upheld. They do not want high density in their area and it should not be allowed.

Mr LEWIS (Wollondilly), Minister for Lands [9.15]: May I make fleeting reference to some of the remarks made by the honourable member for East Hills who spoke about coking coal and selling out the assets of this country. I am reminded that only

a few weeks ago at a public meeting in Camden called to consider the Clutha Development Pty. Limited Agreement Act, a member of the Burragorang Valley branch of the Miners Federation said: "Pat Hills has had twenty years to take an interest in the Burragorang coal mining industry and he has never bothered to pay it a visit." That is a serious reflection on a previous Minister for Mines in this House, who had my admiration and, I think, that of the Labor Party. The late Jim Simpson went to Japan to encourage the export of coal from Burragorang Valley and of coking coal from all over New South Wales. It was primarily he, with Mr Clinton and Mr Fox, who started the tremendous export in coking coal. Yet the honourable member for East Hills tonight reflected on his own previous Minister for Mines, who supported this great industry. He ought to be ashamed of himself.

I turn briefly—because that is all the attention that the honourable member warrants—to comments of the honourable member for Campbelltown, who made some wild, unreal and untrue allegations about members on this side of the House in respect of an election in which he took part. For a great number of years I represented the Campbelltown area. Many local schools were built at my urging, I hope, and I have received a great deal of credit from the Campbelltown area for my work at that time. On the Sunday after the last elections, during the recount in Campbelltown, representatives of the Liberal Party suggested that three local branch members should be scrutineers. This is a normal procedure of the Liberal Party, and three scrutineers from the local branches attended. However, a telephone call was received in Sydney saying that this was not good enough for the Labor Party. It sent down three members of Parliament, led by a former Attorney-General and Queen's Counsel, to help the scrutineers. Because the local members were not good enough, the Labor Party brought in its big guns. They did the intimidation, right from the start—the former Attorney-General and two other members. The Liberal Party did the normal thing.

The honourable member for Campbelltown stood up and accused the members of the Government of standover tactics. We all know who were the standover men. As a member formerly representing that area, I called in when I was passing through on my way to Sydney. The honourable member for Campbelltown criticized a person who is not here to defend himself. The Chief Secretary merely wished to ask a question of the returning officer, who had no telephone in his house. All I can say is that the Chief Secretary spoke to him, asked him a simple question, and left. If the honourable member for Campbelltown feels that this was influencing or misleading that returning officer, I resent the implication on behalf of the returning officer who is not here to defend himself. He was not influenced by the Hon. R. R. Downing or by the two Labor members, and he should not be influenced by any person. It is a reflection on this officer, a public servant, to say that he can be influenced. Beyond any shadow of doubt the honourable member for Campbelltown accused the returning officer of being influenced. His allegation is puerile and infantile and not worth answering. Everyone knows from previous experience and doubtless this recent example how misleading the honourable member for Campbelltown can be.

The honourable member for Georges River, is a young man. I do not know whether he talks through ignorance, or whether he intentionally tries to mislead the House. I remind this young brash member for Georges River and any other new member who comes into this House that truth will always out: let a member try to mislead this House and he will do himself irreparable harm. The honourable member for Georges River, no doubt influenced by some of his constituents or colleagues, made many misleading statements in his recent address to this House. One might have thought he was an intelligent man but that is not so. He is not intelligent: he did not have enough intelligence to check on the facts before making his speech. Possibly he did not want to be confused

by the facts. He did not attempt to tell the truth about conservation. I have taken some notes of his remarks. He said:

Let us examine the record of the Liberal-Country party coalition. It came to office in 1965 on a promise to dedicate parks and reserves irrevocably.

I thank the honourable member. That is probably the greatest truth he has uttered in this House. What he said is true and the Government has done exactly that.

Mr F. J. WALKER: That is not true.

Mr LEWIS: I shall not worry about replying to the honourable member's infantile and misleading interjection. What I have said is the truth. No other conservation agency in Australia has adopted the United Nations' suggestion that only the highest sovereign authority in the land should set aside areas for national parks, nature reserves, State parks and historic sites so that only that authority itself—in this case the New South Wales Parliament—may alienate any area. This Government has done that by enacting the National Parks and Wildlife Act.

Honourable members will recall that in November, 1966, the Government introduced into this House legislation relating to national parks. Some short time later that legislation was considered in another place and honourable members there initiated a parliamentary device which would have delayed for a long time the enactment of the legislation. It was moved that a select committee be appointed to consider that legislation. At that time the Liberal-Country party coalition Government did not have the numbers in another place to overcome those tactics. The legislation was therefore deferred. That was the only way in which the Government could act to reserve its right to bring back the legislation later when it had a majority in another place.

Eventually, in 1967 that legislation became law. The responsibility for delaying it twelve months rests with the Labor Party. Labor delayed that bill despite the fact that it was the leading piece of legislation of its type in Australia. On 6th December, 1965, the *Sydney Morning Herald* in an editorial

reported that the Premier of New South Wales had announced the impending introduction of this legislation. The report read:

Everybody with a flicker of sensitivity or feeling for the natural beauties, wildlife and history of his country will be pleased at the State Government's decision to take direct control of national parks, historic sites and monuments.

* * * * *

The sad fact is that New South Wales lags seriously behind its neighbours.

What a reflection on twenty-four years of Labor administration. Yet the honourable member for Georges River has the temerity, insolence and youthful brashness to stand up in this House to criticize the Government's actions. One of Australia's leading conservationists, now with the Australian Conservation Foundation, wrote to the *Sydney Morning Herald* in August, 1967, to set out his views on the proposed legislation. Subsequently, that newspaper published an editorial which read:

After careful study of the bill we agree with Dr Mosley who wrote last Saturday that the bill "is the most progressive legislative proposal of its kind ever to be introduced to an Australian parliament". No bill, of course, is perfect.

Conservationists would be wiser to keep their criticism for points of detail and management than to oppose a measure which should at last make possible an enlightened policy in New South Wales.

Mr F. J. WALKER: They opposed it, did they not?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Georges River has made his contribution to this debate.

Mr LEWIS: To remind honourable members of the Labor Party's general thoughts on conservation I should like to refer to another article published in the *Sydney Morning Herald*. In 1956, nine years before this Government came to office and gave enlightenment to nature and conservation generally, the *Sydney Morning Herald* asked:

When will New South Wales rid itself of the stigma of being the most backward of all Australian States in the matter of National Parks?

Even so, the honourable member for Georges River has criticized the Government for the actions it has taken since coming to power in 1965. I see in this Chamber now members of the Opposition who were caucus members at that time. They delayed the introduction of national parks legislation. It was printed in the paper—

Mr CRABTREE: Which paper?

Mr LEWIS: Apart from being in *Tribune* it was also in the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Sydney Morning Herald*. In 1956, when a Labor government had been in office for many years a leading Australian newspaper asked when this State would remove the stigma of being the most backward of all States in the matter of dedicating national parks. Even after that castigation it did absolutely nothing. In the remaining eight years Labor held government in this State it did absolutely nothing in this important field.

In this debate have we heard any criticism of what Labor did not do? No, not one word. The only things that have been criticized by the Opposition are the constructive actions of this Government. The Labor Party works on the basis that if it does nothing there can be nothing to criticize. The Liberal-Country party coalition Government did something. Everything was not perfect—nobody claims that it was. Nevertheless, the member for Georges River and his ilk criticize what has been done. No matter what this Government did it would be wrong in the eyes of the Opposition. They found it so much easier to crawl into a hole and do nothing.

This Government introduced enlightened administration into conservation. From other countries it obtained conservation experts who told the Government how to set up the National Parks and Wildlife Service. This Government increased the staff on that type of work from approximately 100 in 1964 to its present strength of 365. The budget allocation for national parks has been increased from \$650,000 in 1965 to over \$3,000,000 last year. Labor did nothing for twenty-four years and the Liberal-Country party Government has done all of this in six years. When we came

to government the national parks administration comprised a room with two officers in it. One officer was the administrator of national parks and reserves and the other was his assistant and between them from that office they controlled 8,000 reserves. Those reserves were not distinguished in any way and they were not subdivided. The administrator and his assistant had responsibility for all these areas. There were no such things as national parks as we now know them. There were no definitions, no laws, no wildlife service to administer—in fact, nothing.

This Government set up a professional service. It made a statutory appointment of director of national parks and wildlife. The Government combined the national park agency with the fauna protection panel and took from the Department of Lands those areas which we thought had not been adequately assessed and put them under the administration of the director of national parks and wildlife. At great expense to the Government an eminent American conservationist was brought to New South Wales to give us the lead. Three assistant directors were appointed—one management, one wildlife and one administration. The Government appointed also a panel of architects and a scientific committee to advise in this field. These are things that should have been done during the previous twenty-four years. Nothing was done, yet the honourable member for Georges River criticizes the Government about mining leases and its lack of action. I do not know whether he was speaking with malice, trying to mislead the House or speaking from pure ignorance. If the honourable member were trying to mislead the House all I can say is shame upon him. If he should like to check the facts and figures they are available to him at any time.

Mr MACKIE: Who put the oil refineries at Kurnell?

Mr LEWIS: The honourable member mentioned this, and, to give him credit, he said "We made that mistake", and they did make that mistake. They took Captain Cook's landing place and sold it to the American oil interests. One can see those

refineries there now. Members of the Opposition come along and criticize that particular action as though the Government initiated it, which is a ridiculous suggestion to make. The member speaks about biological deserts as though he knew what that meant. The honourable member does not know what he is talking about. It was not that the Labor Government was unconscious of what was happening. As member for Wollondilly, I moved a motion that was seconded by my colleague the Minister for Public Works, then the honourable member for Armidale, asking the Government to do something about it. I might add that it was amended by the honourable member for Liverpool at that time, Mr Mannix, who has since resigned from this House. The amendment was to the effect that the Government give consideration to the effect of this conservation matter. Later on I had a question on the *Questions and Answers* paper. I asked the Government whether it had given consideration to this particular matter. I am sure the Minister for Transport will remember that I asked the Premier of the day, Mr Heffron, whether it would be expecting too much to expect an answer to my question and whether the Government would give it consideration as the question had been on the paper for twelve months. It was not as though the Labor Government had no idea of what was wanted. The honourable member for Georges River said:

In true Indian-giver style the Government promised the people 10 small coastal parks but by the time they get them at least nine will have already been mined.

These are some of the proposed coastal parks and reserves that have been approved by Cabinet and will presumably be the subject of legislation by the end of this year:

Angourie National Park, 9,300 acres.
 Red Rock State Park, 4,700 acres.
 Hat Head State Park, 9,000 acres.
 Limeburners Creek Nature Reserve, 17,000 acres.
 Crowdy Bay National Park, 13,000 acres.
 Myall Lakes National Park, 38,000 acres.
 Bouddi State Park, 2,350 acres.
 Brisbane Water National Park, 20,320 acres.
 Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, 36,083 acres.

Mr Lewis]

Captain Cook's Landing Place Historic Site, 800 acres.

Royal National Park, 36,783 acres.

Seven Mile Beach State Park, 1,800 acres.

Cudmirrah Nature Reserve, 310 acres.

Ben Boyd National Park, 23,000 acres.

Nadgee Nature Reserve, 37,000 acres.

So much for the nine areas claimed by the member.

Let us deal with the mining of parks, a matter that members opposite and some of their rabid conservation groups keep pushing. As there have been meetings about what has happened at Myall Lakes and some other places. I asked the director of national parks whether he would look up some of the old files and find out what happened in regard to mining these areas. The situation is that these mining leases were issued by the previous Labor Government. This department has files available to it and I have studied them to check the statements by this rash, ignorant and misleading member who comes along and makes irresponsible statements which should be corrected. He will now be able to tell his rabid conservation friends what a mistake he has made and how he has misled this House and the public by not properly understanding the situation. That is what he would do if he had any decency, any sense of moral upbringing; he would not just sit there and learn the facts without doing something about it.

In 1955 there was a report from the district surveyor in regard to the proposed Crowdy Bay National Park, which read as follows:

I wish to advise you that the matter has again been referred to the mines department which has advised that its objections to the proposal still stand. The Mines Department also states that there is greatly increased mining activity in the area.

That was in 1955, but now members opposite are still complaining of what has happened. Here is another example—something that occurred in 1964. This letter from the district surveyor reads, in part:

An application has been lodged by the Woodburn Shire Council for the dedication of a proposed road extending from the southern boundary of portion 471 generally southerly to the northern boundary of portion 455.

Another part of the letter reads:

In addition, the Department of Mines would be interested in this area; it is noted that there are several mining lease applications lodged over the land.

I have asked the director to follow them all out so that we shall be able to find out what the true position was at that time. These are instances of what the previous Labor government allowed to happen, yet members opposite come here and raise merry hell about why the Government gave the leases, and so on. They claim that the Government has raped these areas but it was the Labor Party which gave the miners access to them thereby enabling them to destroy those places. Now they have the temerity, like the member for Georges River, to blame it on this Government. I think the honourable member ought to be brought to task, and I hope I am doing it reasonably successfully.

Here is another example, in the file on Minnie-water State Park. In July, 1964, when my predecessor, the Hon. K. C. Compton, was Minister for Lands, he wrote to the shire clerk of Ulmarra Shire Council, a letter, the second last paragraph of which reads:

As you already know, the Mines Department has advised that it has strong objections to the proposed reserve because the land is wholly covered by mining and prospecting titles and applications for further titles of this nature, and I am therefore in the position that while I might establish the desired reserve, such action would not reduce by one iota the mining activity that is evidently projected. It should also be borne in mind that the actual location of the proposed tourist road has not yet been determined, or is it likely to be for some considerable time, so plans for the allocation of lands that might be affected by the road to various purposes could only be premature at this juncture. In view of the circumstances outlined above, I feel that it would be judicious to defer any action on council's request for a period of two years and to review the matter at the end of that period.

Local government was asking the Labor Government to set aside an area that is now to be a national park, but the Labor Government was saying that because of mining objections they would defer action on the council's request for two years and would review the matter at the end of that period. There are three examples that deal with this

area of the North Coast which the honourable member claimed the government sold out to mining interests.

I do not believe that the size of a national park or nature reserve necessarily gives an indication of what is best for nature conservation; rather it is the type of area that is reserved. The most pressure for areas to be preserved is on those where there are more people. It is obvious that there are more people within a hundred miles of Sydney than anywhere else in this State. Yet within seventy miles of Sydney more than 10 per cent of the land is set aside for national parks and reserves. There is not one city in the world of a comparable size that has that amount of land set aside as national parks—irrevocably set aside, I might add for the benefit of the ignorant member. The National Parks and Wildlife Act says that before alienation can take place it has to come before this Parliament. Previous Ministers have simply had to put a gazettal notice in writing to proclaim an area as alienated land. That procedure was available to Labor governments for twenty-four years, but our Government said that in the future Parliament would be the only authority able to do this. Yet the honourable member stands up here and says that we have not set land aside irrevocably.

Former Ministers for Lands in the Labor Government alienated areas of land without reference to parliament. Members should understand that New South Wales has the leading nature conservation organization and the best legislation on the subject in Australia. This is apparent from the demand in other States for officers of the National Parks and Wildlife Service and for copies of the New South Wales legislation. Our Act has been copied in Tasmania. A former officer of the service will become director of national parks in Tasmania when the legislation is proclaimed there. Another of our leading officers is going to Papua-New Guinea. Another was seconded to the Northern Territory to assist the federal Government in the planning of national parks. This does not display a lack of confidence in the National Parks and Wildlife Service of New South Wales. On the contrary, it indicates to me that the

demand for our officers is widespread, and that our experience is being sought for the benefit of others throughout Australia.

When our Government came into office in 1965, 1,730,814 acres were set aside as national park reserves. They did not actually become national parks until the present Government introduced legislation to enable that to be done. In 1944, 1,312,000 acres were declared as Kosciusko National Park. Deducting that from the total area of 1,730,814, there were 418,000 acres of other national park reserves. That meant that in 21 years of Labor government 418,000 acres had been added to parks trusts. Is that something to be proud of, or something on which to base criticism of the Government, or is it something about which members opposite should hang their heads in shame? Is it something that they have failed to disclose to the conservationists in their electorates? In six years the present Government has added 1,314,000 acres to the reserves, or many times the area added by Labor governments in 21 years. If anybody should hang his head in shame, should tell conservation groups throughout the State the true position, and apologize for misleading the conservationists, the public and himself, it is the honourable member for Georges River. In my sixteen years of parliamentary life I have never heard a more misleading speech than that delivered by the young, ignorant member for Georges River. I heard only part of it, but I read the rest, and was sickened by it. This Government stands proud of its record in nature conservation, and absolutely refutes the comments of the honourable member for Georges River.

Mr NOTT (Burrendong) [9.45]: I congratulate the honourable member for Wakehurst and the honourable member for Sturt who moved and seconded the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply to the Speech of his Excellency the Governor. They made worthwhile contributions to the debate, as did all other new members. I wish them all well in their endeavours on behalf of their constituents and in the pursuit of what they believe to be the best interests and the welfare of this State and of Australia.

So far about thirty-five members have spoken in the debate and I have no intention of traversing the ground covered by them. However, I wish to bring to the attention of the Government several matters that affect my electorate. The first is an almost unbelievable, fantastic situation that developed at Merriwa. As far as I can see, it has relation to an Act of Parliament known as the Tissue Grafting and Processing Act, 1955-1966. In order that honourable members will understand the position fully, I wish to read this letter sent to me on 9th July, 1971, by the secretary of the Merriwa Bushmen's Carnival Association:

I am writing this letter to seek any possible help you may be able to give regarding an unfortunate situation which arose at our annual rodeo held on 23rd and 24th April last.

Briefly, the circumstances are as follows. During the final of the buckjumping contest, a competitor (John Gibbs of Denman) was thrown, sustaining fatal injuries. He was transported to Merriwa district hospital where his injury was diagnosed as a broken spinal cord. The boy was placed under some means of artificial resuscitation and his parents were summoned from Denman. They were informed by the doctor of the hopelessness of the situation and were approached re the boy being a kidney donor. After much thought permission was given.

At about 9 p.m. on Saturday night, 24th April, the boy left by ambulance for Sydney, accompanied by the local doctor and a nursing sister, and arrived at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital at about 1 a.m. on Sunday morning. At about 4 p.m. Sunday, 25th April, he was pronounced dead. His kidneys were subsequently used for transplant purposes.

Since then the ambulance, of which the boy was not a member, have forwarded an account for \$258.50. The doctor's fee for escort was \$200, together with an amount of \$106.22 for professional attendance at the Merriwa hospital, making a total of \$306.22 for the doctor's fee.

The local hospital account amounted to \$56.27, which includes an amount of \$29.11 for the nurse escort.

The Australian Bushmen's Carnival Association, whose auspices we operate under, has an accident fund which entitles an injured competitor to \$30 a week for 12 weeks, which is a total of \$360.

Naturally, the ABCA will pay the maximum sum of \$360 to the boy's parents, who incidentally are not terribly well situated financially. However, with funeral expenses

plus the added cost of getting the body back from Sydney, you can see they will be up for a large amount.

I have been in touch with the welfare officer at RPA renal research department hoping some government scheme existed for cases such as this, but unfortunately, this is a situation they have never been faced with. The officers seemed most disturbed at the expense to which the donor's parents have been subjected and stressed the difficulty in procuring suitable subjects for such operations.

If nothing can be done in this case perhaps some scheme can be started to alleviate the expense thrown on relatives of any future donor.

I would like to point out that we are seeking only ambulance fees down to Sydney, together with professional escort fees plus, perhaps, the cost of transporting the body back from Sydney. The local hospital account, together with the cost of doctors attention prior to departing for Sydney, would naturally be borne by the parents.

Hoping you will be so kind as to investigate this matter.

Expenses involved after leaving Merriwa were \$258.50 for ambulances, \$200 for doctors' fees and \$29.11 for escort nurses' fees, a total of \$487.61, plus the cost of having the body taken back to Merriwa, which brought the whole cost to more than \$550. The boy's parents were satisfied to pay all expenses at Merriwa amounting to \$133.14. With the funeral expenses, they would be covered for the sum of \$360 which is provided from the insurance fund.

This is a matter that ought to be taken up. The Act covers the situation in that permission has to be given for these transplants, but it does not mention reimbursement of consequential costs to the next-of-kin or relatives. Consideration should be given to amending the Act to provide that where permission is given in such circumstances, no expense shall be incurred by the relatives. There is no suggestion of reflection on any of the people concerned in this matter. The doctor acted in a proper fashion and did all he could to see that the boy was comfortable at Merriwa and on the way to Sydney. The nurses and hospital staff acted likewise.

Throughout the country, a number of people are not covered by ambulance schemes. A similar situation could arise on many occasions in future. I was at the

Wellington show when a similar thing happened. The honourable member for Dubbo nods his head; he knows the circumstances of that case. A young boy from Cudgegong was fatally injured at the Wellington show. He was transported to Dubbo hospital. In that case the parents were concerned to help others, though they had suffered great mental anguish. If approached, they might have given consent to a transplant. There must be a definite provision that when consent is given, parents or other next-of-kin shall not have to defray the expenses, as happened in the case of which I have read out the details. I hope that members will pay heed to what I have said and that the Minister for Health will do something about it. I pay a compliment to the Minister. On the very same day as I wrote the original letter to him, he replied to me saying that a full investigation would be made into all the circumstances.

While I am talking about the health portfolio I should like to touch on matters affecting hospitals in the Burrendong electorate. The hospital at Coonabarabran, which I inspected some months ago, is in a deplorable condition. It was reported briefly in the *Sydney Morning Herald* that I referred to it as "a patched-up building full of inadequacies and inconveniences." That is an understatement. Someone might ask why the Labor Government did not do something about it. Plans were brought forward some years ago, and they were resurrected seventeen months ago. They were lost at Dubbo regional office in a change-over from one regional officer to another. The Minister explained the situation to me in a letter dated 21st July, 1971. This is an extract from that letter:

The Hospitals Commission of New South Wales has advised that a submission was received by its North West Regional Administrative Officer in Dubbo in March, 1970, indicating the hospital's view on what was needed to provide satisfactory facilities and adequate ward accommodation for the Coonabarabran District Hospital in the light of the Board's indication of possible population increase and other demands on existing services.

The Board was advised that the Regional Officer proposed to establish a Planning and Development Sub-Committee later in the new year to enable the Board's submission to be processed in the manner required by the Commission.

It would appear that in the changeover of Regional Officers that occurred in December, 1970, this intention was overlooked.

However, there is a ray of hope because the Minister went on to say:

I might add that both the Hospitals Commission and myself are aware of the needs of this hospital, and it is the Commission's intention to proceed with a re-building programme as soon as finances permit.

Let me emphasize the seriousness of the situation. Four very good doctors staff the medical centre at Coonabarabran. They are not happy about this situation. They have written personally to the Minister, the press and the hospital board. I shall quote a comment of theirs in a recent letter to the board that was published in the *Coonabarabran Times*. It is headed "Why doctors desert country areas", and reads:

"Is it any wonder that doctors desert the country areas" asked one of Coonabarabran's medical officers in a recent letter to the Coonabarabran District Hospital Board.

The Doctor stated "Last Saturday I went to the labour ward—the dimensions of which will be known to you.

Apart from two women there were two premature infants in humidicribs, one weighing 2 lb 6 ounces.

One could speculate as to the effect on a woman in labour of the proximity of these tiny babies but the effect on the babies of all the traffic in that room can be predicted more accurately and to put it at its best their chances of avoiding serious infection would be compromised as a baby less than 3 lb in weight has a chance of survival of 3 to 1 against it if no undue risk is acceptable.

The same day a two months old child was admitted with what appeared to be a convulsion. Another doctor saw the child at my request and we agreed that there was probably a serious overwhelming infection of the type that causes so called "cot deaths".

The child became desperately ill and died after several hours in spite of the use of the respirator.

The point is that all this drama and the death occurred in the children's ward in full view of two other children.

Later the same day we had to deal with a footballer with a fracture.

Admittedly we made the mistake of leaving the patient in the trolley which caused further congestion in a tiny room. However it would be no exaggeration to say that about ten percent of my energy was spent on the fracture and about 90 percent manning the X-ray machine and trolley and anaesthetic machine around the small area".

Mr Nott]

Is it any wonder that doctors are not happy to stay in a town where hospital services are so inadequate? The situation is not much better at Wellington, where some years ago the Government promised to build a two-storey block at Bindiwalla hospital so that all hospital services in the town could be incorporated at the one location. At present they are in two areas of the town. Right on the eve of the election the Department of Public Works came out with plans for the work. The reason was that the Government had made an election promise to do this work. Later the plans were sent back to the department. They had so many deficiencies that they were entirely inadequate. That was over nine months ago.

Last week a deputation to the Minister for Public Works mentioned the fact that on 4th August the Department of Public Works had returned the hospital board's submission on the eleven points that were made to it. No new plans have been drawn and it has taken nine months for the Department of Public Works to write to the Hospitals Commission of New South Wales to give the department's comments on the hospital board's objections to the plan. I hope that the Minister for Public Works and the Minister for Health will do what they can to ensure that the two matters I have mentioned are expedited so that facilities for hospital treatment in the Burrendong electorate will be improved.

Another matter that I wish to raise is the need for the appointment of a probation officer in the western areas of New South Wales. This was highlighted by the comments of His Honour Judge Cross in a recent case, heard at Mudgee on 24th May. The prisoner was remanded to Bathurst for sentence and when the young lad came before Judge Cross, His Honour made some comments. He said that the need for a resident adult probation officer in the western districts was most urgent and that a more effective adult probation service was needed. His Honour said that the probation officer's report on the young man in connection with another case, was incomplete

owing to the lack of any effective probation service. He directed that the offender have supervision from the Adult Probation Service "so far as it can be extended to the prisoner and be continued to be extended to the prisoner for such a period as the Adult Probation Service consider proper". The need for the appointment of a probation officer in the western areas is highlighted by the number of first offenders in Bathurst gaol. When they are released on probation these young offenders need advice, guidance and counsel. If they are left to their own resources, without guidance they soon fall by the wayside and come before the courts again. Surely society owes something to them. We refer in this State to the Department of Corrective Services, but according to Judge Cross we are not doing enough, or as much as we should be doing, to help these young offenders along the road back to a place in society.

When I was a member of this Chamber previously I raised here the question of river clearance. For the past twenty years river clearance projects have been undertaken on a basis of a two-thirds contribution by the Government and one-third from the local shire or municipal council, or by farmers themselves through the establishment of a river improvement district. The time has come when the State should bear the full cost of river clearance projects. This principle was recognized during the election campaign when a promise was made by both parties to meet the cost of the maintenance and construction of main and trunk roads so that councils, and consequently ratepayers, could be relieved of the burden of paying rates for these services. The matter of river clearance cannot continue on the existing basis; it, too, imposes too much of a burden on the ratepayer. At Mudgee, the Cudgegong river is choked with debris which prevents the free flow of water in the river, bringing about flooding of the rich lands along the stream. The clearance of the river is a matter of urgency.

During the State election deputations came to me, and I discussed their representations with the leaders of my party. It was

agreed that the Labor Party's policy should be for the Government to pay the full cost of river clearance projects, but that future maintenance should be the responsibility of the farmers, perhaps under the control of the municipal and shire councils. Some responsibility must be placed on the persons who own river frontages. One of the greatest difficulties associated with the choking of rivers is that willow trees either fall over or are chopped down into the stream, and then grow and impede the flow of water. I contend that my party's policy should be established as the policy for the future, and I ask the Minister to place it before the Government for consideration. The Government's policy has not changed, and in a recent letter from the Minister for Conservation to the clerk of the Cudgegong Shire Council, the relevant extract, which deals with Government policy, stated:

Approval cannot be given to the making of a grant, which for rural areas is usually two-thirds of the actual or estimated cost, whichever is the lesser, until a firm proposal is submitted by Council. The benefits to be obtained will then be examined in the light of the likely cost of the work and, on this basis, a decision regarding the grant will be made. The making of a grant would, of course, be dependent upon State funds being available at the time the proposal is received.

In the event of a grant being made, it would be necessary for Council to enter into an agreement to maintain the works, at its own cost, after completion.

That is too much of a burden to place on shire councils, which should not be called upon to pay one third of the structural work and then for all time to maintain the works. A good compromise is for the Government to pay the full cost of the structural works and then for the councils to maintain the works.

Many problems confront local government, and I cannot understand why the Minister for Local Government would not agree to bringing forward simple legislation to provide for compulsory voting at local-government elections. Nominations have already closed for some shires and municipalities. At Wellington only two of the five ridings in the shire are being contested, and even

those are being contested by only one additional nomination. This means that of the existing ten members of the shire council at least eight are sure to be returned. I believe that with no compulsory voting, people will not nominate for office.

This contention is borne out by the results of the local-government elections in the shire of Cudgegong. In A riding three candidates contested two seats, 200 out of 667 electors—or 30 per cent voted, and the two sitting councillors were returned. In B riding four candidates contested two seats, 341 electors out of 821—or 41 per cent—voted, and the two sitting councillors were returned. In C riding the two sitting councillors were returned unopposed. In D riding three candidates contested two seats, 378 electors out of 767—or 47 per cent—voted, and the two sitting councillors were returned. In E riding, which embraces the town of Gulgong, three candidates contested two seats, 313 electors out of 834—or 38 per cent—voted, and the two sitting councillors were returned. Although voting is not compulsory the trend seems to be that sitting councillors, who have a certain following, will continue on the council. A new man who wishes to enter the field must first prove himself.

Mr WILLIS: The honourable member is really saying that the same result is obtained with voluntary voting as was obtained previously with compulsory voting. The honourable member said that the same men were re-elected under voluntary voting.

Mr NOTT: If my suggestion were adopted one would not get the situation that has occurred where a sitting member is returned unopposed or is virtually certain to be re-elected even if the number voting is reduced to 25 per cent or 10 per cent of the number who voted compulsorily. The Government should do something about it. Another matter I want to raise is that the Minister seemed to be tardy in giving a decision on a proposal by the Ratepayers Association of New South Wales that a new form of local-government rating be brought into existence.

Mr MAUGER: The Minister made an announcement about it last night.

Mr NOTT: What was the announcement?

Mr MAUGER: The honourable member had better read it.

Mr NOTT: It has not been brought to my attention, but I accept the word of the honourable member for Monaro. I am pleased to learn that an alteration is to be made to the existing system. While I am dealing with local-government problems I might as well deal with main and trunk roads. The provision of a good road to a country town can help the prosperity of the area. The principal road passing through the Burrendong electorate north from Mudgee is trunk road 55. For as long as I can remember it has had a gravel surface north of Coolah. When I was the member for Mudgee I concentrated some of my effort on seeking to have the road tar-surfaced from Lidsdale to Mudgee. This has now been done without cost to the councils in the area. Subsequently other councils made a contribution on the usual basis, and the work was continued as far as Coolah. I am sure that this town will benefit from the tar-sealing of trunk road 55. I am amazed that the Minister for Decentralisation and Development, who lives in Coolah, has not pressed strongly for this work. He would certainly know how important to the people of Coolah is the completion of the road lifeline that passes through the town. The provision of accommodation for fifth and sixth form students at Coolah would also be highly beneficial.

As the Minister for Transport has been asking what is to be done about Gulgong, now might be the appropriate time to mention that perhaps the Minister has in mind the recommencement of work on the Sandy Hollow to Maryvale railway, which would make work opportunities available for a number of people in the area. Other jobs would be available if work were started on Windamere Dam, even if that meant stopping work on the eastern suburbs railway, especially as the latest estimate for that

work has risen from \$80,000,000 to \$135,000,000. As the time available to me has expired, I hope to raise other matters of importance to my electorate during the supply debate.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Mauger.

ADJOURNMENT

FAIRFIELD ZONING

Mr WILLIS (Earlwood), Chief Secretary and Minister for Tourism and Sport [10.15]: I move:

That this House do now adjourn.

Mr BEDFORD (Fairfield) [10.15]: I should like to refer to the Minister for Local Government and Minister for Highways an urgent matter concerning a zoning problem in my area. I appeal to the Minister because of the tremendous effect that the zoning will have on the lives of some people. I refer to the area bounded by Hill Street, St Johns Road, Gladstone Street and Cabramatta Road in the Fairfield electorate. The matter is urgent because I understand from the Department of Local Government that the time for the Minister to append his signature to the draft plan is imminent, and it is necessary to do something very quickly.

Mr HEALEY: On a point of order. Mr Speaker, you have already ruled that during the debate on the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, only matters of immediate urgency, which cannot wait, may be brought up on the motion for the adjournment. The honourable member for Fairfield spoke a day or two ago in the Address-in-Reply debate and I submit it was proper for him to raise this matter then. I submit that, in line with your earlier rulings, the honourable member is out of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The purpose of discouraging debate on the motion for the adjournment, during the currency of the debate on the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, is to prevent duplication of debate—having two debates on the same

subject running at the same time. It seems to be fairly obvious that the honourable member for Fairfield, who has already spoken in the Address-in-Reply debate, is dealing with a strictly local matter of fairly narrow implication. The Address-in-Reply debate is tapering off and it is highly unlikely that any other honourable member will seek to raise this matter during the remainder of that debate. In the circumstances I think I should allow the honourable member for Fairfield to deal with this matter briefly.

Mr BEDFORD: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Minister will be aware of the situation, as a good deal of correspondence on this matter, couched in very reasonable terms, has been sent through me to him. The area was zoned under the old Cumberland County Council scheme as 2 (b). The council allowed the development of flats in the area. The State Planning Authority asked that the area in fact be designated 2 (a). The council unanimously lodged an objection and some members of the council voted to allow development to take place.

The position now is that it has been zoned as 2 (a), but in the area there are forty huge blocks of flats. Some people did not lodge objections at the time, thinking that the whole area would be released for flat development. Second, people are left with flats interspersed among their own homes, making the place aesthetically ugly. Third, there is no chance now for them to sell their houses, as home seekers are not likely to buy an ordinary single-unit dwelling among a mixture of flats. Another point is: How will the council rate the area? There is an anomalous situation in that it will be a 2 (a) area in which there are forty blocks of flats, and this will raise a certain amount of hard feeling in respect of rates.

The only opposition raised against this matter comes from people who are objecting to the flats that have been permitted to be built near them. Therefore I sincerely

appeal to the Minister, before he signs this plan, to give an undertaking that officers from the State Planning Authority will meet these people, look at the situation on the ground, and perhaps give some indication that when the plan is signed there will be an early opportunity to rezone the area to 2 (b).

Mr MORTON (Mosman), Minister for Local Government and Minister for Highways [10.19]: I knew only a short time ago that the honourable gentleman intended to raise this matter. I am not aware of the detail. It is a fact that decisions in relation to the Fairfield planning scheme are almost complete. One matter is still under determination, and that affects materially the corridor aspect of a section of the area. Early in the morning I shall have a look at the situation and, as soon as I can, I will inform the House and the honourable gentleman.

Motion agreed to.

House adjourned at 10.20 p.m.

Legislative Council

Wednesday, 18 August, 1971

Legislative Council (Issue of Writ for Election)—
—Questions without Notice—Governor's Speech:
Address in Reply (Sixth Day's Debate).

The PRESIDENT took the chair at 4.28 p.m.

The Prayer was read.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

ISSUE OF WRIT FOR ELECTION

The PRESIDENT reported the receipt of a message from His Excellency the Governor intimating that, with the advice of the Executive Council, he had issued a writ for the election, on Thursday, 16th September, 1971, of a member of the Legislative Council to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the Hon. John Charles McIntosh.

Writ read by the Clerk of the Parliaments.

The PRESIDENT directed that the taking of the votes of members of the Legislative Council for the election of a member to the Council be set down as an order of the day for Thursday, 16th September, 1971, and intimated that on that day the taking of votes would take precedence of all other business.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

BLOOD TRANSFUSION ADMINISTRATION CHARGES

The Hon. W. J. GERAGHTY: I ask the Minister for Labour and Industry a question without notice. Is it a fact that although no charge is levied in public hospitals for blood used in transfusions, there exists under the new scale of hospital charges a service charge of \$11 for administration? Will the Minister make representations to the Minister for Health seeking to have this charge withheld in the case of blood donors receiving transfusions when those donors have contributed a reasonable amount of blood to the blood bank?

The Hon. F. M. HEWITT: I shall convey that question to my colleague the Minister for Health.

LATE SHOPPING: AGREEMENT

The Hon. A. A. ALAM: I wish to ask the Minister for Labour and Industry a question without notice. In the event of an agreement being reached between the Retail Traders Association and the Shop Assistants Union to provide for a late shopping night, can arrangements be made to meet the wishes of both parties in localities where neither the employers nor the employees wish to have a late shopping night? Is it a fact that in two States of the United States of America, in which country some shops are open twenty-four hours a day, satisfactory arrangements have been made between businessmen and their employees in relation to shopping hours? Will the Minister agree to appoint as arbitrator an independent judge to determine disputes where agreement cannot be reached, providing for the arbitrator's decision to be final and subject to review after twelve months?