

finance to develop Australia. Otherwise some day some other nation will develop it for us. Many people have their eyes on Australia.

The Hon. Sir ASHER JOEL: It took Mt Isa mines thirty years to reach a profitable basis.

The Hon. T. E. GORDON: It is profitable now.

The Hon. Sir ASHER JOEL: After thirty years.

The Hon. T. E. GORDON: Mt Isa is profitable now and it should be making a contribution to Australia.

The Hon. Sir ASHER JOEL: That is a specious argument.

The Hon. T. E. GORDON: It is a commonsense argument. In the Middle East the sheiks have taken over the oil rights and kicked out foreign investors. We do not suggest that this should be done here but oversea investors should be making some contribution to the development of this country.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. T. E. Gordon.

House adjourned, on motion by the Hon. J. B. M. Fuller, at 6.30 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, 18 August, 1971

Printed Questions and Answers—Legislative Council (Issue of Writ for Election)—Disturbances in Parliamentary Galleries (Privilege)—Questions without Notice—Governor's Speech: Address in Reply (Seventh Day's Debate)—Adjournment (Waterfall to Bulli Pass Toll Road).

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

Mr SPEAKER offered the Prayer.

PRINTED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

SEWERAGE IN CAMPBELLTOWN ELECTORATE

Mr MALLAM asked the MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS—(1) Is the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board giving

preference in the connection of sewerage to new homes and by-passing the older residences in the Campbelltown electorate?

(2) If so, will he request the board not to discriminate and so ensure that the older homes receive the same facilities as the newer homes?

Answer—Major works at present under construction as part of a new sewerage scheme for Glenfield-Campbelltown Valley are primarily being financed by private developers and will allow the sewerage of new release areas under the Sydney region outline plan. However, older areas in Glenfield, Macquarie Fields, Ingleburn, and so on, are not being placed at a disadvantage in their prospects for sewerage, but on the contrary will be in a better position to be served because of the new construction. These areas will have sewerage connected on precisely the same basis as for unsewered areas elsewhere, in line with the board's general policy, which provides that development in the various sub-catchments must reach a level which will justify inclusion in the construction programme.

Prior sewerage of newer subdivisions, where it occurs, is subject to the applicable financial contributions by the subdividers and developers. So far from prejudicing the older areas this is a benefit to them in two ways; first, the saving in the board's capital funds will leave more money for ordinary sewerage work, and secondly—in this case—the impending major development of the area provides the economic justification for the extensive and costly sewerage works of which the whole area will have benefit. Thus homes in the older areas are not being passed over or dealt with in any way unfairly, and the progress of development in the various sections will certainly be kept under notice so that the respective schemes can be considered for programming in the normal way. Quite apart from this new scheme, the board is at present extending sewers from the existing system to serve already developed areas elsewhere in the Campbelltown electorate, at Moorebank and Campbelltown.

PUBLIC APPEAL FOR MRS PAMELA
MCLEOD-LINDSAY

Mr PETERSEN asked the ATTORNEY-GENERAL—(1) How much was collected by the public appeal for a trust fund to benefit Mrs Pamela McLeod-Lindsay in 1965? (2) (a) Has Mrs McLeod-Lindsay applied for this money to be paid to her? (b) How much has been paid to her? (3) If all moneys in the fund have not been paid to Mrs McLeod-Lindsay—(a) Why not? (b) What action should be taken so that Mrs McLeod-Lindsay will receive the total amount? (c) Who is now trustee of the fund?

Answer—The only official supervision of the funds collected as a result of the appeal “to raise funds for the payment to a trust for the use of Mrs McLeod-Lindsay and/or her present children” was that exercised under the Charitable Collections Act administered by my colleague the Chief Secretary. My colleague has advised that this appeal realized the audited sum of \$5,552.80. I am informed by my colleague that subsequently a trust deed was executed authorizing the trustees to apply both the capital and income of the trust fund at such time or times and in such manner as they may in their absolute discretion think fit for the maintenance and benefit of Mrs McLeod-Lindsay and the maintenance, education, advancement and benefit of all or any one of her children. This is a private, and not a charitable trust. It is not open to the Attorney-General or any other member of the executive government to intervene in the conduct of a private trust. If the honourable member’s question is to be construed as an indication that there is a dispute between Mrs McLeod-Lindsay and the trustees which cannot be satisfactorily settled between them, that dispute can only be ultimately resolved in the appropriate court of law.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
ISSUE OF WRIT FOR ELECTION

Mr SPEAKER 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, 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.

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

DISTURBANCES IN PARLIAMENTARY
GALLERIES

PRIVILEGE

Mr CHAFFEY: On a point of privilege. On two occasions during this Parliament there have been disturbances in the public gallery. I appreciate that standing orders require that points of privilege may be taken on matters suddenly arising. However, it was somewhat difficult to do so in the circumstances that existed yesterday, not only in the gallery of the Legislative Assembly, but also within the precincts of the House. I now wish to address you, Mr Speaker, to establish a point that I endeavoured to make when the new Parliament first met earlier this year after Easter, when there was a disturbance in the gallery.

Yesterday persons were admitted to the gallery who showed complete contempt for everything that Parliament means. The problem involves what happens in this Chamber and what happens in another place and therefore I ask whether you will accept a proposition in support of your control of the House as Speaker to allow honourable members on both sides to consider the establishment of some form of committee of privilege, and to enable discussions to take place with members in another place with a view to avoiding the unpleasant episodes that occurred here when people made an affront to law and order and public responsibility. I should like to have the opportunity to move such a motion in support of your office as Speaker in controlling the normal administration of the establishment, and to let you

know that all honourable members give you their moral support in the performance of that duty. Further, it will let people outside this House know that Parliament does not accept the attitude of those who behaved so shamefully yesterday.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The disturbance that took place in the gallery yesterday is not a matter of privilege. It is a matter of order. I appreciate the motives of the honourable member for Tamworth. If he wishes to move a motion for adoption by the House that may in any manner fortify my powers as Speaker, that is a matter for him, but he will have to do it on notice of motion in the normal manner.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

INVESTIGATION OF COMPANY AFFAIRS

Mr HILLS: I ask the Attorney-General a question without notice. Is it a fact that he has ordered an investigation by officers of the Corporate Affairs Commission into whether there had been any informed selling or insider trading of the securities of either Queensland Mines Limited or Kathleen Investments (Australia) Ltd before their suspension on Australian stock exchanges last Monday? Is it a fact also that should any persons be prosecuted under section 75A of the Securities Industry Act for any such breaches, the maximum penalty is a mere \$2,000, although the breaches may involve share dealings totalling millions of dollars? Further, is it a fact that the Minister has reported over the period from June, 1968, to May, 1971, that investigations are being carried out into the affairs of four major companies, namely Minsec, Leopold Minerals, Nickelore and Antimony Nickel? Will the Attorney-General, in the public interest, give this House an assurance that these matters will be brought to an early conclusion and a full report upon the current stage of the inquiries be made to this House within, say, the next week?

Mr McCAW: I am proud to say that I did not have to order inquiries. The Commissioner for Corporate Affairs informed me very early that the commission, pursuant to its autonomous authority, was

making inquiries and would keep me informed of developments. The commission is doing so. As to the other companies to which the honourable member referred, it is correct that investigations have taken place. One of these companies is a Western Australian company and it is my recollection that criminal proceedings have been initiated in relation to part, at any rate—a fundamental part—of the matter that spurred the investigations. I give the Leader of the Opposition and the House an assurance that investigations will be carried out as quickly as humanly possible into these matters. The investigations by the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs and in one case, a private investigation by Mr Glass, Q.C., will be carried out with thoroughness, skill and as quickly as possible.

The honourable member knows that this is not peculiar to my occupation of the office of Attorney-General. [*Interruption*]

Mr SPEAKER: Order! There is too much conversation in the House.

Mr McCAW: When reports become available they do not necessarily and immediately find their way to the table of this House. A difficult decision rests upon my shoulders, and upon the shoulders of any man who occupies this office—whether to table a report and publicize the outcome of investigations carried out under the Companies Act immediately or, where proceedings of a criminal nature are to be undertaken, whether to defer the tabling in the interests of both the accused persons and the presentation of the Crown case at least until the commencement if not the conclusion of any criminal proceedings. I have made it clear, however, ever since I have occupied this office that if the public interest, as distinct from public curiosity, overrides the interest of those accused of crime or of the Crown in the presentation of its case, the reports will be made public in this House.

CROWN LAND AUCTIONS

Mr SINGLETON: I ask the Minister for Lands a question without notice. Is it the policy of the Government to abolish all

Crown land auctions? If the policy is to sell by auction how do people purchase land privately from the Department of Lands? Has the Government any plans for the re-introduction of ballots for homesites? Will the Minister consider releasing homesites specifically on a ballot system for young people?

Mr LEWIS: It is not the policy of this Government to abolish all auction sales of homesites. From December last year to May this year the Government stopped all auctions of Crown land to consider the effects that they were having and to review the system of auctions. Might I just say, because of the constant interjections from the Opposition, that on a percentage basis the Government has allotted 15 per cent more homesites by ballot than the Labor Government did in its term of office over a similar period. In addition, the Government has made twice the number of homesites available throughout New South Wales. After the review was carried out earlier this year it was decided to put a lower limit of \$10,000 on the value of homesites to be auctioned. If the market value of blocks is \$10,000 or more they will be auctioned.

Mr MALLAM: What about the Wollondilly shire?

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

Mr LEWIS: At least one month before blocks go to auction they are valued at a sum that they are expected to bring at auction. This is known as the notified value. If land is not sold at auction an after-auction purchase may be made. The intending purchaser may purchase a block from the Department of Lands at the notified value and under the same terms and conditions applying to blocks sold at auction. There is no need to reintroduce the ballot system. The system has existed for as long as this Government has been in office. Neither at auction nor by ballot is any person able to obtain two blocks of Crown land. This restriction prevents developers and investors from purchasing blocks of land for speculative purposes.

Since coming to office the Government has made available in the metropolitan area a large number of building blocks. Last financial year 309 blocks in the metropolitan area were balloted for. Also, ballots have been conducted recently at Newcastle for 65 homesites at Charlestown and 71 homesites at Swansea. Additionally, development is proceeding to provide more building blocks in those areas. Though there is no provision in law that homesites should be made available specifically to young married couples, the Government has found that those who ballot for building blocks are mostly young married couples. Accordingly, I do not think it is necessary to change the law and so exclude everybody else from these ballots. Other persons may wish to enter a ballot for a block and should be allowed to do so. For example, if the law were changed and only young married couples were eligible to purchase these blocks, a young man who intended to get married in the near future would be at a great disadvantage. I hope that that explanation satisfies the House and the honourable gentleman who asked the question.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY: PUBLIC GALLERY

Mr EINFELD: I direct my question to you, Mr Speaker. Is it a fact that you have determined that strangers—that is, citizens and voters of New South Wales as well as other members of the community from interstate or overseas—cannot enter this Parliament and be seated in the public gallery unless those persons are signed in or sponsored by a member of this House? Have you ruled that such persons other than those for whom provision is made in Standing Order 59 may not sit in the gallery? Are you aware that a few days ago two visitors from Western Australia were refused admittance until special action was taken and that a visitor from Great Britain was admitted only after the Leader of the Opposition sponsored her? Will you agree that every citizen of New South Wales, especially voters, should have the free right to be seated in the gallery if seats are available and listen to their elected representatives discuss the matters of urgent importance

that come before the Parliament? Do you agree that yesterday two or three people in the upper gallery seriously misbehaved and disturbed parliamentary proceedings? In your ruling, Mr Speaker, will you turn the other cheek or do you intend to visit the sins of the few on the many?

Mr CHAFFEY: On a point of order. I believe that this question in itself is offensive to the Chair. Further to what I endeavoured to do on a point of privilege earlier today, I should like to say that yesterday access to Parliament was cluttered up by people who—

[*Interruption*]

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I do not think any point of order may be taken on the honourable gentleman's question. The admission of members of the public to the galleries of the Parliament is regulated and controlled by standing orders which are made not by me as Speaker but by the Parliament itself. It is my duty to apply the standing orders as I find them, and since assuming the office of Speaker six and a half years ago I have done no more than follow the procedures adopted by my predecessors over a long period of years. These standing orders have been in force for a great number of years and although they were examined carefully when the standing orders generally were reviewed last year, so far as I can recall no member of the Standing Orders Committee suggested that any alteration either to the standing orders themselves or in the procedures normally adopted to apply them was necessary or desirable.

Standing Order 59 provides that admission to the area behind the Speaker's chair, to the lower gallery and to the ladies' gallery is the prerogative of the Speaker, and normally the Speaker leaves it to the Serjeant-at-Arms to authorize admission to those areas on his behalf. In the six and a half years that I have occupied this position no honourable member has ever been denied a request to admit a friend, a constituent or any member of the public to these galleries. As all honourable members know, the galleries are freely used every day by schools and members of the public. Indeed, I have always encouraged admission to the gal-

leries in the belief that the more members of the public who see our Parliament in action, the greater will be the public understanding and appreciation of the problems, work and achievements of their elected representatives and the State as a whole.

Under Standing Order 59 every honourable member has the privilege of admitting two members of the public to the upper gallery. Here again, never in the period during which I have occupied this position has any attempt been made to restrict this privilege. It is, of course, for the House itself and not for the Speaker to say whether the public should have the right to roam unrestricted through the precincts and the galleries of the Parliament. I should have thought, however, that the disorderly conduct witnessed yesterday when certain teachers in the gallery interrupted the proceedings of the House, and a few weeks back when certain other demonstrators in the gallery rudely interrupted a motion of sympathy then under discussion, would have provided ample proof, if any were needed, that some regulation over admission to the precincts and galleries of the House is necessary if the elected representatives of the people are to be allowed to conduct the business of Parliament in an orderly manner, free from interruption by that small minority of people who might be tempted to harass or obstruct it.

REFERRALS BY SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE

Mr CLOUGH: I ask the Minister for Health whether referral to a specialist by a government school medical officer does not attract fund benefit for a contributor to health insurance funds. Is it a fact that fees paid to specialists attract a lower fund benefit if spectacles are prescribed? If these are facts, will the Minister confer with his federal colleague with a view to having these anomalies removed?

Mr JAGO: This is a most involved question, which affects the relationship between the school medical service and the benefits that may be obtained under the national health scheme. In answer to the first part of the question, I should think—and this

would be subject to further investigation—that under the present referral system of the school medical service, fund benefits are paid by the health insurance funds. As the honourable member for Eastwood was formerly associated with one of the major funds, he might be able to check some aspects of these remarks.

Previously the referral notices were issued by the school medical officer on a blank form, but the practice was found by the Commonwealth to be unsatisfactory following its revision of the national health scheme in November, 1970. However, as far as I know no application for medical benefit has been refused. Recently parents have been advised by the school medical service, with a view to overcoming the problems that arose following the revision of the national health scheme, to confer with their own medical advisers to ensure that there would be a proper referral. Though I shall examine other aspects of the honourable member's question, I should think that generally the Commonwealth Government has been most considerate in the handling of medical claims in respect of referrals to ophthalmologists or other specialist medical practitioners, and it has ensured that children who needed specialist medical attention were able to get it with little difficulty and with the greatest possible financial assistance. I shall inquire what other information on this matter might be made available to the honourable member and the House.

POLLUTION OF WARRAGAMBA DAM

Mr HAIGH: I ask the Minister for Public Works whether he would inform the House of the facts concerning the serious pollution of Sydney's water supply at Warragamba Dam. Is the Minister aware that large quantities of chemicals are being added to the water supply in an attempt to control the dangerous level of contamination? Is he aware, also, that the Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board is so gravely concerned about the contamination that it has designed and is anxious to construct a water treatment plant at Prospect at a cost of \$40,000,000 and so eradicate this serious threat to public health? Will

the Government make available to the board a capital grant to finance the urgent construction of this water treatment works as a positive move to eradicate this pollution and to safeguard public health?

Mr HUGHES: I am amazed at the implication contained in the honourable member's question. His suggestion of pollution at Warragamba Dam is totally unfounded. The Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board is pressing on with the greatest development programme in its history to catch up with a backlog in both water and sewerage services that are the heritage of Labor administration.

Mr F. J. WALKER: On a point of order. The question relates to possible pollution and the construction of a treatment plant. It has nothing to do with the record of the previous Government. I suggest that the Minister be directed to keep to the question.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Georges River may well be correct. Nevertheless, the question did ask whether the Government would make a capital grant of \$40,000,000 to the water board. For all I know the Minister may be about to say that he is not in a position to do that as he is already spending money on another aspect of the water board's activities. Therefore, what he is saying may well be relevant. At this stage I do not know.

Mr HUGHES: This year the water board is spending some \$80,000,000—about \$1,500,000 a week—and it is using every possible contract resource to carry out its programme. Indeed, over the next ten years the board will spend some \$900,000,000 compared with the outlay of a somewhat similar total sum on the Snowy Mountains Scheme over a period of twenty-five years. Putting it another way, in the next ten years, including this year, the board will spend as much on the Prospect treatment plant, which was referred to by the honourable member in his question, and on other works as it has spent over its entire history.

The Sydney water board has had to cope with the backlog of water supply and sewerage works that this Government inherited from the Labor Government in 1965. In addition, considerable sums are being spent to convert treatment plants that were pouring pollution into the ocean. It is absurd for the honourable member to suggest that the board is not doing anything to avoid possible pollution. I deny that there has been any pollution of Warragamba.

Mr HAIGH: The Minister had better check.

Mr HUGHES: I have checked. Plans are in hand for Prospect. The honourable member is trying to create a scare. The truth of the matter is that this Government has made the greatest advance in the history of this State in providing the community with pure water, a complete sewerage scheme and unpolluting ocean outfalls.

BUS STOPS

Mr MAUGER: I address my question to the Minister for Transport. Is it the accepted practice in many parts of the world to have bus stop zones at major intersections placed beyond those intersections and past the point where traffic lights are installed? In New South Wales, are bus stop zones established before intersections and in front of the point where traffic lights are in operation? Will the Minister, in the interests of road safety and traffic movement, consider placing bus stop zones in this State in the position in which they are set up in countries overseas?

Mr MORRIS: This matter has been investigated from time to time. Under the former administration, the position of bus stops was moved three times. They were first put in their present position. They were then placed on the other side of the intersection, and on another occasion in the centre of city blocks. Finally, they were brought back to where they are now. A couple of years ago the traffic advisory committee, which is presided over by the Commissioner for Motor Transport, advised me that although placement of bus stops left something to be desired at many places, the present method was the best.

I understand that changes are taking place in traffic movement in the rapidly growing town of Queanbeyan, in the electorate of the honourable member for Monaro, and apparently traffic lights there are working satisfactorily. I shall ask the traffic advisory committee to give an up-to-date assessment of siting of bus stops in the city of Sydney, and as this is a matter of general interest to honourable members I shall bring the reply here.

LEGACY: STATE GOVERNMENT LIAISON OFFICER

Mr CRABTREE: I ask the Premier whether he is aware of the sterling work done by Legacy, especially the St George division, on behalf of widows and children of deceased ex-servicemen. Is this work, which includes representations to State government departments, rapidly increasing? If these are facts, will the Premier consider the appointment of a senior public servant to act as a liaison officer between Legacy and the State Government?

Mr ASKIN: What the honourable gentleman says is undeniably true: Legacy provides a unique service to dependants of deceased ex-servicemen. It warrants the support of governments and the community generally, particularly when making annual appeals. Having attended many of its functions and knowing something of its work, I know of no more worthy cause than Legacy, and I share the honourable member's admiration and respect for it. Members on both sides of the House feel that way about it. As to appointing a public servant as a kind of liaison officer to assist Legacy with its work, I feel that Legacy itself should make such a request in the first place. We should know from Legacy whether that is its wish.

I do not know whether such a proposal is the wish of Legacy, which is an independent-minded body. Honourable members on both sides of the House belong to Legacy and support it. We know that legatees to their work unobtrusively and can be members of the organization only if they discharge its functions in dedicated fashion and on an honorary basis. They

take great pride in the fact that they do their work free of government assistance. If it is the wish of Legacy to do something along the lines suggested by the honourable member for Kogarah, doubtless after this question and answer we shall hear from it. I assure the honourable member and the House that any request of this nature will be given warm and sympathetic consideration.

ADVANCE TO SETTLERS AGENCY FUND

Mr COWAN: I address my question to the Premier and Treasurer. Does the Rural Bank of New South Wales administer a fund known as the Advance to Settlers Agency Fund? Is the purpose of the fund to supply low-interest long-term money? Was the fund established many years ago to enable the purchase of farm stock and plant and for general farm improvement with a limit set at \$3,000? In view of the rise in values and costs generally would the Premier review the fund with a view to fixing a higher limit and will he look into the possibility of including farm bulk milk vats as an item for which the fund may make an advance?

Mr ASKIN: Though I shall be pleased to look at these two suggestions, I need to confer with my colleague the Minister for Agriculture about the main purport of the question, which is a matter affecting his administration. The Rural Bank merely administers the fund for the government of the day. The Advance to Settlers Agency Fund is not a department of the bank; it is a government instrumentality, administered by the bank with the Government meeting the cost of administration. The Government has the say. Speaking from memory I think that the limit is \$3,000, as the honourable member has said. As he suggests, money values have changed and \$3,000 no longer buys what it did when the limit was fixed. It would be timely to have a conference with the Ministers involved and then to have a talk to the Rural Bank about the adequacy of the limit. It must be kept in mind that when it comes to making available money of this kind—and this happens in many spheres—the higher the

limit the fewer the people who can be helped. Some limit must be imposed otherwise a few big advances would absorb the available money each year. The question is good; it is founded on practical experience. I shall confer with the Minister concerned and the Rural Bank and let the honourable member and the House have an answer.

REBATE OF WATER RATES

Mr K. J. STEWART: I ask the Minister for Public Works whether the water board is enclosing with its assessments of water rates a notice informing water ratepayers that the Act is to be amended to permit the rebate to pensioners of portion of rates. Will the Minister inform the House when the legislation will be introduced and what classification of pensioner will be covered by the Act? Will he say whether the rebate will be on the basis of classification of pensioners or pensioners' means?

Mr HUGHES: Two bills will be introduced in the House. The first, introduced by the Minister for Local Government and Minister for Highways, will deal with the question of rebating to pensioners portion of local-government rates. This legislation will clearly define those who as pensioners will be eligible for the rebate. Exactly the same principles will be applied to the Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board, the Hunter District Water Board, the Broken Hill Water Board and the Cobar Water Board, which come within my administration. The definition of pensioners will be common to all. In the case of local-government rates, the legislation will become effective from 1st January, 1972. I shall not speak at the moment about the Broken Hill Water Board or the Cobar Water Board, but, for the Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board and the Hunter District Water Board, whose financial year starts on 1st July, the rebates will be retrospective to that date in this year. Therefore, all pensioners who are eligible under the definition, which will be detailed in the Act, will be entitled to the 50 per cent rebate.

TEACHERS FEDERATION DIRECTIVE

Mr GRIFFITH: I ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Minister for Science whether this week the New South Wales Teachers Federation issued a directive to principals and other senior personnel in schools relating to the inspection of schools and the inspection of teachers for promotion. If this directive is complied with, what effect will it have on the education system? What action is the Department of Education taking in relation to the demand of the federation? Is the directive couched in the professional terms that one should expect from a responsible teacher body?

Mr CUTLER: The directive was issued last week, I think, by the New South Wales Teachers Federation, over the signature of Mr Lancaster, as general secretary. It is addressed to principals, infants mistresses, teachers in charge and federation representatives in all schools. It was dated 4th August, 1971, and six days later, on 10th August, the same information was conveyed by the federation in a letter to the Director-General of Education. Apparently the federation felt that a week should be allowed for organization to go on in the schools before informing the director-general of the interference that the federation was engaging in at his schools. I think I should let honourable gentlemen judge for themselves whether the terminology is professional or otherwise, by quoting from the communication. It is the same in both instances.

Mr K. J. STEWART: Read it all.

Mr CUTLER: I do not intend to read it all.

Mr HAIGH: You will pick out only pieces.

Mr CUTLER: No. I shall pick out those pieces which I feel honourable gentlemen should hear, on which they can base their opinions. The document reads:

Federation demands that for the remainder of 1971 all school inspections, advisory and supervisory visits, and other forms of inspections of teachers shall cease except for those teachers (a) who are seeking certification, or (b) who have applied for placement on a higher promotions list.

In the event of failure of the authorities to implement paragraph 2 above, Federation calls upon school staff to refuse inspection by the following action:

Step 1: On being advised of an impending visit by an inspector, Federation members at the school shall meet and decide their action to implement Federation policy.

In the event of a school principal or infants mistress being informed of an impending advisory or supervisory visit, the principal or infants mistress is directed not to co-operate.

A further section of the document states:

If an inspector enters the classroom of any teacher not seeking inspection, the General Secretary shall be advised and a stop work meeting of Federation members of the school shall be held, the pupils being supervised in the playground on a roster system.

In cases where school staffs do not indicate their preparedness to undertake the above action, the Federation declares that any teacher who has not asked to be inspected and who refuses inspection by either ceasing to teach while the inspector is in the room or leaving the class in the care of the inspector, shall receive the full support of the Federal executive and Council.

That is a direction that the majority shall not rule in a particular school. Then the document goes on to state:

The New South Wales Teachers Federation calls on all inspectors to recognize the validity of the Federation's approach for the welfare of education, and calls on all federation members to refuse appointment as inspectors.

I have read this directive purposely to allow honourable gentlemen to form their own opinion of it. Having thought about this, I say quite bluntly that that directive reads more like a Communist Party directive than advice from an Australian trade union. It is all very well for honourable gentlemen on the other side to object: they might know more about communist directives than we on this side do. Some of them undoubtedly do. This directive is the most extremely militant action that I have heard of against the interest of the schoolchildren in this State.

The honourable gentleman asked me what would be the result of it if it is put into effect before other action can be taken by the department. It will mean not only a breakdown of the education system in this State but, if this sort of thing continues, it will mean also the breakdown of the whole

system of government that we enjoy in this country, or at least that most of us enjoy in this country. One of the worst aspects of this matter is that the whole question of the system of inspections in schools in New South Wales is at present before the director-general and a committee that he has set up to go into the whole subject and to see where improvements can be made. The federation has refused to wait until the director-general can conclude his investigation and until he can obtain a report from the committee.

I suggest that there is one very good reason why the federation refuses to wait, and that is that in the near future, of course, there is to be an election of federation office bearers. Some existing office bearers are conducting an election campaign and are using the funds of their own members—\$35,000—on an election campaign directed at the re-election of some of the existing office bearers. I make no apology for saying that, either. One other action that is being taken by the department to protect the students of this State against this sort of action is that the inspectors of the State have been advised by the department of the appropriate action that they are to take. I assure the honourable gentleman and the House and the people outside that the interests of students will be protected at all costs.

Again I think it is fair to say that in the light of the acceptance of a directive of this nature by some teachers, a few of whom were in the gallery yesterday afternoon—and I hasten to inform the House and you, Mr Speaker, that the rather dirty looking, long haired gentleman sitting in the middle and making all the disturbance was not a teacher—the time has certainly arrived when the public of this State have to make a determination whether they want the elected government—it does not matter whether it is a government of my political persuasion or a Labor government—the Department of Education and senior dedicated and highly qualified administrative officers to administer education in this State, or whether it will be left to some outside body not answerable to anyone.

Mr Cutler]

Mr F. J. WALKER: They are elected.

Mr CUTLER: Yes, they are elected by their own members. They are not answerable to the people of this State. Every member of this House is subject to inspection and stands for re-election every three years. If we ever reach a stage at which the public service runs this State, it will be a very sorry state of things indeed. I think I can see the Leader of the Opposition nodding his head: at least there is one intelligent person on the Opposition side.

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM FOR NEWCASTLE

Mr JONES: I direct a question without notice to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Minister for Science. Is the Minister aware that the Newcastle area directorate office held a public meeting at the Newcastle Technical High School about three weeks ago to inform the Newcastle parents of a proposed senior high school system to operate in the inner Newcastle area? Will the Minister inform this House of the Government's policy on senior high schools? If the Minister agrees to the system, will he set up a committee in the Newcastle area consisting of representatives of the Department of Education, the Teachers Federation and the parents and citizens association to assist in establishing such schools?

Mr CUTLER: I was aware that a meeting was organized in Newcastle two or three weeks ago to discuss the establishment of senior high schools in some areas of the State, but I have not yet received a report on the meeting from the area directorate or from the Director-General of Education. Until I do receive such a report I cannot give a full answer to the honourable member for Waratah, but I shall advise him and the House as soon as I receive some information on the matter.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH: ADDRESS IN
REPLY

SEVENTH DAY'S DEBATE

Debate resumed (from 17th August, *vide* page 409) 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.

Mr MAUGER (Monaro) [3.32]: I congratulate the mover and seconder of the motion for the adoption of His Excellency's Speech and the other new members who have their maiden speeches in this debate. I should like to make particular reference to the wonderful contribution by the honourable member for Sturt who brought to the debate the feelings and thoughts of the age group from 20 to 30 years old. It is

refreshing for members to hear a young man as a member of this House give an address that inspires confidence in that age group.

I take this opportunity of paying a compliment to the officers of the many departments and service organizations who came to the fore during the disastrous drought in my area which was followed closely by a flood. The people of my electorate had just recovered from the effects of the drought when they were hit by a severe flood, which put many of them back into a financial situation from which they will never recover. I pay a particular tribute to the local-government officers, health inspectors, building inspectors, electricians and others who gave countless hours to aiding the people in the flood areas. They helped people in their homes and on the land by their advice and hard work in making the area safe after the flood.

The Civil Defence Organisation, too, did a magnificent job during this time. It is only since this Government came to office that civil defence has been adequately recognized. It is only since 1965 that money has been spent on civil defence to any considerable extent. This wonderful organization gave a practical demonstration of flood relief work in my electorate. I pay tribute to the staff of the Postmaster-General's Department also, particularly the postmasters in my area and the girls on the switchboards. It was only through their efforts that telephone communications were maintained. Some of these people worked unceasingly for five or six days to maintain communications. Police, ambulance officers and men of the fire brigade provided an outstanding service for which the people of my electorate are grateful.

I wish to pay a special compliment to Mr Scott, manager of radio station 2XL Cooma, and Mr Kerr, manager of radio station 2BE Bega. These men did not go to bed for four days during the time of the flood. By their efforts communications were maintained throughout the area. The Government and the people of New South Wales should pay tribute to such fine men who were prepared to give all their time on such a disastrous occasion.

The people of this area will need many years to recover from the effects of this flood. Some of them have lost fences; many head of cattle have been lost and some farmers have had the top soil from their land completely washed away. Then, if that was not enough, the New South Wales Dairy Industry Authority gave the complete Queanbeyan milk supply to the Bega Valley dairy farmers. The authority also took away from Queanbeyan a section of the Canberra milk supply that was processed by the Dairy Farmers Co-operative Ltd of New South Wales. In turn, the Dairy Farmers Co-operative Ltd notified the Bemboka dairy society that it would not require the Bemboka society's milk. Bemboka is a small town in my electorate with a population of approximately 500 people, and it depends wholly on the milk industry. The supply of milk from Bemboka to Canberra was only 6,000 gallons, but that production kept the population of 500, fifty farmers and five carriers in constant employment. Six thousand gallons is not a great quantity of milk to be absorbed into a community of 175,000 people. Nevertheless, these farmers have been told that their milk supply will not be required in Canberra in the future.

I make an earnest request to the Minister for Agriculture that he take up the case of the Bemboka farmers and go to whatever extent this Government is permitted to go to make sure that this small town does not suffer because of the order of the New South Wales Dairy Industry Authority. After all, this Government is responsible for the constitution of the authority. The people of Bemboka have only my voice to speak for them on the floor of this House. They do not wish to be given any privileges that are not received by other people, but they do wish to have their livelihood kept intact. The population of Canberra is increasing by about 10,000 people a year, so 6,000 gallons of milk could be absorbed there quite easily. I sincerely hope that the Government realizes the gravity of the position and makes every effort to correct it.

Eden is the centre of one of the fastest growing areas on the South Coast. It has been given a needle, as one might say,

Mr Mauger

through the advent of the chip factory there. The chip factory has a long history; it was operated originally by a Japanese-Australian consortium. However, the Australian content of the consortium dropped out and now the Japanese interests have spent something like \$11,000,000 in establishing the industry in Eden. They have sole control of this chip factory. They have had many troubles there, with the sea and with government departments, but those troubles have been overcome. Being the elected representative of that area, I have learned that there is a lot we can do to attract industry to this State from abroad. However, there is still a lot of red tape that can be cut. A lot of charges are levied, and if they were not imposed other industries might be attracted to this country.

But for the chip factory, Eden would still be a small coastal town largely dependent on the fishing industry. Because of the advent of the chip factory, the Housing Commission has completed 130 houses in Eden in the past four years. I am doubtful whether Eden had five houses constructed by the Housing Commission in the preceding fifty years. The development in the area is outstanding. The ancillary activities that go with an industry such as the chip mill bring other industries to the town. One of the best high schools to be built outside the metropolitan area is being constructed in Eden. This will cost approximately \$958,000. All this has been brought about because an oversea firm decided to establish a chip industry in Eden. We believe that the development of this area has attracted other people who wish to find out what else is available there. Many minerals exist in the Eden district and interest in these has resulted in mining licences being taken out. This again will bring about further improvement of the town and its surrounding areas.

The people of Eden are most happy with the efforts of this Government to encourage industry to their area and appreciate that it is endeavouring to develop the Eden district. For many years the fishing industry was the backbone of the town and Eden is still the largest supplier of fish to the Sydney markets. However, it is a sad state

of affairs that the port of Eden does not have a satisfactory wharf for fishing trawlers to tie up to when unloading their catch for transport to the fish canneries and the fishermen's co-operative. I have been to Eden on many occasions and have seen five or six boats tied up in line abeam with only one alongside the wharf. If the wind comes in from the south most of the boats have to put to sea and wait for the wind to die down before they can return to port. This is a disgraceful situation. The wharves at Eden have been neglected. In fact, since I have been the member for that area I cannot recall any funds being expended on that port. In 1964 the Minister for Local Government, now the Leader of the Opposition, officially opened a fine breakwater at Eden but this wall was constructed with funds provided by the Commonwealth out of petrol taxation, not with funds derived from the State Government. That is the only improvement in the harbour in the past twenty or thirty years.

MR K. J. STEWART: Labor would have done something for Eden had it been elected to office at the last elections.

MR MAUGER: I am not really interested in what Labor might have done. Labor had a long time to do something but it did nothing. The only thing Labor ever did in Eden was to build what is known as the Eden opera house. Labor built a big brick building complete with toilets and other facilities for wharf labourers working at that port. The trouble is that there are no wharf labourers at Eden. Eden has a wonderful amenities set-up for wharf labourers but no wharf labourers to use it. That was Labor's total achievement in the Eden area over twenty-four years. I hope that this year the Minister for Public Works will be able to allocate funds for work in Eden harbour. The area has just been surveyed at a cost of \$40,000 and it is hoped that soon there will be a start on the construction of better port services there.

The Cooma area of my electorate has had to face a major problem. About five years ago the Government appointed a committee to inquire into ways of preventing the town of Cooma from falling by the wayside when the Snowy Mountains Hydro-

Electric Authority works were phased out. The committee has done a good job and the Department of Decentralisation and Development has worked hard to attract industry to the town. Unfortunately Cooma is located only 68 miles from Canberra where 170,000 people live. It has been most difficult to entice industries to establish themselves in the comparatively small township of Cooma when they can be located in Canberra, less than 70 miles away. It has been most unfortunate for the local-government authorities that their efforts to encourage industries to the area have been fruitless. However, it is hoped that in the near future the Department of Decentralisation and Development will meet with success in its attempts to bring to Cooma industries that will keep the district buoyant.

On the brighter side, my electorate has been fortunate that the national fitness organization has taken over from the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Authority the camp used by construction workers when building the Jindabyne Dam. This has injected new life into Jindabyne and has restored in the local people some faith in the future of the area. The national fitness camp at Jindabyne is worth looking at and I invite anyone going through the area to visit it.

MR HEALEY: That camp is used as a secondary schools field study centre.

MR MAUGER: That is so. In fact it is one of the best national fitness camps in Australia and one of the few camps in the world that can offer so many appropriate facilities. The people of Cooma are delighted that the national fitness camp has been established in that area. Nevertheless, they still look to the Government and to the Department of Decentralisation and Development to provide further assistance to ensure that Cooma will remain an important centre and will not go backwards as work on the Snowy Mountains scheme is completed.

MR SHEAHAN: Some time ago I asked for the same thing to be done with regard to the town site at Blowering but the former Minister for Conservation turned down my request.

Mr MAUGER: I am sure that this Government will provide assistance for Cooma. I believe that Cooma has a ready-made teachers college complex. A big administrative centre built by the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Authority is to close down. This centre includes married quarters and single men's barracks as well as a large picture theatre and other buildings. The Department of Education could take advantage of this accommodation and theatre, as well as the other facilities, to establish a new teachers college at Cooma. A proposal has already been put to the Minister to take over this centre on either a temporary or permanent basis. At little or no cost to the State Government an extra teachers college could be set up. This would help to improve teacher training in New South Wales. I hope that soon the Minister for Education will be able to intimate whether he will accept the offer made by the Snowy Mountains Authority to allow the New South Wales Government to take over what might be called a small suburb of Cooma and establish a teachers college there.

My home town of Queanbeyan is probably one of the most fortunate towns in New South Wales. Queanbeyan borders the Australian Capital Territory where the population growth is 10,000 a year. There must be a let-out for any development of that size and Queanbeyan has been most fortunate to gain in this respect. Nevertheless, the people of Queanbeyan are disappointed. For more than six months they have made strong representations that their town be declared a city. Queanbeyan has the necessary population and other requirements for a city. The people are proud of the decentralization effort that has occurred in their area. The local council has resumed two large parcels of land in the town, subdivided them and in the past year, in co-operation with the Department of Decentralisation and Development, has spent about \$528,000 in improving them. Queanbeyan has two breweries: Tooth and Company Limited and Tooheys Limited have started manufacturing at Queanbeyan. Also, many heavy industries, not permitted in the Australian Capital Territory, have started up in Queanbeyan.

Queanbeyan has also one of the finest Housing Commission set-ups I have ever seen. The municipal council, in co-operation with the Housing Commission, took over enough land for about 400 blocks, subdivided it and constructed all necessary ancillary services. The Housing Commission has established a wonderful suburb in Queanbeyan with brick veneer, brick and weatherboard cottages of exciting designs, set out among the trees.

Recently when I spoke in this House I complained about the electricity authority and its attitude to the installation of power lines. It is good to see beautiful new homes where families take great pride in caring for their gardens and footpaths. It is wonderful to go with a family when they are allocated a Housing Commission home and watch them turn the key in the door and listen to them discuss plans for the future. They grow nice lawns and maintain the nature strip, but suddenly a big bulldozer tears up the grass, a hole is dug and a dirty, big, black pole is erected in front of the house. These poles take away from the area the beauty that people have worked so hard to achieve. This type of action has killed the enthusiasm of the home-owners there. They do not understand why these poles cannot be erected in the backyards. In Sydney and in Canberra are many areas where electric light poles are erected in backyards. Those poles feed the electricity to attractive lamp posts in the street. The electricity authority must consider extending this type of development to Queanbeyan.

I am proud that Queanbeyan has the most modern sporting complex in the State. The Seiffert Oval, which was named after my predecessor, is recognized by every sporting body that has played in the area as the best surfaced venue they have ever played on. This was the opinion of the English team when it visited Queanbeyan this year. We have a good town, which should be a city. Every person living in Queanbeyan is proud of his town and the fact that it has grown very quickly and has, more or less, been able to keep up with modern trends. With the advent of the Local Government Assistance Fund, the council

has been given the opportunity to gravel, seal and kerb and gutter roads which, under normal circumstances, would not have received attention for another ten or fifteen years. As a result of the institution of the Local Government Assistance Fund by this Government, our municipal council is now embarking on a forward programme of providing kerbs and gutters in most streets. In view of these achievements, one can understand why the council is disappointed by the delay in declaring Queanbeyan a city. I am happy to see that the Minister for Local Government in the chair at the table of the House, for he might take this request back to his department and, in the next few days, will write to me and say, "We have decided to declare Queanbeyan a city from such and such a date." I would then be able to take the news back to my area.

I could speak of many areas in which progress has been made by the Government, but I should like to mention particularly the progress that has been made in education. One cannot blame new members of the Opposition for being not fully aware of what has gone on in the past, but I shall not go over it. I believe that the past is the past and the future should be receiving our attention. However, it would be wise for honourable members opposite to realize that in 1964, the last year that a Labor government was in office, \$211,000,000 was spent on education, compared with \$480,000,000 allotted by the present Government in 1970-71. The figure is more dramatic when presented on a day-to-day basis.

The present Government is spending \$1,300,000 a day on education in this State. I cannot understand any new member on the Opposition side criticizing the Department of Education and the amount of money being spent in this field. The Minister for Education has stated on many occasions that he is not satisfied with the allocation to his department, but if the present application were doubled, to \$2,600,000 a day, it would mean the other departments would have to suffer to the extent of being deprived of \$1,300,000 a day. This would be an impossible situation,

for the money has to be spread out in order to implement a programme that is fair to all. The allocation of \$1,300,000 for education on each and every day of the 365 days in the year is a wonderful achievement on the part of the Government, the Minister for Education and the Department of Education. The people who demonstrated yesterday are unaware of these facts—and I am sure that few of them were teachers, anyway.

MR K. J. STEWART: No member on the Government side of the House was game to go out to see them.

MR MAUGER: I was out there. I would be disappointed if all those people out there yesterday were teachers, for many of them were so scraggy. If the scraggy ones were teaching the children of the honourable member for Canterbury, I am sure that he would be disappointed with their presentation. I believe only a small number of them were teachers. I base that opinion on the teachers in my electorate and the ones with whom I come in contact all the time. They are fair-minded people who need only to know what is going on. Of course, they are fed rubbish by the Teachers Federation and they do not know what is going on in the department. I have made myself available to Teachers Federation meetings throughout my electorate; this has been worth while to me and to them, and we have solved many problems. Three high schools are under construction in my electorate. I am very thankful for them. [*Quorum formed.*]

I thank the honourable member for Canterbury for calling for a quorum. His action gives me the opportunity of pointing out how members of the Liberal Party and Country Party are busy with deputations in the rooms of the Ministers. We are happy that they are doing their jobs. Incidentally, it was interesting to note that only three members of the Opposition were in the Chamber. During the past three or four days we have heard snide attacks on Ministers. The Minister for Mines is among those with the highest integrity in this House, and has been for many years; there is no doubt about his integrity. I am

happy to say that only one or two members of the Opposition have cast any doubts on him, and I am sure that they did not really agree that the Minister for Mines would do anything dishonest in connection with the Clutha deal. Apparently members opposite who question his integrity now appreciate that the deal is all right, so they are turning to personal attacks on the Minister. I deplore tactics of that sort. We are all here to do a job, and we believe that we are doing the right thing. We are not here to be slandered by members on the other side of the House.

A further unprecedented attack has been made on the integrity of the Minister for Lands and the Chief Secretary. A member of Parliament has no right to make these sorts of attacks under privilege. It is fair enough to attack legislation, but a member should not be attacked when he comes here to do a job and to do what he thinks is right. I am not condemning the Opposition as a whole; I am condemning only the members over there who see fit to use these smear tactics. I doubt whether any member of this Parliament is any better off by being a member, but at least he is here to try to do an honest job for his country and for his State. Therefore, I believe that the sort of thing some members of the Opposition have been doing is out of place in this Chamber.

Among other things, I am proud to say that the Government has been responsible for benefits that have been given back to the rural industries, in the form of the abolition of land tax, the easing of road tax on primary products and the easing of probate duty. I was disturbed that the honourable member for Heathcote has now stated that he cannot support a railway line being constructed by the Clutha company, although on many occasions he said in this House that he did. However, honourable members will find in *Common Cause* a plain statement that he favours a railway line from Burragorang, provided it is government-owned. The people in primary industries should note the way in which he wants to finance this government-owned railway line: he suggests financing it by the reimposition of land tax and taking road-tax concessions from primary producers.

Mr Mauger]

I cannot think of a crueller way to raise money. Though this tax was abolished by the federal parliament, it was reintroduced in this State by the Labor Party. Later it was revoked by this Liberal-Country party Government for it believes that this iniquitous form of taxation should never be used. This city member, who professes to have the interests of country people at heart, has stated plainly in this House that if the Labor Party gets back into power it will reintroduce land tax and remove the privileges in relation to road tax and death duties. This would be a backward move for the rural community and I am sure that country people will bear it in mind when the Labor Party claims that it supports the people in country areas.

I should like to tell members, especially the new ones who have been elected to this House, about many other aspects of my electorate including, for instance, that the Department of Main Roads has spent \$7,000,000 on road works there. When I was first elected to this Parliament only about one-third of the roads in the Monaro electorate were tar sealed. By now 95 per cent of them are. Yet Opposition members claim that the Government has not done anything to improve road standards. This Government wants to ensure that every constituency has good roads and bridges. Unfortunately a severe setback occurred recently in my area when there was flooding in the southern end of the electorate. Imagine the problem confronting the Commissioner for Main Roads in having to bring back to a good standard the \$1,500,000 worth of roads and bridges that were destroyed virtually in one hit.

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

MR SLOSS (King) [4.2]: I am sure that the Minister for Local Government and Minister for Highways will want to hear my contribution to this debate, for I have some most interesting matters to refer to to him in his official capacity. Let it not be said that I am not giving him prior notice. Before I come to that let me congratulate the mover and seconder of the motion, the honourable member for Wakehurst and the

honourable member for Sturt, on their excellent maiden speeches. It must have been a great embarrassment for that great Australian, His Excellency the Governor, to read this year's Speech to members. In its content, it was the worst I have ever read, and it will do little indeed to improve the lot of the people of New South Wales. I shall be as brief as possible in referring to some of the matters dealt with in His Excellency's Speech, for I want to spend most of my time on more important matters. He referred to unemployment in New South Wales as being the lowest in any State of Australia. I should like some of our Ministers to do their best to find jobs for the many men over 50 years of age who are out of work. Immediate attention should be given to this, for it should not be forgotten that many of these men have families to support.

Mr RUDDOCK: Is this part of the member's policy speech for the forthcoming city council elections?

Mr SLOSS: I will deal with all interjections afterwards. By the time I have concluded my remarks the honourable member will certainly know that. His Excellency's remarks about hospital treatment are quite amazing. All that the Minister for Health says about the position is, in effect, "I have not enough finance".

Mr K. J. STEWART: He said also, "so what?"

Mr SLOSS: That is so. This morning I made a quick check of the number of working mothers in my electorate who wish to place their young children in day nurseries and kindergartens. Many of them have to leave children at home with sit-in child-minders. Although 379 mothers' names were on the waiting list this morning at 3 kindergartens and child-minding centres of this city, only 316 of their children could be accommodated.

Mr BARRACLOUGH: Is this the honourable member's policy speech?

Mr SLOSS: In case the honourable member for Bligh wants to know why I am gravely concerned about the position and why I am standing for the city council elections, I ask him to visit a kindergarten at

Rushcutters Bay in his electorate where he will learn, as I have, that recently the charge for minding a child has been increased from \$3.50 a week to \$7. The free meal that was provided for children at this centre over a long period is no longer given to the youngsters who are left there. Let him look into these matters and he will soon understand why I am seeking election to the council.

When I read in His Excellency's Speech about the extension of water reticulation to an additional 80,000 people this year I could not help thinking about the attitude of a government that refuses to reduce water and sewerage rates for pensioners. Nevertheless this Government will still spend \$6,000,000 that really belongs to the public, of the reserves of the Totalisator Agency Board. Though the Government will spend money on other things, it will not do anything to improve the lot of the working mother and build up the work force in the process.

The Government talks about bringing back into the teaching service at 35 years of age people who matriculated for tertiary education some years ago, but what is it doing about it? Nothing. I shall not devote much of my time to talking about education. Obviously the Government knows what the people and the teachers think about its education programme. I have four schools in my electorate. At one of them, Annandale South, the children have to walk 500 yards or so to a little classroom that has been established at the back of a Methodist church hall. Although this has been going on for years, no money has yet been made available to provide extra accommodation at this school. At Forest Lodge school there is a drop of 15 feet from one level of the playground to another area that is paved with concrete. The fence between the levels is in a state of collapse. Male and female staff members of this school have to use the same ablution blocks as those available for the children. At Fort Street girls high school urgent repairs are needed but in spite of all complaints that have been made about the position there, nothing has been done since this Government came to power.

According to His Excellency the Governor another 100 buses are to be brought into service. Due to stupid leadership from the top heavy administration of the Department of Government Transport—I am not talking about the Minister—there will probably be 100 Atlantean buses, which will aggravate the crisis that has been created by them and the Government. Why should people be left standing on the footpath trying to get a lift home after working hard for 7 or 8 hours? If this Government is not careful there will be a repetition here of what has been happening at Canberra. Willie the Leak might convince this Government that the federal budget is a people's budget. This Government will fall for that, as it always has in the past, and it will then try to hoodwink the people into adopting a similar view.

I want the Minister for Local Government and Minister for Highways to authorize the holding of a Royal commission into the city council's recent agreement to sell all council property in Oxford Street to Stocks and Holdings Limited. The Civic Reform inspired agreement provides for 43,500 square feet of the people's property to be sold at \$43 a square foot. This property has a frontage to Oxford Street and the rear is in Liverpool Street. The proposal is to close Oxford Lane and parts of Yurong and Norman streets as part of a package deal. Winns Limited has sold property off Oxford Street, an area of 15,000 square feet, for \$60 a square foot. The reputable business firm of Lang Bruce & Simpson has advised Repco Limited, which owns adjoining property again at the rear of Oxford Street, not to sell for less than \$120 a square foot. One does not have to be a mathematician or an outstanding economist to conclude either that someone has been rooked or that there is something crooked going on. As the people's property and money are involved in this deal, a Royal commission should be held to determine what is going on in respect of those transactions. An amount of \$25,000 deposit was paid and the balance of the purchase price of \$2,000,000 is not repayable until July, 1974. That would be the best property deal ever handed to the privileged group.

Mr Sloss]

Although \$200,000 was spent on the great plaza in Martin Place over a period of eight weeks, the concrete slabs that had been laid were all pulled up again. It cost another \$200,000 to put it down again—\$500 a slab. This so-called excellent administration in the city council—

Mr RUDDOCK: What are you trying for?

Mr SLOSS: I am for progress. There are many things that must be done to provide benefits for the people in this big city of Sydney, but unless they are approved and given effect, Sydney will become a dead city. There will be no King's Cross. The shopkeepers may just as well close down now. When all the multi-storey buildings go up, there will be no breathing space left. Someone mentioned jobs for the boys. We have heard about these plums for so long that it makes me grieve. The Minister for Local Government, acting for big business, carved up the city council area and left it at a quarter of its former size. To administer this small area, the city council brought in two brilliant town clerks from Warringah and Mosman, at a salary of \$15,000 per annum each. The council brought in another man from Victoria at \$15,000 per annum to supervise cleaning. What is more, I suppose it assisted him with his travelling expenses—as Australia assists migrants with their passage to this country.

Mr RUDDOCK: There is enough dirt for him to earn it.

Mr SLOSS: There is every reason why the Minister for Local Government should recommend a Royal commission to inquire into all the things being done by the developers and big business. Members should look at the documents—the city council's business papers for 5th April and 10th May. What do members think about those two projects for the people? What a nice present: \$25,000 deposit paid, and the rest, \$2,500,000, to be paid by July, 1974. While this is happening, in the electorate of the honourable member for Bligh \$120 a square foot is being paid for land in small streets.

Mr BARRACLOUGH: It is not happening in my electorate.

Mr SLOSS: It cannot be disputed. He knows it is. Victoria Street is only one instance. The Minister for Local Government must give consideration to a Royal commission to inquire into matters that I have raised in this debate.

Mr CAMERON: Lord Mayor McDermott has cleaned up all the old practices.

Mr SLOSS: He said that all these new plans would not cost the ratepayers of the city of Sydney one cent. In two years it has cost \$1,500,000 for consultants. How efficient is he?

Mr RUDDOCK: There has been no increase in rates.

Mr SLOSS: The honourable member knows why: the elections are on 18th September. The lord mayor has cost the people enough already, without talking about rates. He has let the southern end of the city collapse, and he is doing nothing to restore it. He has let the whole city markets site be filched from the city council without any compensation whatsoever for ratepayers of the city of Sydney. The city council tried to stand over the Minister for Local Government on the floor ratio scheme and the planning policy. It was only because of exposures that the Minister woke up. I am sure that on this occasion he would have stood by the planning authority and reduced the nine-to-one ratio in the city of Sydney against the request by the Civic Reform Party.

The honourable member for Bligh said in this debate that he was thankful to the Premier for doing something for the housing of pensioners. What about pensioners who were living in rooms and on verandas in Kings Cross Road, paying rents of \$15 a week? Members should go to see them, and find out how much they get after being threatened by agents and forced to get out. They were paid a miserable \$500. Let us examine the civic fathers' big deal for pensioners. There are eighty-five on the waiting list and sixty-three in employment—at \$2 a day. What a big deal it was for a council that can spend

\$1,500,000 on consultants' fees. What outstanding administration in comparison with their paltry handout to pensioners.

What was the cost for the three commissioners for whose appointment the Act provided? What did it cost to have one commissioner driven to Bathurst every weekend by his chauffeur? This is another example of jobs for the boys. They must not turn off the jobs for the boys. It has been on for years, and it is on now for the big developers. I want a Royal commission to investigate the sale of property and the closing of public streets by the city council under the Lord Mayor of Sydney. I have no doubt that he is a good dentist. He must be a good dentist: anyone who gets his degree as a dentist in America must be terrific. The Civic Reform Party claimed credit for getting the police station at King's Cross, but that is merely propaganda for the elections on 18th September. The only thing the city council has done is to appoint people to apprehend litterbugs. Their only pinch was a poor lady who dropped an empty matchbox. They summonsed her. This is true.

We read the remarks of my colleague opposite, the honourable member for Bligh, with whom I get on well outside this Parliament. I thought it was good to see the Premier stick to the decision to retain Sydney Hospital on its present site. The only reason why the Premier did so was the pressure exerted by the Labor Party, the general public, the *Sun*, the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Mirror*. I have had second thoughts about Sydney Hospital, and about the ideas of my arch-enemy the honourable member for Manly. Perhaps the planners could follow his advice and with the assistance of the Chief Secretary, who no doubt feels that we are all bludgers and loafers, arrange for us to be shifted to Bathurst, where the honourable member for Manly says we ought to go. Let the decent people from next door—Sydney Hospital—come in here and use this site.

Mr JACKETT: There are no fruit barrows in Bathurst.

Mr SLOSS: The honourable member cannot keep quiet; he is only wasting time. The primary producers had a glut of produce in the good years, and the only way to shift the glut was to have fruit barrows on the streets of Sydney. Do members know who had to approve of the barrows? That was Mr Walter Lawrence, who at that time was Superintendent of Traffic and later became Deputy Commissioner of Police and the Liberal member for Drummoyne. The honourable member for Burwood does not read the papers. Mr Briger said last week that barrows will remain, but people looking after them will be dressed up in hot pants.

The Maritime Services Board is a law unto itself. It seeks no approvals but does what it wants. Even at this time it is closing streets in Balmain in order to obtain waterfront areas. The Premier should bring the board back into line as a public utility under his control. At the moment the Legislature is nothing more than a stamp. If anyone asks the board for consideration of some matter, or whether The Rocks area is to be expanded and what can be done to house the people, he will get no information. I agree with the honourable member for Bligh in that respect.

Mr CAMERON: Would the honourable member agree that the administration of the Sydney City Council today is better than it was?

Mr SLOSS: The honourable member for Northcott has some little mental ability; he is a barrister and I suggest that he should read up about what I have been saying. He can get the contracts for nothing. The honourable member for Bligh was worried about my pre-selection as a candidate for the city council. I shall tell the House why I am standing for the election. It is because the small shopkeepers and constituents in that area realize that nothing will be left in this city unless some stand is taken to stop this jumbled planning system that denies the people the right to live in homes in the city and either pushes them into back rooms or compels them to get out into the back blocks. Government supporters may talk about homes being provided by the Housing Commission

but since the coalition Government came to office it has removed 6,000 names from the waiting list for Housing Commission homes. People who have waited for homes for fifteen years are finding that the wages of a 15 or 16-year old girl who has grown up in that time and gone to work are taken into account in the family income.

I intend to show how the Government is dealing with these poor people. With the Western distributor, the eastern suburbs railway and the Darlington expansion of the University of Sydney, 1,000 small shops and homes are being destroyed. No provision is being made to house our own people in this country. I say to the Government and to its friends in office in the federal sphere that they should stop immigration until we can house our own people and Australia's pioneers.

Mr CAMERON: The small shopkeepers were the people that the Labor Government sent to gaol.

Mr SLOSS: It is easy to see how a really smart gentleman can tumble in. He is a lawyer; thank goodness we have learned judges. The honourable member for Bligh said that he congratulated the Lord Mayor of Sydney on stopping strikes. He then went on to blame Mr Hawke for the industrial trouble. How many strikes have occurred in the history of the city council? One occurred in 1917, led by a man named Judd. Another occurred in 1928 when the men at Bunnerong went on strike over some inferior material that they were required to handle. Then in 1970 the city council, under Lord Mayor McDermott, had two strikes. If it were not for the Municipal Employees Union, instead of four strikes the city council could have had forty-four. The honourable member for Bligh should check up on the facts. I shall always give a plug to my aldermanic colleagues, Tony Bellanto, Q.C., Michael Davies and Paul Landa. The honourable member who represents Bligh did not have the decency to give their names. Perhaps he does not know the background of his candidates for Fitzroy ward or he would have mentioned them.

The next point that I raise is that the lord mayor changed the designations of departmental heads who have been with the council for thirty-five years.

Mr CAMERON: A new broom?

Mr SLOSS: Yes. It is a pity that the honourable member does not get one in his legal office. The lord mayor sent for these departmental heads in a body and asked them to give up their cars and to go home at night by taxi. With this action the lord mayor did away with the jobs of thirteen chauffeurs. He has tried to do away with the positions of departmental heads. The Town Hall is riddled with rats, mice and cockroaches. The city's footpaths have dog excreta lying all over the place and because of shortage of staff the footpaths and roadways are full of holes. The lord mayor has said that no one has been dismissed; however, quite a number of positions rendered vacant by resignations or retirements have not been filled. The council is seething with discontent. If things keep on going as they are it would not surprise me if tomorrow we saw a mass walkout of all the white-collar men, some of whom have given forty-five years of service to the city. I asked the Minister for Local Government and Minister for Highways to listen to what I had to say about the city council but apparently he is too busy with some of these big developers. One cannot blame him.

Mr McCaw: The honourable member should not impute motives.

Mr SLOSS: As Minister, he must interview anyone who asks him. The city council appointed a nice young lass as an advice girl. She has been given tremendous publicity but she gets seven questions a week. Apparently the most important thing that she has done has been to give someone 30c for a taxi-fare home. This is a worthwhile appointment and it was a nice gesture. What I have said shows the efficiency at the town hall. I am pleased to be a candidate for the Fitzroy ward at the council election. I was born in the area and I have represented the people in the Bligh electorate on other occasions. I represent the people and the shopkeepers in general.

If Sydney wants to keep King's Cross as an area famous all over the world, it cannot afford to allow multi-story buildings to be constructed that will push all the shops and people out of the area. If that is done King's Cross will have nothing else but buildings. I should like to give honourable members two tips. I have stopped being cranky with Government supporters. My two tips are that South Sydney will win the final of the rugby league competition on 18th September, and we shall win the Fitzroy ward for Labor.

Mr OSBORNE (Bathurst) [4.29]: I appreciate the opportunity to take part in this debate and I offer my congratulations to the mover and seconder of the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. I congratulate, too, all the new members who have addressed the House during the debate. I note with some interest that the honourable member for King has some advice to offer on football and other matters. I know he could give some advice about the poker machines at the Bathurst R.S.L. club.

The honourable member for Manly proposed that the Government consider a long-range plan for the establishment of Parliament House in the city of Bathurst. I know that many people to whom I have spoken see this as in some ways a rather "way-out" idea. Many people laugh at it and refuse to take the suggestion seriously. I suppose that this is understandable, but we might remember that when people first began to fly aeroplanes no one took them seriously. They were laughed at, too.

When the motor car was first heard of, many people thought that it would never eventuate. I should like to say to thinking people that eventually the administrative centre of this State will have to be separated from the commercial and industrial centre, and I support the honourable member for Manly in claiming that there is no better, no choicer site than the city of Bathurst. A comment was made that up there we might not like some honourable gentlemen who are here. On the contrary, we should dearly love to have you all in Bathurst.

The Governor in his speech mentioned the financial problems facing this State; indeed, they are facing every State in Australia. Much debate has been taking place on what has caused these financial problems and on whether one government or another is to blame. Looking at it from the long-range view, we are in an inflationary period and could call it the Hawke inflationary era. This claim can be supported by statistics. The consumer price index shows that in the period from June, 1968, to December, 1969, when Mr A. E. Monk was president of the Australian Council of Trade Unions, the rate of inflation in this country was 4.3 per cent. In an equivalent period, since Mr Hawke has been president of the Australian Council of Trade Unions and vice-president of the federal Australian Labor Party, the annual rate has been 7.8 per cent. I have heard it said that Mr Hawke has an ambition to become Prime Minister of this country and that he intends to achieve his ambition by bringing financial chaos and depression to this country, and in that way move into politics.

Mr K. J. STEWART: Did Mr Gorton or Mr McMahon tell the honourable member that.

Mr OSBORNE: People may laugh if they wish, but any thinking person making a comparison between the position under Mr Monk and the period during which Mr Hawke has been president of the Australian Council of Trade Unions will realize that there could be something in that suggestion. The honourable member for King, who mentioned certain costs, and people with similar views should talk to their potential leader, Mr Hawke, and they will find that this is the root of the problem.

The honourable member for Burrinjuck mentioned allegations of incidents at Bathurst gaol last year and I should like to go into those allegations fairly thoroughly. They arose from a statement by the honourable member for Illawarra that the Minister of Justice had deliberately ignored evidence conclusively revealing that some prisoners in New South Wales gaols were systematically tortured by prison staff. There is no doubt that the honourable mem-

ber for Illawarra said that there was "evidence conclusively revealing that prisoners were systematically tortured by prison staff." That is a shocking slur on every person employed in the Department of Corrective Services of this State. The honourable member's statement alleges not merely that there could have been an incident in which someone could have become hot-tempered and done something; it indicates quite clearly that every person employed in the Bathurst gaol, and on duty there, must have been a party to systematic torture.

I have previously gone on record, and repeat it here, completely refuting that statement. Probably I know most of the men employed in Bathurst gaol. They are not, as the honourable member would like to make out, Belsen monsters, but are normal, decent people, not much unlike the people in this Chamber. They get married and have children, and their children go to school as ours do. They take their part in the parents and citizens associations, in clubs, and in other activities. Their children go to school with my children. The trouble is that these people have now been branded. I have spoken to them and they have said to me: "Now we do not like to go down the street with any part of our uniform on. If we do the kiddies will say, 'They are the bashers'." I do not know whether the honourable member who made those allegations has any idea of the damage that he has done.

There has been a strong demand for a Royal commission to inquire into the gaol or into the prison system. Where does this demand come from? Who wants this Royal commission? Honourable members have heard this fictitious tale about ten unknown lawyers. It is so much hogwash. There is no such thing as ten unknown lawyers. I could say that I have ten unknown solicitors who want to have an inquiry into solicitors' charges, or into some other matters. It is all rot. If ever a government or authority were to set up a Royal commission, the only basis being the words of unknown people, that would be the end of the line so far as we are concerned. I repeat, where does this demand come from? First the honourable

member for Illawarra voiced it. Then the president of the prison officers branch of the New South Wales Public Service Association, Mr Hanrahan, said that he personally favoured a Royal commission into allegations of brutality. We could say that he was an impartial man holding a responsible job but, if we look behind Mr Hanrahan we find that he is also an Australian Labor Party candidate in the Bathurst local-government election. So his is not an impartial request: behind it is the Labor Party. One might have thought that this was an impartial opinion and that a Royal commission was what the prison officers wanted. Two days after Mr Hanrahan's statement was made, the staff at the Bathurst gaol rejected, by a vote of 45 to 15, the demand for a Royal commission.

Let us delve a little deeper. On 22nd July, 1971, a meeting of delegates of the Prison Officers Vocational Branch Management Committee voted 8 to 3 to expel Mr Hanrahan and Mr Ristau, too. Judging from the way in which those people voted, I do not think we can put a great deal of weight on this demand for a Royal commission.

On 11th July a Sunday newspaper published a statement by Mr Malcolm Cameron, one of the teachers at the gaol. When referring to the inquiry by Mr Quinn of the New South Wales Department of Corrective Services, Mr Cameron said that a departmental inquiry would not reveal anything; that a Royal commission would be needed to find the truth. He might be thought to be just a neutral school teacher, if it were not for the fact that he is the immediate past president of the Australian Labor Party in Bathurst.

Again I ask, where is the demand coming from? Looked at in any way one likes, it can be traced back to its beginning. In one newspaper I read that the University Law Society had passed a resolution supporting a Royal commission but on reading the fine print I found that the society was addressed by a Q.C., the Hon. N. K. Wran. Looking further, one finds that the Hon. N. K. Wran is Deputy Leader of the Labor Party in another place.

Wherever one looks, this can always be traced back to members of the Labor Party, who, of course, are somewhat biased in their opinions. Pastor George Jepson, a respected person, who was the chaplain at Bathurst gaol at that time, was reported in the press as having made some remarks about what happened. Two days later a letter appeared in the *Western Advocate* under the heading "Gaol Chaplain 'Dismayed'." The letter read, in part:

Readers of the Sunday Australian may have noticed an article concerning the reported bashings at Bathurst Gaol.

I note with dismay the report of my conversation made with the inquirer on behalf of the Australian.

The pastor was unhappy with what had previously appeared in the newspaper. He went on to say:

It disturbs me that the mass media is playing this political game with the lives and reputations of some very fine men.

I do not think I could agree more with that statement. We have seen one side of the picture. We have seen the demand and we are led to believe that it is a wide demand but when it is traced back we find it can be brought home to one section—the Labor Party. If one wants an unbiased and fair opinion of what went on one could do no better than go to a person who is chaplain at the gaol and president of the Macquarie Civil Rehabilitation Committee, the Reverend Pastor Jepson. In a statement to the annual meeting of that committee he said that he was dismayed that the demands for a Royal commission into the alleged bashings had the appearance of a game of politics. He continued:

Never in any other Government has so much been spent or done in the corrective field, and now with what could be an impending election this bashing ball is being kicked around against the present administration.

That's bad enough, but while this is being done the characters of many fine citizens in Bathurst are being smeared while the game goes on.

I come now to a most pertinent part of his address. Referring to the alleged bashings in October last, the article said:

Referring to the alleged bashing in October last, Pastor Jepson said that he was sure that the authorities were being very careful at the time. "This they said to me and I accepted the situation", he said.

The riot had brought with it added tensions and its tightening of freedoms—no visits of any sort were permitted.

It was a normal disciplinary action, and such a situation needed safety precautions.

It had been spoken of in general terms of using Chaplains and maybe teachers as hostages for further outbreaks or rebellious display.

I accepted the explanation given me and was grateful. I have always been treated with the utmost courtesy by all the officers in the institutions in and around Bathurst.

Next comes an important statement:

At no time since the so-called bashings has anybody, officer or inmate, personally approached me to air their views or to suggest that my representation on their behalf was necessary.

In my work I get to meet a large number of these fellows and no one has approached me.

I think this point is worthy of note, because if there are grievances the Chaplain gets to know about it.

He is a person who is trusted and respected in the gaol, yet three weeks after the alleged bashings he had not been approached by any person with a complaint that he had been bashed or kicked. As the pastor himself points out, is he not the logical person they would come to? He says clearly and precisely that no one has come to him, a person who one would think would be the first approached. This should satisfy those who seem to be keen to accept the words of others. Here is proof positive from a neutral person of what really happened in Bathurst gaol.

My deepest concern is for what is happening to the men who are employed at Bathurst gaol. I know them and I know their families. I mix with them in many activities. I do not know whether the members who are making these allegations realize the damage they are doing to these people. It is not a very pleasant job to be employed in an institution such as Bathurst gaol or any other gaol. These men have a heavy responsibility to society, particularly to the people of the Bathurst area. Many men who are incarcerated at Bathurst have long, serious and often violent records. The Government has charged these prison officers with the responsibility of carrying out a task. If we are to have good-quality

Mr Osborne]

staff men who can be trusted, how are we to hold them if they are subjected to this type of attack? People who are demanding a Royal commission have already done their damage by besmirching these officers and belittling them in the eyes of their neighbours and other people in the city of Bathurst. I hope they will think deeply over this before they launch similar attacks. It might be good publicity, it might be good politics, but they should realize that they are playing with the lives of many good men, women and children. I hope that before they take similar action in the future they will think deeply.

Let us consider the record of this Government in corrective services. In the last three years the Government has spent over \$100,000 on Bathurst gaol, including improvements for the staff, amenities for inmates and improvements for visitors. The staff has been provided with a recreation room, a new dining-room, and new reception areas. Parts of the catwalk that were open have been covered. Conditions there have been made better, and this will go towards encouraging people to work in the corrective services. On the lawn in front of Bathurst gaol attractions such as swings and ladders are being provided for children whose parents are visiting the gaol. People will be able to visit the gaol in the knowledge that their children will not be forced to hang about the steps as they formerly did. These amenities will keep children from the atmosphere of the gaol; they will keep them happy and contented while their parents visit the gaol. Would these improvements be made by a Minister of Justice who is not considerate? A newspaper article this week had this to say about him:

Mr J. C. Maddison, the best Minister of Justice this State has ever had.

That is true. Members will be interested in other things that have happened in Bathurst gaol. A new classification sub-committee has been appointed for a more effective distribution of prisoners into their right components. An art class and an orchestra have been formed for the inmates of the gaol. New transport has been provided and new residences have been built. Soon a start will be made on a new

industrial block, costing about \$90,000, which will give gainful employment to the inmates of this institution. The Oberon prison farm is old but effective, and a start has just been made on completely rebuilding it. This is the action that has been taken by the Government.

At 11 o'clock one night I went to the Bathurst gaol with the Minister of Justice and examined the lighting there. We threw it out and had new fluorescent lighting installed. The people there were amazed, for they had never heard of two members of Parliament visiting a gaol at night. In six years the Government has done more for the staff and the prisoners than had been done at the Bathurst gaol in fifty years. Some demands that were made when the strike started at Bathurst were in relation to better food, more money, better medical treatment, a change of personnel in the barber shop—where the prisoners had been getting a straight cut although they wanted the long fashion—radio until 11 p.m., lights until 10 p.m., three ounces of tobacco, and so on.

In an institution such as this each man has his own locker in his cell. Before breakfast he is given a loaf of bread, margarine, cheese, jam, one pound of sugar for the week, porridge and tea. This is in addition to what he can get if he buys extras, such as biscuits. That is the basic breakfast, and I shall explain to honourable members what is contained in some of the typical menus. On Monday for lunch a menu contained sliced mutton and three vegetables; for tea, curried sausages and rice, three vegetables and soup. On Wednesday, lunch was corned beef and three vegetables, and tea was rissoles and three vegetables and soup. On Thursday, lunch was roast beef and three baked vegetables, and tea was sweet curry and three vegetables and rice. The Sunday menu was, for lunch, roast beef and three baked vegetables, and plum duff and custard; for tea, braise and three vegetables.

Most of these prisoners can qualify through the parole board and graduate to a prison farm. The breakfast menu at the Oberon prison farm on 14th June, 1971, was creamed oatmeal, grilled sausages,

scrambled eggs, fried vegetables, toast and tea. For dinner the prisoners had braised beefsteaks, creamed potatoes, boiled cabbage, brown gravy, milk and tea; and for tea, sweet curry, including carrots, turnips, onions and sultanas, and creamed potato, boiled cabbage, chicken broth and peas, milk and tea.

I have read these menus in the hope that they will allay some of the suggestions about life in these institutions. While inspecting the gaol a few weeks ago, I visited the attractive kitchen and met there an inmate who stated that he was the representative of the prisoners to inspect the cooking and the hygiene in the kitchen. Each day the prisoners appoint a representative who is allocated to the job of going into the kitchen and watching everything that happens. He inspects the meat, which he can reject. He keeps an eye on the staff, and if any member of the kitchen staff does something that he believes is unhygienic, he has power to report it. This representative of the prisoners at the Bathurst gaol is posted in the kitchen to watch hygiene standards and the quality of the food.

Surely these things are out of line with the tales that have been fed to the public. I do not object to these amenities; I believe they are fair. These men have been incarcerated for committing offences. Obviously they are there for a reason, and the reason is that they have offended against society in some degree or other; they are there for punishment. But I believe that no one would regard their punishment as unreasonable in these enlightened days, and I am sure that no one would suggest that the Minister of Justice or the Commissioner for Corrective Services is unreasonable. These two men have done much for prisons and prisoners. That statement has been supported by at least one Sydney newspaper, which has described the Minister as the best Minister of Justice this State has ever had. Also, I believe that New South Wales has the most enlightened and progressive Commissioner for Corrective Services that it has ever had. It is a pity that men like that are subjected to unjustified criticism. At the same time, when we have

good men, the staff under them are encouraged and will do a better job. Indeed, they are doing a better job. That is the tragedy of the smear tactics we have experienced in recent times.

I reject the allegations that have been made by the honourable member for Illawarra, who said categorically that prisoners had been systematically tortured. He made not an allegation but a clear statement when he said that what he submitted proved conclusively that some prisoners in New South Wales gaols were systematically tortured. I am speaking on behalf of my constituents who are employed in Bathurst by the Department of Corrective Services. I reject these statements and declare that they are nothing more than a campaign that has been mounted by the Labor Party. I do not know its purpose, but I am intrigued that the honourable member for Maroubra, in whose electorate the Long Bay gaol is situated, has said nothing on this subject. I watched the newspapers carefully, and I said to myself, "Surely the honourable member for Maroubra will come out and defend his gaol staff." However, despite my search through the newspapers, I found no mention of the matter by him.

I appeal to the Labor Party to regard this matter not as one of politics but as one that affects the interests of the running of the State and the lives of men, women and children. I appeal to members of the Labor Party not to pursue this campaign, for they do not know the seriousness of what they are doing. I know these people; I live with them and work with them; my children play with their children. You do not know the damage you are doing, and I hope you will stop it.

Mr EINFELD (Waverley), Deputy Leader of the Opposition [4.59]: I was delighted to have the opportunity of listening to the members of this House who spoke for the first time during this debate. I congratulate the mover and seconder of the motion, and I certainly congratulate the members from this side of the Chamber who spoke for the first time, for they revealed a high standard of debating strength and intelligence, as well as acuteness of observation. My colleagues and I are en-

couraged and strengthened by the knowledge that these men will make magnificent contributions to the parliamentary debates and the party that sits on this side of the Chamber. Indeed, they will be in the forefront on the government side of the Chamber when Labor takes over after the next elections.

I listened carefully to His Excellency's Speech. I wish that I could say that I was happy with what this esteemed gentleman had to say, but I was greatly disappointed with the Speech that had been written for him by the Premier. It was short and contained nothing of importance. I have just listened to the contribution made to this debate by the honourable member for Bathurst, who I believe is an earnest and sincere member of this Chamber. He spoke with some background of information on the Bathurst gaol, but he did not attempt to make out a case against an inquiry.

Even if conditions in all other gaols are as good as the honourable member for Bathurst would have members believe they are in Bathurst gaol, enough doubt has been cast on prison life to make it imperative that the Minister grant an inquiry. The very fact that a couple of weeks ago the Minister revealed to the press implements made by prisoners in gaol without the knowledge of warders is reason enough for an inquiry. An inquiry would achieve its purpose whether it proved the allegations of my colleagues or confirmed the opinions of the honourable member for Bathurst. Surely the Government is interested to know how prisoners were able to make weapons of that sort in gaol. Now that doubts have been cast on prison conditions, it is necessary to have an inquiry to establish the facts.

The honourable member for Bathurst did what most members on the Government side have done when speaking in this debate: he seized the opportunity to make a vicious attack on the workers. He made a most ludicrous statement about the leader of the trade-union movement, Bob Hawke, one of the great men of the trade unions. He said that Bob Hawke was trying to get the country into a mess in the inflationary sense in order to take over power. I did

not know that the president of the Australian Council of Trade Unions would have so much influence over the Premier of New South Wales as to nullify any attempts by him to counter the effects of inflation. The same comment applies to the Prime Minister, whoever he happens to be tonight: I have not seen the evening papers.

MR K. J. STEWART: He is the same Prime Minister as last night.

MR EINFELD: Probably. I did not know that Bob Hawke has as much influence as the honourable member for Bathurst suggested. The honourable member said that Bob Hawke could influence these political leaders to do nothing about inflation, thus allowing prices to rise. In this debate—indeed, during the whole period since the last general elections—members on the Government side have made vicious attacks on the workers. Ministers when answering questions have consistently attacked the great work force in this State. The Chief Secretary described as shirkers, loafers and bludgers those workers who want compensation equivalent to full wages when absent from work because of injury. When men who work in industry have an accident through no fault of their own, either because of inefficiency in the industry or because of some unforeseen factor, their take-home pay on compensation is about \$42 or \$43 a week for a man, his wife and family, as compared with the average family income of \$84 a week. When they cannot work, they cannot meet hire-purchase commitments and other debts. They do not want their families to suffer. The Chief Secretary said in this House that those men are shirkers, loafers and bludgers. Almost every other member of the Government has attacked the 90 per cent of people who make up the work force of this State.

Government members have said that costs escalate because men strike, but this is a devious attempt to take away from the Government its irksome share of responsibility in its do-nothing attitude towards inflation and its general tendency to support only profit-making industrialists. The Government freely admits that man-days lost as a result of industrial strikes in New South Wales are much more now than in 1965

when the Labor Government was in office. This is a complete confession by the Government of its failure to look after affairs of State properly. Under the administration of the Premier and Deputy Premier, the many people involved have had to resort to strikes to obtain reasonable wage justice. The Government itself has provoked strikes. An example of this was action by the Commissioner for Motor Transport to provoke the dispute on Atlantean buses. Provocative action taken by the Government has helped to cause strikes about which the Government members complain.

A strike is a terrible weapon and should not be used—and in the main is not used—except as a last resort. Almost nobody likes a strike and almost nobody wants a strike. Strikes create problems for everybody—for the community, for the industry in which the workers are concerned, and above all for the workers and their families who are deprived of their pay and with no money coming in each week, cannot even live in a minimum way. When a man is on strike his family suffers. He is unable to meet hire-purchase payments to which he has committed himself in order to provide his family with even the minimum of comfort. As a result, everybody else who normally received a share of his wages suffers—businessmen and other wage earners. If he worked in public utilities the public is deprived of convenience and comfort and sometimes essential services, especially if the industry in which the strike occurs supplies electricity or gas or other essential and important services.

On the main issue of strikes, men are compelled to demonstrate forcefully that the amount of money they earn does not purchase sufficient to keep the family in reasonable comfort, that there are more days of the week than money can provide for, and that there is a serious gap between the two. Many approaches are made by workers to employers for conciliation, or even to the court for a wage increase or on some industrial matter mostly concerned with an increase in earnings, but nothing happens. The employer says he cannot afford it. The court says it cannot hear the case, or the delay will be very great. Very rarely is the

whole urgency of the issue discussed properly, so that in many cases the men are forced to decide that they must use the ultimate weapon, that is the strike, to obtain public recognition of their needs.

In almost every strike—in fact I know of no recent case to the contrary—there has been almost immediate conciliation or arbitration, or both, and the men have received an increase, or at any rate part of their demands have been met, and they go back to work. Hundreds of thousands of dollars—even millions—have been lost and people have been deprived of essential services. The workers concerned and their families start again, far behind, in the task of meeting their financial responsibilities and opportunities. Why could not the conciliation discussions have commenced as soon as the men made their requests? Why could not all the issues raised have been thoroughly discussed? Why did not employers or the court urgently come to an agreement or decision that was the same as that arrived at after the strike was commenced and all the inconveniences caused? Was not the claim as good when first raised as it was when the determination for increases in pay or better conditions was made? I believe that if those responsible for bettering conditions and pay were prepared to respond urgently to requests, most of the strikes that have taken place would never have occurred. Production would not have been lost and strikes would almost completely disappear or would be greatly reduced. So, instead of attacking the workers, let the Government have another look at the situation and agree that employers are very culpable and that no delay should occur in their adopting a conciliatory attitude of trying to remove the cause of distress and unrest among workers in almost every industry.

Inflation continues not only in Australia but throughout the world. It becomes more imperative every day for the Government to take a stand in preventing the widespread effects of inflation in this community. There is no possible excuse for adopting a fatalistic approach to this question of living costs. In questions put to him in this House, the Premier has time and time again evaded the issue. He has not actually said that he

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will not do anything about inflation, but this has been the real meaning behind his answers. Just before the general elections, when he was driven into a corner, the Premier promised to set up a Royal commission to inquire into these matters. When people disbelieved him, he told the big lie, saying that he would appoint as chairman of the commission a barrister who was a Labor man.

The Premier said—and he repeated it—“I am going to appoint him chairman.” That was about the biggest lie ever perpetrated. The Premier added, “We shall wait until we see what the Commonwealth Government does”. He was very cunning; he knew that the one Government that has no constitutional power to do anything about prices is the Commonwealth Government. If the Premier waits on the Commonwealth he will be able to say in 25 years' time, if he is still Premier: “I meant to appoint that Royal commission. That Labor man, that barrister, is still around, I was only waiting for the Commonwealth to act”. But he will not still be Premier in two years' time.

In the memory of the Minister for Health, but not within your memory or mine Mr Deputy Speaker, hundred million mark notes had to be printed in Germany because no one had done anything about inflation. This could happen in Australia and in other countries, too, in the lifetime of some of us. The Minister for Health remembered it but you and I, Mr Deputy Speaker, were far too young. The proposition is not quite as silly as it sounds. If no real action is taken on inflation, if the Government does nothing, if day after day prices continue to rise and a woman doing her shopping finds that her wage packet will not buy what it bought the previous week, there will come a stage when inflation will gallop away. We have a do-nothing Government which will take no action and refuses to believe that the people of this State are being harassed and worried and have a depression complex because they cannot meet the day-by-day rises in the price of foodstuffs.

Members will recall the great trick by the chain stores before the last elections. They were frantic that this Government

might be defeated and they rushed in to say that all goods would be permanently discounted. There were to be great price reductions. It was pure fantasy and it never occurred. The people were tricked, and even the minority of people responsible for electing this Government were tricked into believing that the Premier and that the chain stores who supported his Government—and there is no question that big business supports this Government and is the only prop that it has—

Mr JAGO: Unionists, too.

Mr EINFELD: There are a few, and they are traitors to their cause. At the next election they will not vote for this Government. They know now that they have been tricked. A survey was made of comparative prices in New York and Sydney for the American Chamber of Commerce. The survey covered 55 items including meat, groceries, toiletries, fresh and frozen vegetables, fruit and sundries. The basket of 55 items cost \$1.33 less in Sydney than it did in New York. The 55 items cost \$35.71 in New York compared with \$34.38 in Sydney. The important consideration is that the basket of foodstuffs cost housewives in Australia 40.5 per cent of average weekly earnings, which are \$84. The New York housewife pays only 29 per cent of her husband's earnings to buy the same basket of commodities, for over there the average weekly earnings are \$123.57.

The Minister for Labour and Industry cast some doubt on this, but Mrs Jean Jarratt of Seaforth said that she had seen this comparison of food prices that had been published, and she went on to say:

For five months in 1969–70 I lived *en famille* with my daughter and son-in-law in Westchester County, New York. I helped with the shopping and was astounded to find food prices there so much in accord with costs in Sydney. Many things were considerably cheaper. Regarding meat, though lamb was dearer, this was slightly discounted by the fact that the meat was so expertly trimmed—there were no inedible scraggy pieces to be paid for.

Rents are high in New York, but related to wages I would imagine that they would be on a par with ours. In my daughter's apartment there was no additional cost for central heating

and gas used for cooking. These costs were included in the rental. They paid for electricity separately.

The point is this: When I returned people said with commiseration: "I suppose you were horrified at New York prices." When I quoted comparative figures I was greeted with frank disbelief.

The lady implies that on many items prices are lower in New York than in Sydney. Prices in Sydney are out of all proportion to those not only in other Australian States but also in other parts of the world. In New York a porter or taxi-driver feels he is being demeaned if he is offered a tip of only \$1; nevertheless the cost of living and of buying foodstuffs is as high in Sydney as it is over there.

The consumer price index shows that between 1964–65 when Labor left office, and June of this year, the yearly average index had climbed from 94.5 to 116.8 in Sydney. In June this year the quarterly index figure stood at 119.8, a record high level, and higher than in every other capital city in Australia. In the June quarter the consumer price index figure was said to have risen in Sydney by 2 per cent and in Adelaide by 2.2 per cent. The difference was that in Adelaide it included increased fares and medical and hospital fees, whereas the Sydney figure took no note whatever of the vicious and savage increases imposed by this Government on fares and hospital charges, which prompted one Sydney newspaper to write: "On present evidence, Sydney's September quarter rise will be a good deal more than 2 per cent." Of course it will. Fares even in the metropolitan area for an ordinary traveller will cost at least 10 cents extra each way, which in five days will total a dollar, and for many persons the cost of transport will rise by more than \$2 a week.

To impress upon the community the seriousness of the situation one need refer only to the survey conducted by W. D. Scott and Co. Pty Ltd, a company used by this Government and by other capitalist organizations. Sir Walter Scott said that he had confined the survey only to top executives and managements so that the Government could see what was going on. When top executives were asked what they would

do if inflation maintained its present rate, 91 per cent said they would increase prices. That is the answer that businessmen give to a supine Government that will do nothing about prices, though it says that it will do something about wages. Wages are frozen, but if we call for a freeze on prices so that inflation will not continue, the Government refuses to take any action whatever.

One Government speaker after another has threatened the workers and talked about them viciously. In contrast, these members have not said anything about company profits. Despite increasing costs, profits are high and in most instances are increasing. Though people are screaming because of high prices and a reduced capacity to buy, companies have not reduced to any extent the profits on their products.

These are some recently published net profits: Associated Securities Limited, \$2,700,000; Australian Consolidated Industries, \$10,100,000; Australian Consolidated Press, \$1,000,000; Australian Guarantee Corporation, \$11,800,000; Bank of New South Wales, \$17,300,000; Broken Hill Pty Co. Ltd, estimate for 1971-72, \$95,000,000; British Tobacco Company Limited, \$12,100,000; Coles, \$10,900,000. Coles, the firm that was going to reduce all its prices, had a profit of only \$10,900,000. These are the things that ought to be said clearly and openly. If we want prices reduced, people like these ought not to be allowed to make gigantic profits at the expense of the consumer. David Jones Ltd made a profit of \$5,900,000; General Motors, \$27,000,000; Imperial Chemical Industries, \$15,000,000; Industrial Acceptance Corporation (Holdings), \$8,300,000; Myer Emporium Limited, \$15,200,000; Rothmans, \$3,800,000 and Tooth & Company, \$7,900,000 after a pre-tax profit of \$16,400,000.

There are people in this Parliament who are helping their profits no end. All these factors make more urgent and necessary than ever before a price justification tribunal, but this Government continues to set its face against it. Labor has called for the establishment of a price justification tribunal, and I repeat that call on behalf of

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my party. Let us set up a price justification tribunal to fix prices, just as there is one to decide on wages. Let us ensure that when people want to raise prices they shall have to justify the increases just as workers have to justify an increase in their wages. There must be an immediate price freeze to check the crazy inflation that is growing worse every day. Now that President Nixon has accepted the standard set by the Australian Labor Party in New South Wales by freezing prices and wages, and the New Zealand Government has set up a programme which the Opposition has supported and believed in, it is surely time for the Government to act to see that people are protected. The Opposition is asking that the human social problems affecting the existence of our people be made the subject of legislation by this Government. Something must be done to protect the worker.

Surely there is something inside the Askin-Cutler Government that will make it do something to ensure that profits are not allowed to go any higher while people are paying more and more every day for their commodities. On every side people are being cheated. The rent for a two-bedroom flat in Sydney is at least \$30 a week—if it is possible to get decent accommodation at that price. Rents are being increased every day to such an extent that the normal person cannot afford to pay them. Pensioners are facing almost degradation. In the federal Parliament the colleagues of this Government, its brothers, this unified group, do not know from day to day who their Ministers will be, just as there is a split in this Government which Sir Frank Packer hides as much as he can. When one does not know from day to day who is the Treasurer or who is the new Defence Minister, one understands the niggardly attitude of the Government which says to pensioners, "You may have another \$1.25 a week."

The Government knows very well that people are starving. People are paying \$12 or \$14 for a room, and have to share a toilet down a backyard with about twelve other people, as well as sharing a bathroom. Thousands of people in New South

Wales are in this plight but the Government and its big brothers are taking no notice of them.

In this city many people are being evicted from their tenanted premises. Some have lived in their homes for many years. In answer to a question which I had on the *Questions and Answers* paper, the other day the Minister of Justice said that between 1st July, 1970, and 30th June, 1971, 1,153 eviction cases in respect of controlled premises under the Landlord and Tenant Act came before the court. Fifty-seven of these were withdrawn and 791 resulted in eviction orders being made. In other words, 72 per cent of all these cases that went before the court resulted in eviction orders. Among those 791 cases there were many pensioners and people whose total income was \$15 or \$16 a week, which has now been increased to about \$17 a week by the munificent big brothers of this Government, who could not care less and are contemptuous of the needs of the poor.

Another racket that has become prevalent comparatively recently is the demand by landlords, who have complete control of a property, for the payment of \$100, \$150 or \$200 bond money from a tenant. I defy any tenant to get his bond money back when he leaves the premises. Not all these landlords and estate agents are racketeers but many of them are taking advantage of pensioners and people on low incomes. They see that many people are in a desperate plight, but they retain this bond money and use it for their own purposes.

Much has been said in this debate about the increase in rail fares, which is an iniquitous thing. It is true that the other day the Government announced a reduction in some fares of about 10 per cent. However, that is only the sort of relief that comes to a person bumping his head against a wall seven times a week who decides, "I will bump it only six times a week from now on."

The people of this State have been called upon to pay iniquitous increases in fares, from 50 up to 80 per cent and even 100 per cent, as a result of the inefficiency

of this Government. One thing that is needed in this State is a proper public accounts committee so that we can see whether we are getting value for the money that is being spent. This is an extravagant Government, if ever there was one. I cannot help laughing when I think of the remark the Premier made in reference to the great economy drive that the Government announced it would institute. A few months ago he said, "I will see that the lights at the State Office block are turned off every night." Of course, that is something else he soon forgot about. Anyone who passes the State Office block at night will see a blaze of lights in that building. Why not, when people have slipped on the stairs in the absence of proper lighting? That was the Premier's great economy drive, instituted by this great financial expert from the Rural Bank. When he was with the Rural Bank he was too busy finding out what was happening on Wednesdays and Saturdays to know what was going on elsewhere.

I am dissatisfied, and the Opposition has already stated that it is dissatisfied, with all these things as well as the terrible state of education in this State. I move:

That the proposed amendment be amended by adding after the word "crisis" the words "by its failure to cope with the education crisis generated by its own maladministration of the education services of this State and for many other and varied reasons."

Mr DURICK (Lakemba) [5.29]: I move:

That the question be now put.

The House divided:

AYES, 44

Mr Bannon	Mr Hills
Mr Barnier	Mr M. L. Hunter
Mr Bedford	Mr Jackson
Mr Booth	Mr Jensen
Mr Cahill	Mr Johnstone
Mr Coady	Mr Jones
Mr Cox	Mr Kearns
Mr Crabtree	Mr R. J. Kelly
Mr Day	Mr Mahoney
Mr Degen	Mr Mallam
Mr Durick	Mr Neilly
Mr Earl	Mr Nott
Mr Einfeld	Mr O'Connell
Mr Ferguson	Mr Paciullo
Mr Flaherty	Mr Petersen
Mr Gordon	Mr Quinn
Mr Haigh	Mr Ramsay

Mr Renshaw	Mr Wade
Mr Ryan	Mr F. J. Walker
Mr Sheahan	
Mr Sloss	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr Southee	Mr L. B. Kelly
Mr J. J. T. Stewart	Mr K. J. Stewart

NOES, 47

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

Resolved in the negative.

Mr N. D. WALKER (Miranda) [5.35]: I have much pleasure in adding my support to the previous speakers who congratulated the mover and seconder of the motion, the honourable member for Wakehurst and the honourable member for Sturt, on the excellent contributions they made to this debate. I also congratulate the other new members who made their maiden speeches during the debate.

Six years of drought have given rise to grave concern in this State, and the man on the land is in a serious plight. I know how he feels under the present hard conditions, for originally I came from the land. Recently when I was at Tamworth and drought-breaking rains came, I did not see the rejoicing which, in similar circumstances, would have been evident some years ago. Today the man on the land knows that there is no market for his goods. A few years ago when drought-breaking rains arrived, they were the cause of great celebration but, under the marketing conditions for stock today, everybody but the man on the land gets a cut. The poor old cocky gets

nothing. The butcher is more or less protected; the stock and station agent gets his cut; the abattoirs, which have unions, get their cut; and the man on the land gets what is left over. I was delighted to read in this morning's newspapers that our federal colleagues are willing to do something for the man on the land, and I hope that in the near future something is done for him by this Government. I assure our colleagues in the Country Party that I shall whole-heartedly support any proposals they bring forward in this House to assist the man on the land.

Education, especially after yesterday's episode, is causing great concern. We all admit the great shortage of teachers, but that cannot be laid at the feet of the Government. When the Wyndham scheme was introduced the Labor Government had made no preparation whatsoever for it, and this Government had to bear the brunt of the difficulties that arose from a scheme that it had to implement at short notice. Yesterday within the precincts of this honourable House we saw an exhibition by some members of the teaching staff. I wish to make it clear that the great majority of teachers in this State are held in the highest esteem by me.

Yesterday there was a minority of teachers here. I am sure they would have caused great embarrassment to the majority of these professional men and women. I had the pleasure yesterday of meeting a deputation of teachers from my electorate. They were led by the headmaster of a school in my electorate. His name is Elphinstone, and he is a member of the Communist Party. He has stood both for council and for Parliament as a member of the Communist Party. He came to my electorate about two years ago. He was quiet for the first nine months or so, but now he has started to rear his ugly head and is causing great dissension in the area. Yesterday, when he came with a deputation, I was delighted to meet his companions. He had with him another teacher who supports him in all his campaigns and hands out his literature. It could be said that he walks and talks with him. If a person walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, in my book he is a duck.

The two people who led the deputation ran true to form and monopolized all the talk. No other members of the deputation were allowed to say a word. There were thirty people in the deputation. Only one of them, a sportsmaster, mentioned the reason for the strike—the teaching of two periods instead of supervising compulsory sport. The deputation raised all the other matters. Some of the teachers were quite rational and brought forward good points. I told them that if anybody was not satisfied with the hearing, I should be only too pleased to meet a deputation in my room. The two people leading the deputation said that they would not meet me there. When meeting these gentlemen on their own they act quite naturally, but when put with the mob they take absolute control. This is typical of their political background.

Most members realize that the many education problems of today were created when the Wyndham scheme was brought into being. In my area there is a shortage of schoolteachers. Most people do not realize that 70 per cent of schoolchildren now starting first year will go on and attempt to get the higher school certificate. I have done my best to advise parents in my electorate. Some parents do not seek advice from the headmaster or school counsellor, who have available to them a complete record of the child's scholastic achievements since starting school. Some parents will not accept advice from a headmaster. I made that mistake myself. Parents who were themselves deprived of a good education tend to force their children to continue beyond the school certificate. If they would let them leave school at that stage to learn a trade, I am sure that many children would be far happier and would do better in their employment. Far too many students try to serve an apprenticeship at 19 years of age when it is too late.

I pay tribute to the parents and citizens associations in my area. There is no doubt that they do a lot of good work for students there. This Government has an unparalleled record in education. It spent \$488,000,000 last year compared with \$256,000,000 six years ago by the Labor administration. In my electorate,

\$4,000,000 has been spent on education in the past three and a half years. Fourteen years ago there were two high schools in the whole Sutherland shire. I had the great privilege of being foundation president of the parents and citizens association at Port Hacking high school, which was intended to serve the whole Sutherland shire. Now there are thirteen high schools in the shire, the majority of them having been built by this Government in the past six years. Most of the expenditure of \$488,000,000 on education last year went in paying salaries of teachers. Most people do not know that in the last seventeen months school teachers have received salary increases of 36 per cent on the average. Some headmasters, if they retired now, would be able to commute their superannuation entitlement for lump sums of \$70,000, \$85,000 or \$90,000. Six years ago there were approximately 7,000 student teachers; now there are 16,000. This speaks volumes for the Government's record in education.

Recently I had the great pleasure of arranging a visit to my electorate by the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Minister for Science. Many of the headmasters there, having perhaps listened to members of the Opposition and Teachers Federation officials, did not know the Minister's qualities. It is easy for the Opposition to knock. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition reminds me of an old game we used to play years ago—knock, knock. If somebody asked me, "Knock, knock, who's there?" I would reply, "The Deputy Leader of the Opposition." That is all he does—knock, knock. He does not come up with any constructive suggestions to improve the present system that he knocks so much. I am now the member—perhaps I should say the foundation member—for the new seat of Miranda, a rapidly expanding area that I am proud and privileged to represent. I was glad to invite the Minister to come out and meet the headmasters. They came—106 of them—from as far afield as Heathcote, Engadine and Tempe. Mr Spongberg, president of the organization, was looking forward to meeting the Minister, as I had told him that I and every

other member on the Government side of the House had every confidence in the Minister.

After addressing the gathering of 106 headmasters, the president of this organization saw fit to write a letter, which I am quite sure members of the Opposition saw when it was published in the *Sydney Morning Herald*. Mr Spongberg, who was the president and chaired the meeting on this day, said: "Our previous knowledge of Mr Cutler was confined mainly to the opinion of our federation, which a week earlier had demanded his resignation."

Mr BANNON: It was his letter not that of the meeting.

Mr N. D. WALKER: Since then two have changed their opinion, and one was here yesterday. When these people are on their own, they are cowards, but if they have a crowd behind them, they have all the stomach in the world. Mr Spongberg went on to say: "Contrary to this opinion we found him, after meeting him this week, to be a man of sincerity and honesty, equipped with dedication and confidence to handle the gigantic task of administering public education and deserving of co-operation from the whole service." Every member, with the exception of one, endorsed those remarks. Members can imagine my delight in having the Minister out there. The federation is influencing not only the senior men in the service, but also the younger generation in the Department of Education. They are being influenced like the two men I met yesterday, of whom I have spoken previously.

I should like to deal now with Towra Point. Once again matter is being published in the daily press and local newspapers about the proposed Towra Airport. In the Sutherland district, at State, federal or council elections, Towra Point is brought up. On one occasion the president of the council said, "Yes, Towra Point is on again." My idea is that this is Gietzelt's farewell furphy. He is leaving the area now.

[Interruption]

Mr N. D. WALKER: Opposition members are just as bad as the councils out there. This Government was criticized over selling land. What did the Sutherland Shire Council do? It boasted about resuming properties and selling them for \$3,000,000. For some of them the council got \$20,000. That was Labor controlled. The honourable member for Rockdale does not know what is going on in his own electorate.

Mr BANNON: It is the responsibility of the federal Government. It will decide the issue.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr N. D. WALKER: There is not the slightest intention of building this airport. Both governments say that.

Mr MALLAM: You will be beaten next time.

Mr N. D. WALKER: The honourable member for Campbelltown should not talk about beating anyone. His win was a very doubtful one. In my electorate, in the past twelve months \$125,000 has been obtained for a new maternity section, and a new child medical centre is being built at a cost of about \$360,000. This is one of my main concerns. The population in the Sutherland shire is 154,000, and the people need all the hospital beds and doctors that they can get. The rate of accidents in that area is higher than anywhere else in the State.

I should be neglecting my duty if I did not pay tribute to the Commissioner of Police and all the members of the police force for the way in which they acted at the Springbok test matches and other fixtures. The police showed admirable restraint and a great sense of fairness. One of the most impressive things that I have ever heard occurred on the day of the final test at the Sydney Cricket Ground when everyone stood and gave three hearty cheers for the New South Wales police force. Though a lot of people are only too ready to criticize, the police must take it and cannot reply. In New South Wales we have as good a police force as there is anywhere else in the whole world.

[Mr Speaker left the chair at 5.58 p.m. The House resumed at 7.30 p.m.]

Mr CRABTREE (Kogarah) [7.30]: I would like first to join with other members and pay a particular tribute to the honourable member for Wakehurst and the honourable member for Sturt. I admire their courage: they would have a most difficult job at any time in proposing the acceptance of the Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech, but on this occasion it was most difficult when such a weak and supine government had prepared the Speech. I extend my personal congratulations on their efforts in carrying out a most difficult task. I congratulate all members who made their maiden speeches on this occasion, particularly the new members on this side of the House.

I remember that even on the football field one had to have depth within one's team, and our side here has a lot of depth. When the Opposition takes office after the next election it will have these capable men to help it administer the affairs of this State. I was amazed at something said by the honourable member for Miranda during his speech. If I could give him a little bit of friendly advice, he is adopting a dangerous attitude when he makes a personal attack on a constituent and says that he is a member of a particular party to which the honourable member is opposed.

Mr MACKIE: You mean a communist?

Mr CRABTREE: I do not care what party it is. A referendum of the people of this country proved that a person can be a member of any political party. If the honourable member hopes to retain the seat of Miranda, he should appreciate that every constituent within his electorate has the right to his own personal and political views.

The question of Towra Point as the site of the proposed second airport for this city has been raised again in this House. The honourable member for Cronulla is laughing his ears off today.

Mr GRIFFITH: Yes, I am.

Mr CRABTREE: No one has done more to destroy Botany Bay than the honourable member. Political pressure has been

able to get at the northern side of the bay and it has been virtually destroyed. Government members are worried about the question of Towra Point.

Mr JACKETT: We are not worried.

Mr CRABTREE: If the honourable member stuck to having Burwood railway station painted every three years, it would be enough for him to do.

Mr MORRIS: He wants the Southern Aurora stopped at Strathfield too.

Mr CRABTREE: The only two projects that concern the honourable member for Burwood are having the Southern Aurora stopped at Strathfield and having Burwood railway station painted every three years. This question of Towra Point affects the Sutherland and St George areas. In December last year the Minister for Civil Aviation said that he would make an announcement as to where the second airport would be situated, but since then there has been a strange and significant silence about the matter. The Minister for Local Government said last week in this House—

Mr GRIFFITH: No Towra Point.

Mr CRABTREE: He did not say that: the bells are still ringing in the honourable member's ears. The Minister said he expected a report in the near future—the same report we were expecting last December. If the honourable member for Miranda and the honourable member for Cronulla wish to make a contribution to their district they should be as vocal as the honourable member for Rockdale and I have been in opposing the suggestion that is rife in the federal Parliament, that a second airport will be established at Towra Point.

Mr GRIFFITH: Where would you like to put it?

[Interruption]

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member should be allowed to make his speech without interruption.

Mr CRABTREE: I wish to make some reference to an amazing speech I heard in this House last week. I have been a member for approximately 18 years, but last

week the honourable member for Northcott made such a speech as I have never heard. If ever an individual has been brain-washed, it is our psychotic friend. He spent the whole of his speech quoting extracts from the little yellow book of Ming the Merciless.

MR CLOUGH: On a point of order. I take offence at the use of the word "psychotic" in reference to the honourable member for Northcott. I ask that the honourable member withdraw and apologize.

MR SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Northcott has not taken exception to it.

MR CLOUGH: The word is offensive to me.

MR CRABTREE: I did not say that you were psychotic.

MR CAMERON: I understand that the honourable member for Kogarah has just referred to me as being psychotic. I take offence at that remark and ask that the honourable member withdraw and apologize.

MR SPEAKER: Order! I ask the honourable member for Kogarah to withdraw and apologize.

MR CRABTREE: I withdraw and apologize. During his speech the honourable member for Northcott clutched this yellow book to his breast and tried to tell us about the great philosophy of the Liberal Party. Let us look at the real facts of the case. The Liberal Party was born out of the United Australia Party. Its leader, who wrote this philosophy in this little yellow book, was the leader of the United Australia Party which sold this country out in 1941 when it failed to govern the nation at a time of war.

MR DOYLE: So badly that they returned him for 15 years.

MR CRABTREE: So badly that he was put out of office during this nation's hour of trial. Of course, like people who do not want to be identified, the party had to adopt an alias, and the one chosen was the Liberal Party, but this philosophy of liberalism is as dangerous as any other ism in the world today.

MR DOYLE: Like socialism?

MR CRABTREE: Let me deal with the history of this miserable philosophy of the Liberal Party.

MR CAMERON: It seems to have made a great impact on you.

MR CRABTREE: Despite the disastrous leadership of the Menzies-Fadden Government and its cohorts, which failed the country in 1941 in its hour of need, this story of Liberal philosophy is still told today. It has now been established that under this so-called Liberal philosophy, when the Hon. Harold Holt disappeared in the sea near Melbourne there were acts of treachery being carried on behind his back to depose him as Prime Minister of Australia.

The Prime Minister of the day knew of this treachery, and I believe that history, when this page of it is completed, will show the reason why Prime Minister Harold Holt disappeared; it was because of the treachery and the political philosophy of the people on that side. Coming closer to home, last week, as a result of this glorious Liberal philosophy practised by people who claim to put the nation before their political aspirations, the political dagger was put into the back of John Grey Gorton. The hands of our leaders are stained.

MR BARRACLOUGH: What has this to do with the motion?

MR CRABTREE: It has as much to do with it as your applause for the honourable member for Northcott. We have a Commonwealth government that stands in disgrace with every decent person in the Commonwealth. We do not want to hear any more of this rot and nonsense about these great philosophies. The Liberal Party today is one of the cheapest, nastiest political groups that Australia has ever seen, and this cheapness, nastiness and neglect of the community have been observed even in this House.

I rose tonight especially to deal with the real housing problem that faces the people of this State. I wish to speak in the strongest of terms in relation to the housing record of the Government and its miserable lies

in this field. The State Government has failed dismally to deal with this great social problem. They are strong words, and I shall now proceed to prove that they are correct. First, I go back to 1965, an important year, when the Premier, who was then Leader of the Opposition, said:

We particularly want to give young couples a better chance of acquiring a home. We will ensure that before applicants for housing commission accommodation are accepted they are genuinely unable, because of their means, to purchase or rent accommodation through the private sector.

Thousands of applications were rejected by the Housing Commission as a result of this new policy. I am referring to what happened in 1965, for that was the year of a Labor government; I shall not go back for twenty-four years. After the Liberal-Country party Government came to office in that year, its Minister for Housing, a member of the Country Party, tendered a report to this House, which disclosed that at the end of Labor's term of administration the Housing Commission had produced the best annual results since its establishment. It was shown that 5,482 dwellings had been completed during the year and 5,441 were under construction. The most recent report of the Housing Commission—the 1970 report—disclosed what had happened during six glorious years of Askinism. During 1970 the commission completed 4,605 new dwellings, or 877 fewer than had been completed by Labor in 1965. In 1965 the Premier had said that he was going to provide homes for young people. The 1970 report showed that, under this forward-looking Government, only 4,614 homes were under construction, or 827 fewer than under Labor in 1965.

Members on the Government side claim a record of great achievement. Despite the economic restriction put on housing applicants, which resulted in thousands of people being taken out of their rightful place on the waiting list for Housing Commission accommodation, the 1968 report revealed that 27,000 people were on the waiting list, but the 1970 report disclosed that, under this Government that was overcoming this great social problem, the number had increased to 32,000. I am told re-

liably, although the report has not been tabled by the Minister, that 36,000 people were on the waiting list on 30th June, 1971. This means that in three years 9,000 more people have been placed on the waiting list for Housing Commission accommodation.

When speaking of Government housing in 1965, the Premier said that there was no intention of increasing Housing Commission rents, for his party believed they were high enough. I have referred to some of the reports submitted by the Minister from the Country Party, which is the tail that wags the dog today; it controls the Government. The reports reveal that in 1965 the rents for Housing Commission homes were: from \$9 to \$11 for two-bedroom homes; from \$9 to \$11.50 for three-bedroom homes; and from \$9.30 to \$11.50 for four-bedroom homes. The \$9 has been increased now to \$14.20, and the range is from \$14.20 to \$14.70. This has happened under this Government, and this is how the Government has implemented its promise to give homes to young people.

The most cruel hoax of all is the way in which members opposite have burst into crocodile tears for the pioneers and the old people in the community. The 1969 Housing Commission report made the following comments about homes for aged people:

Presumably, because of the representations by the various States in this matter, the Commonwealth has since announced a total cash grant of \$25,000,000 to be divided amongst the various States; each State to apply its part of the grant to the provision of housing for elderly people.

I thought that at the very least this Government would get off its bottom and provide housing for the elderly people. In 1965, the Labor Government completed 831 dwellings for aged persons. In 1970, this Government completed only 370—not 831—dwellings for aged persons. The best this Government could do for elderly people in country and metropolitan areas was two and a half times less than Labor's achievement in 1965. Quite a number of homes were under construction when Labor was in office, but in 1970 there were only 310 units under construction. Is this the best the Government can do under this glorious

programme of \$25,000,000 for the housing of aged persons? Government supporters have almost fallen over themselves in saying that they are jolly good fellows in housing aged people, but the fact is that the Government has been remiss in this field and has brought about a lot of human suffering.

Last night I thought there had been an explosion on the eastern suburbs railway, but when I rushed down someone told me that the Minister for Lands was speaking. He holds himself out as the greatest man the workers have ever had. He went to Campbelltown in the election campaign to shake hands with one of his employees. However, he has done more than that. The Premier said in 1965 that the Government would keep the interest rate on Crown land at 2½ per cent. A report in the *Sun* on 13th August, 1971, shows that auction sales of Crown land have been conducted on the basis that buyers will pay outstanding dues at 6½ per cent interest, not 2½ per cent. The Minister for Housing and the Premier have expressed dismay at the possibility of the Commonwealth's charging higher interest rates, but their own Government has increased the interest rate in Crown land transactions. I hope the honourable member for Northcott beats Mr Hughes for a seat in the federal Parliament. It will be marvellous to see them all group on the Opposition side in the federal House. I do not blame him for trying to get away from this Government. He has said before that he was frustrated. This place is not big enough for him.

MR CAMERON: I have never been happier.

MR CRABTREE: There is no doubt that the honourable member for Northcott is disgusted at the sorry housing record of this Government. The honourable member for Willoughby, a member of a wonderful profession, would know what is happening under the Landlord and Tenant Act. These are the great men from the Liberal Party. In 1968 the Premier had this to say about the Landlord and Tenant Act:

We recognize that in the 55,000 controlled dwellings in this State there are still many people who through hardship or low incomes, cannot afford to pay up-to-date rentals or to

purchase their own homes. We believe that such people should have protection and assistance. This we accept is the responsibility of the State.

What did he say in 1971? Referring to the same problem of controlled dwellings, the Premier said:

The problem is a difficult one but fortunately the figures show that time is steadily solving it. We propose to leave it that way.

That was a callous statement. As the honourable member for Willoughby knows, there are many evictions these days. Pensioners, faced with soaring costs, have had difficulty in paying rents in all electorates. What can be done about this?

The Premier said in 1968 that it was the responsibility of the State. Now the Government seems content to believe that time is solving the problem. Old people are dying in disused garages and on front verandas. Others are being thrown out of their premises. There is a sad story in every landlord and tenant case. However, this Government could not care less; its policy is directed against the very community it is pledged to serve. The Attorney-General is renowned for waving his arms in the air and saying that gaol sentences and fines must be brought up to date. For instance, he maintains that a fine of \$20 a couple of years ago for gaming and betting ought to be \$40 today. Sensible people would want us to modernize the laws, but we do not agree with the wealthy tenant provisions of the Landlord and Tenant Act. The average wage in New South Wales is approximately \$84 a week. I know a railway man who lives with two pensioner parents. They were told in no uncertain terms by a Sydney magistrate that as they were getting \$81 a week between the three of them, including pensions, they were wealthy tenants. Their rent went up by 300 per cent.

MR CAMERON: How close was that to the market value?

MR CRABTREE: I am not talking about market value: I am talking about human values—the value that the Premier wanted to place on humanity when making his policy speech in 1968. He then had a twinge of conscience and said that this kind

of hardship was the responsibility of the State. The honourable member for Northcott has expressed the attitude of the Government. He is concerned with the market value of the property. Does he ask in his electorate, or does he care about, the value of human suffering? What is the value of human life and human dignity? The honourable member for Northcott could not care less.

Mr CAMERON: I care a little for elementary justice for property owners as well as tenants.

Mr CRABTREE: Of course the honourable member cares for big business and for himself. He does not care for this Parliament. This Government stands indicted on its deplorable record in housing and its administration of the Landlord and Tenant legislation. Strangely enough, a deal has been done behind the door or behind the chair. Willy the Leak, or a gentleman publicly known as that—I do not know whether he is the same man as the right honourable the Prime Minister—was alleged to be dealing with housing. The Minister came to an agreement, I understand. I presume we shall have complementary legislation on it during this session. This Government has not had the courtesy to inform Parliament of its programme under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement for the next five years. If there is one shortcoming alone on which this Government should be thrown out of office, it is its arrant failure to deal with one of our greatest social problems—housing.

Mr McGINTY (Willoughby) [8.0]: At the outset I join with honourable members who have previously spoken in congratulating the mover and seconder of the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, the honourable member for Wakehurst and the honourable member for Sturt. I congratulate all other members on both sides of the House who have made their maiden speeches in this debate. On at least two occasions in this House I have advocated reform of the administration of justice in summary matters. I refer to stipendiary magistrates appointed under the Justices

Act. These officers are members of the New South Wales public service and are subject to the control of the Public Service Board.

Unlike magistrates in many other democratic societies, they do not have the same judicial status as judges of the district court and justices of the Supreme Court yet about 96 per cent of all criminal cases and 70 per cent of all civil cases in the State are dealt with in courts of summary jurisdiction presided over by stipendiary magistrates. They also exercise jurisdiction in a wide range of specialized matters, such as coronial inquiries, mining wardens' activities, administration of the liquor laws, in children's courts, and the like. As honourable members are aware from the amending legislation that comes before this House from time to time, there is now a noticeable tendency to expand the jurisdiction of stipendiary magistrates even further.

At the outset let me make clear that what I have to say is not intended to cast any aspersions on magistrates themselves or indeed on the public service generally. I am convinced from experience that most magistrates, because of their extreme dedication and impartiality, perform an excellent service and earn the respect of the public and of members of the legal profession who appear in cases before them. The plain fact of the matter is that magistrates deserve and should have the status of judges and they should be given the advantages of a sophisticated tertiary legal education, as is advocated by members of all other professions. I advocate also that they should enjoy the same constitutional protection as do judges of superior courts in this State. For the past three or four years, I have advocated that barristers and solicitors of the Supreme Court of New South Wales should be eligible for appointment to the magisterial bench.

Recently I noticed a newspaper report that the Minister of Justice was contemplating the appointment of magistrates from outside the Department of Justice as part of a plan to speed up hearings in courts of petty sessions. I gathered that the Minister was referring to recruitment of persons in government departments other than the Department of Justice. He was reported

also to have refused to confirm that he was considering the appointment of solicitors and barristers to the magisterial bench. I sincerely hope that this means that such a proposal is being considered within his department. It would be a forward-thinking law reform that would be beneficial to the public, and in line with the other dramatic and desirable law reforms that this Government has introduced during the past few years. The next matter on which I wish to speak is housing for the aged. I heard a lot of talk from the honourable member for Kogarah—

Mr CRABTREE: I gave figures.

Mr MCGINTY: The honourable member for Kogarah talked about figures but I am interested not in figures or statistics but in the care of the aged. I want to present what I believe to be a practical solution to the problem of housing these people. I am sure that aged people will be very interested to read in their newspapers tomorrow—if the speech of the honourable member for Kogarah is reported—his statistics of their plight. One of the most worrying aspects in my position as member for Willoughby is the housing of pensioners. A great part of my electorate is being redeveloped and many houses previously occupied by pensioners or superannuated persons are being demolished. In these days of inflation everyone knows of the plight of elderly persons on fixed incomes.

Many community service organizations are endeavouring to assist in this field and the concept of a retirement village is well known. These villages, however, present no immediate solution for those aged persons who have no capital to buy into retirement villages. As most honourable members know, the retirement village concept is one in which the person wishing to go into a unit must pay a certain amount of money, and the federal Government puts up the remaining two-thirds of the cost. The type of elderly person to whom I am referring, far from having the thousands of dollars required, would not have even thousands of cents. The Government of this State is aware of this community need. The suggestion that I put forward could also well help

to solve the problem of repealing the antiquated Landlord and Tenant (Amendment) Act.

In 1949 that Act was passed and took over from the regulations made under the National Security Act of 1939. I venture to say that nowhere in any other democratic society is there legislation such as the Landlord and Tenant (Amendment) Act that exists in New South Wales today. This is the only State in which this antiquated Act still persists. The trouble is that this legislation was kept in force for too long. When this Government came to office it was faced with the position that the Landlord and Tenant (Amendment) Act had become part and parcel of life in this State. Although the Government realized that its provisions should be eased, the plain fact of the matter is that we have now come to the solid core and no further amendments can be made. We must accept the fact that those who are now protected by this measure are persons who cannot help themselves, and that something must be done to rehouse people who have to give up premises in the interests of progress in this State.

I have discussed this subject with the Minister for Housing and Minister for Co-operative Societies who, incidentally, is sympathetic to all moves to solve the problem. The persons for whom I speak are mainly penniless pensioners or elderly folk on fixed incomes. Aged persons especially need to be housed in the environment in which they have lived all their lives and in which they have brought up their families. This aspect is most important. In various areas, depending on the availability of land and finance, aged persons' units have been established sometimes on a multi-storey basis and, in most instances, outside the area in which the persons who are to occupy the units have grown up. Therefore, in the twilight of their lives these elderly people must be uprooted and moved to another environment. This is most distressing to them.

Quite apart from the fact that these people have grown up in an environment where they have built up a circle of friends, sometimes extending over half a century;

they have brought up families who have lived in the same neighbourhood. There is nothing more detrimental to the well-being of people in the twilight of their lives than to be pulled out of their environment and banished to other areas. In my own electorate two centres, which I refer to as cottage units, were established some years ago in Warners Avenue, Castlecrag, and Donnelly Road, Willoughby. These groups of units have been established in A class residential areas, which can be described as single-dwelling residential areas. The centre in Donnelly Road, Willoughby, is known as the Ray Maher centre. It consists of a group of six or eight motel-type bed-sitting room units grouped together in the one building and designed to conform with the A class residential area surrounding it. These units have never been the subject of a complaint in respect of interference with the amenity of the neighbouring area.

There is a need for the establishment of such suitably designed pensioner housing units in A class residential areas. If the question were submitted to the State Planning Authority it would rule that this type of development is not permissible under the strict interpretation of this zoning. Under the definition of A class residential area, local councils have permitted such development as cottage hospitals and cottage convalescent homes, depending upon the exigencies and requirements of the neighbourhood. I believe the type of cottage unit that I am advocating for aged persons fits within such a concept. If amending legislation were enacted or an amendment made to the ordinances, which are now somewhat standard throughout the State, this type of development could be introduced, and it would be of great assistance to the aged people of this State.

I am fully aware of the need to preserve the amenity of a neighbourhood classified as a single dwelling residential area, but what possible interference could there be with the amenity of such an area by the construction of a selected number of bed-sitting room units, suitably designed as I have described? I am certain that the existence of the two groups of units that I have referred to, which were established in my

electorate some years ago, is virtually unknown to the majority of people in the neighbourhood, including the immediate neighbourhood. I therefore advocate whatever action is necessary to allow this type of development in these residential areas.

Let me recapitulate the matters that I have raised. First, pensioners should be rehoused quickly and conveniently in their own neighbourhood and environment among their lifelong friends and relatives. The cost of land and buildings in such a concept would be small. Many such units could be established within various parts of this State, to enable a quick and convenient solution to a serious social problem, namely housing impoverished aged persons. I sincerely commend my proposition to the Minister for Housing for investigation. I am sure it would relieve him of much worry on the financial aspect and enable him to house a lot of people quickly and conveniently in a proper environment.

Most honourable members know that for many years I have been deeply involved in local government. I read the speech of the Minister for Local Government, delivered at the official opening of the local-government conference in Wagga Wagga last Monday night. I saw in that speech reference to the old problem that confronts local government, the financing of its activities. With the greatest respect for the findings of the Royal commission on local-government finances announced some years ago and for the implementation to date of the Government's measures to relieve the burden on ratepayers, I want to proffer a few thoughts that I feel are worthy of consideration in respect of both local-government finances and the role of local government in our community.

Honourable members are familiar with the three-tier system of government that obtains in New South Wales. The forerunner of all democratic systems was the concept of local government. Out of it grew, particularly in this country, State governments, and out of State governments grew the federal system of government in this continent. With the inception of a three-tier system of government, each tier had distinct and clear functions and each had

distinct and clear means of raising revenue on an equitable basis to carry out those functions. I believe that over the past sixty years the respective functions of each tier of government have become so distorted that the local government concept today, compared with the concept on 1st January, 1920, is hardly recognizable. For example, the Government recently relieved local government of a purely State function, namely, financing of main roads. Local government has been relieved also of the payment of payroll tax on non-trading income.

On the other hand, for some time local government has been saddled with some of the functions of the federal Government in the field of social services. The whole matter has become so complex and intermingled that it is time to sit down and see what has happened over the sixty years since the introduction of the three-tier system of government. We should try to determine where these functions belong, revise them, review them, and put them in their true perspective into a system beneficial to each of the three tiers involved.

Local government has to pay for a range of federal and State functions, particularly in the field of social services and health administration, with little or no compensation. I believe the time has come for a complete stocktaking of the functions that local government has to perform, compared with those performed by State and federal governments. I believe a committee should be set up consisting of representatives of the three tiers of government—federal, State and local government—to look into and to seek to rationalize their respective functions, and in particular those carried out by local government. I believe such an investigation will lighten the financial burden now borne by local government, and from it will come an acceptable solution of the problem. We should know who will bear the costs involved in the functions now performed by each of these three tiers. I submit that when that overdue inquiry is completed, local government should be given a completely new charter. In other words, local government should have the benefit of a brand new Act giving effect to the findings of the inquiry that I have suggested.

Mr McGinty]

In summary, I say that now, after 60 years' experience of the three tiers of government, we should sit down and put the right eggs in the right baskets. Having done that, we should proceed to give local government a modern charter, one that would be very much better than the legislation enacted in 1919, which came into force on 1st January, 1920. By virtue of a great number of amendments, that Act is now a complete and utter mosaic. I cannot think of any other piece of legislation on the statute book of this State that has been amended as often as the Local Government Act. Let me give an example of its inappropriate provisions. City councils have power to impound cattle which, under the definition of cattle, includes dromedaries and camels. Before I became a member of Parliament I often said in my own municipality: "You may criticize the council about the footpaths, but not about cattle. It has done a good job with dromedaries and camels". The local-government legislation is completely antiquated and out of character with the three tiers of government now operating in this State.

I wish to refer to one other matter, the Wills, Probate and Administration Act, and to the rules of intestacy, which cause such hardship on the sudden death of a husband or wife, particularly if they have young children. Under the rules of intestacy on the death of a husband, the wife gets only one-third of the estate and the remaining two-thirds is held in trust for all the children until they reach the age of 21 years. If there is only one child the widow and child each get half the estate. As a practising solicitor I know that almost every solicitor in this State, when asked to make wills for a young couple, or for any husband or wife, draws what we called complementary wills. The husband makes a will in favour of his wife. He appoints her executrix and bequeaths her the whole estate, with the provision that should she die before him, other trustees are appointed to hold the property in trust for the children of the marriage. The wife does likewise.

I do not think that anybody in the legal profession would disagree with me that that is the standard form of will now made

between husband and wife. I cannot understand why the rules of intestacy should not be altered to provide for that situation. Great hardship is caused by the present rules whereby, if a husband with a family of young children dies prematurely, his widow gets only one-third of the estate, and the other two-thirds is held in trust for the children until they reach their majority. In the meantime, the widow has to bring up the children without touching a cent of the capital held in trust for the children. The Wills, Probate and Administration Act in respect of the rules of intestacy should be amended to conform with the standard practice when solicitors are consulted in relation to ordinary wills of husband and wife.

Mr SOUTHEE (Mount Druitt) [8.27]: I sincerely congratulate both the mover and seconder of the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. I was sympathetic to the Governor, who had a difficult task: to say that his Speech contained nothing at all would be an exaggeration. I congratulate other maiden speakers, particularly those on this side of the House. The Opposition had more maiden speakers than the Government, and in my opinion they effectively criticized the Government's record. In particular, the honourable member for Casino, to use the vernacular, tore strips off the Country Party members. He left them without a feather to fly with. I believe that before long the new honourable members on this side will be active in a Labor government, and that they will be an acquisition to the Labor Party. I congratulate also the honourable member for Willoughby, for I found myself in complete agreement with everything he said. As a matter of fact, much of what he said is Labor Party policy. He spoke of things that were done by the Labor Government, things that ceased to be done when the Liberal-Country party came to power.

I should like to take this opportunity to draw to the attention of the loquacious and promising Minister for Transport a few matters that concern my electorate. Honourable members are aware that I represented Blacktown for nine years, and have now been elected to represent Mount Druitt, which, I suppose, is the most unusual electorate in the State. The Minister for Trans-

port may be sympathetic to the problems of the people who live in the area, but he is not helpful, I wonder whether he read a letter that appeared in tonight's press, written by an irate lady, Mrs E. Lambert, from the new suburb of Blackett. She writes:

The Railway Commissioner, Mr McCusker, has proved even smarter than Mr Brown.

Remember his promise to compensate holders of railway weekly tickets for the strike days when trains did not run?

When I asked for a refund I was told I was not entitled to a refund and rudely asked to read the notice displayed in front of the ticket office.

The notice informed us refunds were payable on two scales A and B and my weekly ticket was not on either scale.

So not only do we lose two days pay, but we have to pay our fares for the privilege of not being there.

According to the department the full return fare is charged for three working days—Monday, Thursday and Friday—which came to more than the ticket cost; therefore we were not entitled to a refund.

We commuters on the St Mary's-Mt Druitt line have more than one complaint to air.

The train service is still the same as it was 10 to 15 years ago—well, not quite; one day a week we get a full double decker train as a special surprise.

Other mornings we have to fight our way on to a seven carriage single train, which amazingly carries the same amount of people as the double decker, packed in tighter than sheep going to the abattoirs.

On one occasion the Minister for Transport was good enough to keep his promise and ride with me on a train to Blacktown. I think he will agree that when we arrived at Blacktown we were accosted by a well-known citizen there who said, in the hearing of the Minister and myself, that someone must have known he was to be on the train that night because more than the normal number of double-deck carriages had been provided. I appreciate the Minister's coming with me. The train was not overcrowded on that night, but that was the reason.

Mr MORRIS: Would the honourable member believe me when I say that no one was advised that I was going?

Mr SOUTHEE: Will the Minister agree that he was met at the station by a railway inspector?

Mr MORRIS: There was someone there.

Mr SOUTHEE: The Minister did not tell them. I did not tell them, but they knew about it. The letter from the lady at Blackett continues:

The past four Fridays, the four minutes past five train to Penrith has been up to 15 minutes late and one Friday it even managed not to arrive at all.

The fares are going up a lot faster than the trains!

We get slugged \$5.15 a week plus \$2 bus fare, and now we are told people who live over 40 miles away may get a reduction.

I believe it is unnecessary for me to read all this letter; I have made my point about transport services to my electorate.

My relationship with the Housing Commission over the years that I have been in Parliament has been harmonious, and I cannot speak highly enough of the commission. However, the function of the commission, according to the Minister, is to build houses. That is exactly what it has been doing—building houses without making any provision for the people who go into them. To some extent the Government has reduced the waiting list—I understand that 36,000 are waiting now—but I do not agree with the way the Government has effected the reduction. The application of the means test does not make sense. I can give a classic case of what happens. The Government talks about looking after the country man, but a man from Bourke who walked off his property because of his indebtedness to the bank cannot get on the Housing Commission list, as he owns the property that he walked off. That is how the Government looks after the struggling rural man. This man will never go back to the bush, on to the property on the other side of Bourke. He is finished with it out there and he is settling down here. He has a family and his debt with the bank amounts to thousands of dollars. Yet the Government says that he has means. This is the fault not of the commission but of the Government.

The Mount Druitt electorate is a strange one in that it has many unique problems. In the subdivision of Mount Druitt 11,000 people are on the electoral roll, yet the average age of the population is eight years. These are phenomenal figures. Great social work is being done in this area by dedicated church people of various denominations to whom I pay tribute. Two Church of England gentlemen are doing a wonderful job. The Baptist Church, which was opened by the Minister for Transport, who practises that faith, also has done a wonderful job there. Instead of building a church, it constructed a utility building that can be used for holding barbecues and similar functions. I have gone there at night and I am frightened by what will happen unless the young people in the area have some outlet.

Between 31,000 and 35,000 children are in one Housing Commission area, which is growing apace. Enrolments anticipated by the Department of Education are really surprising. When I became the member for Mount Druitt last February not one policeman was stationed in the whole area. After representations had been made I was amazed to learn that the sergeant at St Mary's had to telephone the State Planning Authority to see whether he could use for a police station a house that had been left in the proposed commercial area. One would think that a topline matter of making a police station available would have been attended to by the commissioner's office. At any rate, the police went into the building, but when they took up occupation they did not have even a table and chair; also, they had no motor vehicle and were borrowing one from St Mary's.

Policemen are not allowed to make complaints to their local member, but someone made a complaint to me and I got some action taken. The police at Mount Druitt now have a much more comfortable police station than the one at St Mary's. They certainly have a table and chair and, as a result of my representations, they have a motor vehicle.

My electorate is made up of portion of the area I previously represented, portion of the Hawkesbury electorate and portion of the Nepean electorate. I shall now deal

with education problems there. It is strange how the Department of Education operates when siting schools. That part of the Western Highway running through my electorate is under reconstruction. On the Western Highway near Mount Druitt are two primary schools, one on either side of the road. It seems to be the ridiculous policy of the Department of Education to have 75 per cent of children attending these schools crossing that highway one way or the other. When the reconstruction of the highway is complete it will carry six lanes of traffic and no doubt will be a speedway. It will not be possible for children to cross the highway safely even at marked crossings. I have put to the Minister a proposition for the construction of an overhead pedestrian bridge. He did not say he would appoint a committee to investigate my proposition, but he said he would look at it. It has taken longer than I had hoped for the Minister to examine this proposal. If a child is killed on that highway I have no doubt there will be a lot of trouble over it. A serious accident must occur unless an overhead pedestrian bridge is built over the Western Highway. I suggest that this overhead crossing be situated adjacent to Oxley Park primary school. The cost of an overhead pedestrian crossing is minimal when one considers the huge sums involved in government finance. Overhead crossings that have been built at other locations have proved quite successful.

I should like to draw the attention of honourable members to the rapid development of the Mount Druitt area. This development has been nothing less than phenomenal. Most members in this Chamber talk loosely about Mount Druitt without knowing much about it. There are many schools in my electorate. Probably no member of this House would have thought that New South Wales would ever have a primary school attended by more than 2,000 pupils. However, this will happen next year in two schools in the Mount Druitt area. At Tregear primary school the enrolment this year is 1,930 pupils; the anticipated enrolment next year is 2,145. It is a stone's throw from the Tregear school to Whalan primary school

where the enrolment is 1,918; the anticipated enrolment for next year is 2,018. A further stone's throw away is Lethbridge Park primary school with 1,646 pupils; the anticipated enrolment for next year is 1,900. The Emmerton primary school which was opened only this year already has an enrolment of 700 pupils. Mount Druitt primary school, built in 1966, might be classified as an old school in my electorate. It is situated on the perimeter of the housing area and has an enrolment of 520. Most children attending Mount Druitt school are an overflow from Whalan school. A new school has been opened at Blackett and its anticipated enrolment for 1972 is 1,300.

Two more primary schools, at Dawson and Hebersham, are expected to be completed and available for use at the beginning of the next school year. I am doubtful whether they will be completed in time. If the progress of building schools in the next six months is the same as it has been in the past these schools will not be ready to accept pupils in February next. The most urgent education problem in the Mount Druitt electorate relates to high schools. There is one high school in the area, Mount Druitt high school. This is an excellent school, but at the commencement of the 1972 school year 700 secondary school pupils will be transferred to the new Whalan high school. The Minister for Public Works has assured me that this school will be finished in time. Workmen are working six days a week on this construction work but, having inspected the project on Monday last, it is my tip that the work cannot be done in time. The Minister for Public Works has the responsibility of building these schools. The work has been let out to contractors but there is little chance of it being completed in time. If the work is not completed the situation at Mount Druitt will be serious.

Another matter that disturbs me greatly is lack of planning in relation to housing. I do not intend to say much about the State Planning Authority in this debate but I shall do so on another occasion. The housing development of the Mount Druitt area is an indictment on the planning authority. I have received an intimation from it that

it is investigating a site for a hospital in the Mount Druitt area. I have been informed that various health authorities are ready, willing and able to build on land once it is made available for that purpose. Most honourable members know that I am chairman of Blacktown District Hospital. Unfortunately that hospital is grossly overcrowded. The Nepean District Hospital, not far away, also is bursting at the seams. The honourable member for Willoughby referred to the mortality rate of old people and the number of old people in his electorate. I represent a fertile community: the birthrate in the Mount Druitt electorate is higher than anywhere else in New South Wales.

I have no doubt that most members of this House have problems in their electorates which relate to lack of planning. Some time ago, when on the historic train ride from the city to Blacktown, I asked the Minister for Transport to endeavour to persuade the Government to alleviate conditions in overcrowded areas by providing community services. The Government elected a special Cabinet subcommittee to investigate that suggestion. That committee consisted of the Minister for Labour and Industry, formerly the Minister for Child Welfare and Social Welfare, the Minister for Local Government, the Minister for Child Welfare, formerly an assistant Minister, and the Minister for Housing. When this proposal was first investigated it had a burst of publicity. I endeavoured to help it along and I had partially arranged for the television programme *Four Corners* to devote some time to it. However, at that time that programme was not popular with the people in Canberra who are still fighting there today. My arrangements with *Four Corners* were hit on the head. However, I managed to arrange a small segment on education at Mount Druitt.

The provision of local services has been thrown into the lap of local-government authorities. I challenge anybody to show me how a local-government authority in a perimeter area of Sydney can obtain enough money to enable it to do other than normal council work. Local councils have no hope of engaging in development. They must

Mr Southee]

leave this to other authorities. The Minister has said that the Housing Act allows the Government to build houses. The Housing Commission builds houses and does an excellent job.

Mr CRABTREE: It does not build enough.

Mr SOUTHEE: That is so. Nevertheless the commission uses the money allocated to it judiciously and builds a good class of home. The Government should provide community centres before an area is developed, and argue later about who is to pay for them. The Housing Commission owns all the land in the centre of Mount Druitt and the State Planning Authority owns all the land around it. People wishing to use land for other purposes must look far from the densely populated area. I have made representations to many people in an attempt to obtain land for girl guides and boy scouts. I have been told that no land is available. I hope that future discussions with the Housing Commission will result in land being made available to these organizations.

As a result of the means test imposed by this Government, most of the people in my electorate are on low incomes. The Labor administration did not impose a means test on housing projects. My constituents, who are not wealthy—

Mr COLEMAN: That development was planned by the Labor administration.

Mr SOUTHEE: The Labor Government did not impose a means test under those schemes. I am perfectly aware of how it was planned. The Cumberland County Council was going very slowly, and as the Housing Commission was ready to start, the scheme was allowed to proceed. The Minister suggested that the plan be proceeded with so long as it conformed to the Cumberland County Council plan. Labor was anxious to build houses. I am not criticizing that scheme, but I am critical of the lack of amenities in my electorate. Members often attack government departments. Education is under attack. However, for once I pay a compliment to the officer in the Department of Education who

selected the principals of schools in the area. I do not know whether members opposite can appreciate the position. There are so many children in the district that teachers must be social workers as well as teachers. I have never met more dedicated people than the principals at these schools.

Mr CRABTREE: It happens in Beecroft too.

Mr SOUTHEE: I was leaving that. I shall forgive the honourable member who represents that area so long as the Beecroft ladies do so. Members ought not to attack public servants; I am against attacking anybody under the privilege of Parliament. Whenever we can praise a public servant who does good work, we should do so. As the local member, I place on record my appreciation of the wonderful service given to my constituents by school principals and all the clergymen of the Catholic Church, the Baptist Church and the Church of England.

My constituents have another problem which I should perhaps discuss when debating the work of the State Planning Authority. I refer to establishment of industry. The districts I represent badly need industries. Let us consider the Sydney Region Outline Plan, which gives an idea of the number of people who will live in outer suburban areas. The Government has not got past the horse-and-buggy days in its concept of transporting people between outer suburban areas and the city and inner suburbs. Industry must be established in outer suburban areas. The Government is making a big mistake. The Minister for Public Works knows that a great deal of the land available for industry in the outer suburbs is unsewered. Sewerage is essential in an industrial area.

The population of my electorate is subject to rapid fluctuations. With a high birthrate, there can be a significant increase in population almost overnight. It is an indictment of the Government and its planning methods that my electorate, with 35,000 people, has no baby health centre.

Mr MEAD: The Labor Government did nothing about it.

Mr SOUTHEE: This Government has had six years to do something about it. My constituents need a hospital in the area. The birthrate alone makes this necessary. Members opposite are always talking about the need to populate Australia. What about doing something for future Australians, young people in my electorate, the wonderful Australians who live out there? I look forward to co-operation from the Ministers in an effort to make the lot of my constituents much better.

Mr HUGHES (Armidale), Minister for Public Works [8.57]: I shall reply briefly to the honourable member for Mount Druitt, who said that industrial land in his electorate was unsewered. His constituents are reaping the whirlwind of Labor policy. In its last ten years of administration, the Labor Government released whole areas of unsewered land for industrial and housing purposes. It had no programme whatever for water and sewerage projects in those localities. This Government has completely changed that policy. Recently the honourable member for Campbelltown asked a question on notice about water and sewerage for an area that was released in 1961 when he was a member on the government side of this House. The Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board said at that time that there was no chance of providing water and sewerage there in the following fifteen years. In spite of this, the honourable member for Campbelltown asked in 1971 why the area was not getting water and sewerage. Having been a member of a party that had a policy of releasing land without providing essential services, he should have known Labor's shortcomings in that area. This Government has made a change in policy for the better. There will be no releases of land without these services. There is a sharp contrast between this practical approach and the dreadful approach by Labor, which expected young people to take up unsewered land, even without water, to build a home, and then to instal tanks and a septic system or put up with a night service. The Labor Government expected them to accept those living conditions. Labor members have suggested that this Government continue with a policy

of releasing land with no sewerage and no water. Apparently they think that is adequate development.

This has been a remarkable debate. This afternoon the Deputy Leader of the Opposition spoke for half an hour on costs and then moved an amendment to the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply on a matter he had not mentioned before in his speech—education. Then an amazing thing happened. The former shadow Minister for Education, the honourable member for Lakemba, who was displaced in that role by the honourable member for Wallsend, moved the gag. In the past five years I have heard members of the Opposition continually complain that the gag was being applied to prevent them from speaking and that in consequence they were losing their democratic rights. What happened this afternoon? In the course of his speech the Deputy Leader of the Opposition moved an amendment concerning education. Then the honourable member for Lakemba, supported by every other member of the Opposition, sought to have the gag applied so that there would be no further discussion on education in this Address-in-Reply debate. Where does the consistency lie in that? I am glad that the closure was defeated and that the honourable member for Miranda was then able to speak on education.

MR CRABTREE: So was I.

MR HUGHES: That is so, but the honourable member and his colleagues voted for the gag. This debate is probably one of the most important debates held in this House. I congratulate the new members who moved and seconded the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply and the other new members on both sides of the House who have made valuable contributions. Never before in the history of this Parliament have fifty-two speakers taken part in the Address-in-Reply debate. As I am the fifty-second speaker, there must have been twenty-five or twenty-six contributors from the other side of the House.

MR JENSEN: The Minister used to be the third or fourth speaker.

MR HUGHES: The best is being left until last. Although I have read everything that Opposition members have said in the debate I have not come across one constructive proposal in relation to the Government's programme or proposed legislation that was referred to in the Governor's Speech.

MR JENSEN: The Minister must have read through those speeches quickly.

MR HUGHES: I do not recall a speech made by the honourable member for Wyong.

MR JENSEN: I am coming in after the Minister.

MR HUGHES: The honourable member has had fifty-two chances to have his say, but he has not yet taken advantage of his opportunity. The Leader of the Opposition moved an amendment to the motion before the House.

MR CRABTREE: And the Government gagged it.

MR HUGHES: His amendment is still before the House and I am debating it. The Leader of the Opposition made some play on cost increases and rises in freight rates and fares. Members might be interested in this pamphlet that I am holding. It has a bold heading, "Fares Robbery", and it goes on to proclaim:

If you don't like it you can walk.

Out of the pockets of workers and housewives, pensioners and children, the State pays its way.

Protest.

Demand rescission of fare increases.

Not a penny more on fares.

Protest to your local members.

Send resolutions from your job to Parliament.

Only angry travellers can stop this robbery.

Don't just growl.

Gather in thousands at Parliament House, Macquarie Street.

Protest now.

That pamphlet which was issued by the Unions Protest Committee in 1951 when Labor held office, included the sentence, "If

you don't like it you can walk." Do members know who said that? It was the honourable member for Burrinjuck, who was then the Minister for Transport. Floods of crocodile tears have been wept in this House during the past fortnight over the recent fare increases. I well recall that just five years later after an election when Labor was returned to office and fares and freight rates had been increased, people were incensed that ordinary and weekly railway fares were increased by 33 per cent and season tickets by 45 per cent.

Mr MAUGER: That was a steep rise.

Mr HUGHES: I agree. On that occasion concessions on season tickets for female travellers were abolished, and their fares rose by 120 per cent. Also the suburban periodical ticket concession for people under the age of 18 years was abolished which meant a rise of 190 per cent in their fares. Now comes the cream, involving the people whom the Labor Party says it represents—the workers. The workman's weekly ticket went up by 62 per cent. In those days the trams were running. Bus and tram fares were increased for the first section journey by 66 per cent and 54 per cent, 60 per cent and 56 per cent respectively for the other sections. The fare increases of 1956 when a Labor government was in office bring into correct perspective the views that have been expressed over the past couple of weeks by the Opposition.

There is not the faintest doubt that a two-phase economic system applies in this State—one in rural areas and another in urban areas. These two diverse economies present the Government with considerable problems to overcome. Both the federal Government and this Government are concerned about these problems. Let us consider the action that has been taken to deal with them. Not one Opposition member has mentioned what has been done in that respect over the past six years. Not one of them referred to the drought or the floods that occurred later. They know that even though this Government inherited in 1965 the problems associated with drought, it did not inherit a drought policy or the necessary

finance to meet the costs associated with drought. In 1965 and 1966 this Government introduced a totally new approach to the rural crisis occasioned by the drought. It spent \$47,000,000 on drought relief.

Mr JOHNSTONE: The Government gave the people concerned nothing.

Mr HUGHES: The honourable member for Broken Hill knows precisely what was done for his constituents. He certainly knows about the freight concessions that cost the Government \$7,000,000 and the advances to farmers costing \$23,000,000—something that was never done by Labor. He knows also about the unemployment grants that kept towns like Cobar and Bourke going at a cost of \$16,000,000. A total of \$47,000,000 was outlaid to overcome the problems of drought but no sooner was it over than a drastic flood devastated the South Coast and areas in the North-west. This Government has had to find \$10,000,000 to repair damage to roads alone. It had to find immediately more than \$5,500,000 to repair rural roads and another \$4,500,000 was allocated to the Department of Main Roads, which is still working on its road repair programme. The Government has had to find something like \$7,000,000 in this financial year for this work. Although it is obvious that these costs have to be met by the taxpayer, not one Opposition member has referred to any of these factors.

I want to deal now with the question that the honourable member for Maroubra asked this afternoon in this House. I deplore the fact that any member should make in this House such a totally irresponsible statement.

Mr MALLAM: That is only the Minister's opinion. Table the papers in this House.

Mr HUGHES: It is also the opinion of those who are dealing with the matter. The honourable member for Campbelltown has made allegations about the provision of sewerage services for some of his constituents, and I have replied to him on the *Questions and Answers* paper to the effect that he as a member of the Government in 1961 agreed to releasing for sale land that was not

provided with either water or sewerage services. His present complaints establish the extent of his reliability so he would be well advised to keep quiet during the remainder of this debate. When the honourable member for Maroubra this afternoon made his completely irresponsible statements about pollution of water at Warragamba Dam I replied immediately that the allegation was untrue. Tonight I give the lie direct to the honourable member for Maroubra, who was obviously looking for headlines, not the truth.

I make the completely unqualified statement that there is no pollution in the waters of Warragamba Dam. There is not the faintest health risk at all and anyone who says otherwise is misleading the House and doing the public a disservice. Of course chemicals are used. They always have been used and always will be. We shall always need to use alum and chlorine to purify any source of water in this State. They are used now, and have been used for the past twenty years. The honourable member for Maroubra mentioned Prospect Dam and the filtration plant. This is part of the plant of the Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board. Is the honourable member saying that the chairman, or the deputy chairman, or the elected members of the board are completely irresponsible and that they will allow a polluted source to be used for Sydney's water supply? If he is saying so, let him put it in those terms instead of making the wild statements he made this afternoon.

A programme costing \$50,000,000, which will be started in 1975, for the treatment works at Prospect, will be completed in three years. This year the board will spend about \$89,000,000 on the greatest programme ever undertaken in the history of this State, involving the use of the total available resources of consultants and construction companies. This expenditure is part of a \$900,000,000 programme which is to be spread over the next ten years.

Mr F. J. WALKER: It is not enough.

Mr HUGHES: An interjection from the poor fellow from Georges River, who made many misstatements about mining in

national parks so incredible that he has been completely discredited. I referred to the \$900,000,000 programme to be completed during the next ten years. This programme, costing as much as the Snowy Mountains Scheme, which took twenty-five years to build, is to be completed in a period of ten years. In no other city in the world has such a programme been undertaken. This is what is happening now. This year and next year \$10,000,000 is being spent to try to overcome pollution problems that members of the Opposition, when they were in government, created by allowing the outfalls at Bondi and Maroubra to pollute the whole of the metropolitan beaches. In Labor's tenure of office there was no treatment at all, but we have introduced primary treatment and are introducing a screening system in a programme which will eliminate from the Sydney beaches the pollution that has been a blot on the escutcheon of this State and a blot on the escutcheon of Labor governments which allowed it to happen over Labor's twenty-four-year term of office. We are now recovering from the position.

I want to debunk completely the so-called pollution of the waters of Warragamba and to emphasize that the water being served to the people of Sydney is of the highest quality and of a standard that cannot be challenged by any tests applied to it. Let me turn briefly to some of the other programmes of the Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board. I have mentioned the \$900,000,000 programme, and this is how it will be applied: we have let contracts for the construction of the first stage of the Shoalhaven water supply scheme, which will cost \$80,000,000. There is to be amplification of major water mains throughout the whole area—work that will cost \$85,000,000. There will be provision of water and sewerage services to areas opened for development, and therein lies the contrast with what Labor did when it was in office. We are providing \$85,000,000 so that every section released for development in the Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board's area will have water and sewerage services instead of, as in the dark days of Labor, having none of these services.

We shall provide funds also to eliminate the pollution that Labor allowed to build up in this State. We are progressively overcoming the backlog of 190,000 unsewered homes in this area, again a legacy that this Government inherited from Labor. That is the dramatic story of the metropolitan area. In those ten years we are spending on water and sewerage services in Sydney more than has ever before been spent in the entire history of this State. This indicates the high priority that we give to these essential services and to combating pollution resulting from inefficient sewerage systems.

Mr COADY: What about the excessive increases in water rates?

Mr HUGHES: I thank the honourable member—I was waiting for that question. At the end of 1967–68 the Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board had a wages bill of \$32,000,000. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition harps on costs. What has happened now? The wages bill for the Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board in the past two years has increased by precisely \$16,900,000. In other words, in that period of two years there has been an increase in the board's wages bill of virtually 50 per cent. What have we done this year? To cover increased costs of \$16,900,000 we have increased water and sewerage charges by only \$12,500,000. There is the whole story. The problem is a cost increase brought about by increased wages. I believe that everyone in this State is worthy of his hire and that proper wages should be paid. Let us have no illusions about that. I point out that the increase in the consumer price index is much less than the rate of increase in wages. In other words, real wages have increased to a great degree.

I come to the next point which is that while this programme in the Sydney metropolitan area is going on, a similar programme is proceeding in the area serviced by the Hunter District Water Board. Both of these boards have recently come within my administration. We have at the same time ensured a tremendous acceleration in the provision of water and sewerage services in country areas. Prior to 1965, before I

became Minister, any town or shire in this State which qualified for a new water or sewerage scheme had to wait fourteen or fifteen years before getting a subsidy. In contrast, today, with this Government's stepped-up programme, the waiting time is only six or seven years, and I hope to improve it. Services for Gosford, Wyong, Woy Woy and other areas are benefiting from this programme.

Now let me come to the second part of the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition, in which he referred to the rural crisis—the only part of his amendment with which I agree. There is an extraordinarily difficult problem in the rural industry, which has been brought about by at least five factors: drought, flood, cost increases, falling wool prices and a limited oversea market.

I have outlined what the Government has done to ameliorate the effects of drought and floods. We have set ourselves out as a government to make a determined attack on the costs that affect rural producers. We promised to get rid of land tax. That was a tax introduced by Labor. Prior to the elections the honourable member for Heathcote said in this House that Labor wanted the re-introduction of land tax. Labor imposed it and we have abolished it. We on this side said that we intended to abolish land tax by 1971 and we abolished it in 1970—a year earlier than was promised. This is typical of how the coalition Government honours its promises.

Mr COADY: New South Wales is the last State to abolish land tax.

Mr HUGHES: That is not so. It still operates in South Australia and Western Australia. Those two States have Labor governments. The honourable member for Heathcote, obviously speaking for the Labor Party, said that Labor would re-introduce the tax. When the Government came to office in 1965 it was faced with extraordinarily poor storages for wheat. In five years the Government has doubled the storage capacity for wheat. If that is not a record, I have never heard of one.

For five years when we were in opposition we worked to have the charges for school bus travel wiped out. The honourable member for Castlereagh was then Premier and Treasurer and he said that this could not be done. Within a month after the elections in 1965 the Minister for Education introduced the system under which free school bus transport has become a reality. In the first place it relieved country people of about \$12,000,000 in costs involved in getting their children to school. These are the things that have been done to reduce the costs that country people must face. The Government introduced a free school text book programme to assist children in the high schools from first to sixth forms. We on this side introduced something that Labor said could not be done—a scheme to help those children who had to leave home to attend school. These are some of the things that we have done and they are of tremendous importance.

We have heard much talk about rural reconstruction. To be fair on this I must say that rural reconstruction in New South Wales has been continued over a period of twenty or twenty-four years and was in operation during the term of the Labor administration. In the existing circumstances it has become necessary to step up the pace and a vigorous rural reconstruction programme is proceeding.

Mr JACKSON: In the dairy industry?

Mr HUGHES: Yes, in the dairy industry. That comment came from a member of a party that denied the North Coast a proper outlet for its milk production.

[*Interruption*]

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

Mr HUGHES: The coalition Government established one dairy authority for the whole of New South Wales. This is one of the most progressive moves that has ever been made. Opposition members, when speaking in the milk zone say that this should not have been done, but when they speak in Casino and elsewhere on the North Coast they say that of course it should have been done. This is yet another achieve-

ment of this Government. The House might consider the dairy feed year programme, which was introduced to help the dairy farmer in difficulty by enabling him to improve his pastures. This programme has cost the Government \$5,000,000. Only in the past three weeks Cabinet has decided that it is to be extended for a further three years to assist those farmers who have not yet had the benefit of having one dairy authority for the whole of New South Wales. We introduced the build-up scheme and established the Sydney Farm Produce Market Authority which will give Sydney modern marketing facilities for all the vegetable and fruit products of New South Wales. Labor talked about new markets but did nothing and left the producers to slum it in the old market in the Haymarket. The new market at Homebush will provide a proper outlet for New South Wales fruit and vegetables.

I come now to the question of municipal and shire rating. The Government established the Local Government Assistance Fund. The allocation of \$5,000,000 this year to the fund means that local government participates in general tax revenue to the tune of \$9,000,000. The establishment of the fund was a breakthrough in Australia. I have no doubt that the allocation will be extended in the future. In the coming year the Government will provide the whole of the amount required for the maintenance and construction of trunk and main roads. This will become effective in 1971. In addition, local government is to be relieved of payroll tax—another \$4,000,000.

Not one constructive proposal has come from the twenty-six or twenty-seven Opposition speakers in this debate. It is pathetic and it must be disheartening for the public after the great press build-up about what the Leader of the Opposition would do as soon as Parliament met. I reject the amendment and support the motion.

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

Mr PETERSEN: Mr Speaker—

Mr GRIFFITH (Cronulla), Government Whip [9.27]: I move:

That the question be now put.

The House divided:

AYES, 45

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

NOES, 44

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

Resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the words (*Mr Einfeld's amendment*) proposed to be added to the proposed amendment be so added—put.
The House divided:

AYES, 44

Mr Bannon	Mr Day
Mr Barnier	Mr Degen
Mr Bedford	Mr Durick
Mr Cahill	Mr Earl
Mr Coady	Mr Einfeld
Mr Cox	Mr Flaherty
Mr Crabtree	Mr Gordon

Mr Haigh	Mr Petersen
Mr Hills	Mr Quinn
Mr M. L. Hunter	Mr Ramsay
Mr Jackson	Mr Renshaw
Mr Jensen	Mr Ryan
Mr Johnstone	Mr Sheahan
Mr Jones	Mr Sloss
Mr Kearns	Mr Southee
Mr L. B. Kelly	Mr J. J. T. Stewart
Mr R. J. Kelly	Mr K. J. Stewart
Mr Mahoney	Mr Wade
Mr Mallam	Mr F. J. Walker
Mr Mulock	
Mr Nott	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr O'Connell	Mr Booth
Mr Paciullo	Mr Ferguson

NOES, 46

Mr Askin	Mr Lewis
Mr Barraclough	Mr McCaw
Mr Jack Beale	Mr McGinty
Mr Bruxner	Mr Mackie
Mr Cameron	Mr Maddison
Mr Chaffey	Mr Mason
Mr Clough	Mr Mead
Mr Coleman	Mr Morris
Mr Cowan	Mr Morton
Mr Crawford	Mr Mutton
Mr Cutler	Mr Osborne
Mr Darby	Mr Punch
Mr Doyle	Mr Ruddock
Mr Duncan	Mr Singleton
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 Brewer
Mr Jago	Mr Mauger

Question so resolved in the negative.

Amendment of amendment negatived.

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

Mr PETERSEN: Mr Speaker—

Mr GRIFFITH (Cronulla) Government Whip [9.39]: I move:

That the question be now put.

The House divided:

AYES, 46

Mr Askin	Mr Darby
Mr Barraclough	Mr Doyle
Mr Jack Beale	Mr Duncan
Mr Bruxner	Mr Fife
Mr Cameron	Mr Fischer
Mr Chaffey	Mr Fisher
Mr Clough	Mr Freudenstein
Mr Coleman	Mr Griffith
Mr Cowan	Mr Healey
Mr Crawford	Mr Hughes
Mr Cutler	Mr D. B. Hunter

Mr Jackett
Mr Jago
Mr Lewis
Mr McCaw
Mr McGinty
Mr Mackie
Mr Maddison
Mr Mason
Mr Mead
Mr Morris
Mr Morton
Mr Mutton
Mr Osborne

Mr Punch
Mr Ruddock
Mr Singleton
Mr Stephens
Mr Taylor
Mr Viney
Mr Waddy
Mr N. D. Walker
Mr Willis

Tellers,

Mr Brewer
Mr Mauger

NOES, 44

Mr Bannon
Mr Barnier
Mr Bedford
Mr Booth
Mr Cahill
Mr Coady
Mr Cox
Mr Crabtree
Mr Day
Mr Degen
Mr Durick
Mr Earl
Mr Einfeld
Mr Ferguson
Mr Flaherty
Mr Gordon
Mr Haigh
Mr Hills
Mr M. L. Hunter
Mr Johnstone
Mr Jones
Mr Kearns
Mr L. B. Kelly

Mr R. J. Kelly
Mr Mahoney
Mr Mallam
Mr Mulock
Mr Nott
Mr O'Connell
Mr Paciullo
Mr Petersen
Mr Quinn
Mr Ramsay
Mr Renshaw
Mr Ryan
Mr Sheahan
Mr Sloss
Mr Southee
Mr J. J. T. Stewart
Mr K. J. Stewart
Mr Wade
Mr F. J. Walker

Tellers,

Mr Jackson
Mr Jensen

Resolved in the affirmative.

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

AYES, 44

Mr Bannon
Mr Barnier
Mr Bedford
Mr Booth
Mr Cahill
Mr Coady
Mr Cox
Mr Crabtree
Mr Day
Mr Degen
Mr Durick
Mr Earl
Mr Einfeld
Mr Ferguson
Mr Flaherty
Mr Gordon
Mr Haigh
Mr Hills
Mr M. L. Hunter
Mr Johnstone
Mr Jones
Mr Kearns
Mr L. B. Kelly

Mr R. J. Kelly
Mr Mahoney
Mr Mallam
Mr Mulock
Mr Nott
Mr O'Connell
Mr Paciullo
Mr Petersen
Mr Quinn
Mr Ramsay
Mr Renshaw
Mr Ryan
Mr Sheahan
Mr Sloss
Mr Southee
Mr J. J. T. Stewart
Mr K. J. Stewart
Mr Wade
Mr F. J. Walker

Tellers,

Mr Jackson
Mr Jensen

NOES, 46
Mr Lewis
Mr McCaw
Mr McGinty
Mr Mackie
Mr Maddison
Mr Mason
Mr Mead
Mr Morris
Mr Morton
Mr Mutton
Mr Osborne
Mr Punch
Mr Ruddock
Mr Singleton
Mr Stephens
Mr Taylor
Mr Viney
Mr Waddy
Mr N. D. Walker
Mr Willis

Tellers,

Mr Brewer
Mr Mauger

Question so resolved in the negative.

Amendment negatived.

Mr SPEAKER: The question now is, That the Address in Reply to the Governor's Opening Speech be now adopted by this House.

Mr PETERSEN: Mr Speaker—

Mr GRIFFITH (Cronulla), Government Whip [9.49]: I move:

That the question be now put.

[*Interruption*]

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Some honourable members seem rapidly to have forgotten the strictures I announced a short time ago about rude and disorderly interruption while the Speaker is on his feet. The question is, That the question be now put.

The House divided:

AYES: 46

Mr Askin
Mr Barraclough
Mr Jack Beale
Mr Bruxner
Mr Cameron
Mr Chaffey
Mr Clough
Mr Coleman
Mr Cowan
Mr Crawford
Mr Cutler
Mr Darby
Mr Doyle
Mr Duncan
Mr Fife

Mr Fischer
Mr Fisher
Mr Freudenstein
Mr Griffith
Mr Healey
Mr Hughes
Mr D. B. Hunter
Mr Jackett
Mr Jago
Mr Lewis
Mr McCaw
Mr McGinty
Mr Mackie
Mr Maddison
Mr Mason

Mr Mead	Mr Taylor
Mr Morris	Mr Viney
Mr Morton	Mr Waddy
Mr Mutton	Mr N. D. Walker
Mr Osborne	Mr Willis
Mr Punch	
Mr Ruddock	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr Singleton	Mr Brewer
Mr Stephens	Mr Mauger

NOES: 44

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

Resolved in the affirmative.

Motion agreed to.

MR SPEAKER: Order! I have to inform the House that I have ascertained it to be the pleasure of the Governor to receive the Address in Reply to His Excellency's Opening Speech at 3 o'clock, p.m., tomorrow, at Government House.

ADJOURNMENT

WATERFALL TO BULLI PASS TOLL ROAD

Mr WILLIS (Earlwood), Chief Secretary and Minister for Tourism and Sport [9.51]: I move:

That this House do now adjourn.

Mr JACKSON (Heathcote) [9.51]: I wish to raise an urgent matter of the utmost importance to certain constituents of mine at Waterfall and Helensburgh. It concerns the operations of a contractor constructing the unwarranted toll road from Waterfall to Bulli Pass. This toll road was the subject of lengthy discussion by me in this House when I questioned the policy of allowing certain contractors to carry out this

work. In reply to my criticism, the Minister for Local Government and Minister for Highways eulogized the contractors who were going to construct this road. I now find that they are the most arrogant people I have ever seen operate in any community. On numerous occasions I have raised this matter with the department and through the press, and I have brought to notice the wilful damage that these contractors are causing to health and property in this locality.

We have produced evidence of private and commercial buildings being absolutely ruined by the excessive use of explosives by these contractors. As late as last Monday I visited the homes of two of my constituents in Waterfall where little children had been subjected to falling rocks as a result of lack of proper precautions by the contractors when carrying out blasting operations. Further, no warning was given to the residents who live very close to the blasting operations.

I refer, also, to difficulties being experienced by Mr Pretty, who lives within a few hundred yards from the toll road. Mr Pretty does not enjoy good health and his son has suffered ill health for some years. These people are being disturbed at all hours of the night because these contractors refuse to take notice of pleas being made to them to carry out their operations within reasonable hours. I have witnessed these contractors carrying out construction work at two and three o'clock in the morning. I believe any resident of this State should be free from this nuisance and this type of inconvenience. The Government knows about it but does nothing to alleviate it. I appeal to the Minister to take immediate action.

I ask the Minister to do something tomorrow to prevent this contractor from operating in an arrogant fashion and causing damage to property and extreme inconvenience to my constituents. The contracting company should be made to toe the line and operate within reasonable hours and in such a way that excessive explosives are not used. It should be required to reduce to a minimum the noise in operating earth-moving equipment. The people of the South Coast have been most tolerant.

The contractor has been approached and the matter ventilated in the press. The Department of Main Roads has been informed of the situation and I have communicated with the Minister and the Department of Local Government and to give them details of what is happening in this area. All these representations have been to no avail. A toll road on the South Coast is unwarranted. If its construction were a matter of urgency, one might appreciate the need for the contractor to work at night. However, that is not the case. Almost everyone on the South Coast believes that the money being spent on this toll road should be used to improve the Princes Highway between Waterfall and Tom Ugly's Bridge.

MR JACKETT: On a point of order. The honourable member for Heathcote is now debating a matter of policy which has been dealt with by this Parliament on a number of occasions. The honourable member is in order in raising a matter of concern to his constituents but he is not in order in debating the general subject. He should be required to confine his remarks—

MR SPEAKER: Order! I propose to allow the honourable member to proceed. In order to clarify what may take place on the adjournment of the House I shall, within the next few days, make a short pronouncement which I hope will avoid points of order being taken during the adjournment debate. I propose to clarify the whole situation so that all honourable members will know where they stand. I will allow the honourable member for Heathcote to proceed.

MR JACKSON: The reason I have drawn to the attention of the House the acute feelings of my constituents with regard to this road development is that the contractor would have people believe he is being pressed by the Government to complete this toll road as soon as possible. Otherwise, he would be operating within normal hours. The honourable member for Tamworth is endeavouring to interject. I should like to hear how much that honourable member would complain if within a few hundred yards of his home an enormous bulldozer were operating throughout the night, roaring up and down a roadway that in any case is entirely unwarranted. I am

sure the honourable member would object to excessive blasting by any company. The Government did not have even the decency to consider certain local contractors for this work.

MR JACKETT: On a point of order. Again the honourable member is debating the issues in a blatantly disgraceful fashion.

MR SPEAKER: Order! I do not propose to stop the honourable member. When I make the statement that I have referred to it will be plain to the honourable member for Burwood and to other honourable members that I propose to change the practice. In the ten minutes available to a speaker on the adjournment I propose not to place any undue restrictions on the discussion. A period of ten minutes is little enough for an honourable member to canvass any matter that he wants to raise.

MR JACKSON: I hope the Minister will not only take immediate action to pull these contractors into line but also to compensate my constituents for having suffered so much loss of property and injurious affect on their health.

MR MORTON (Mosman), Minister for Local Government and Minister for Highways [10.0]: The honourable member for Heathcote is well known in this House for the many inaccurate statements that he makes from time to time. His outburst tonight is no exception. This Government wants the city of Wollongong to be served by the best possible road system. We recognize the importance of Wollongong; we have always done so. It is completely inaccurate for the honourable member to say that this road is not wanted. He should eat those words; he would not be game to utter them in the city of Wollongong. The honourable member has made a number of grossly inaccurate statements here tonight. I am not saying that his constituents' complaints are inaccurate; I do not know. I shall have a look at the position in the morning. I have not heard any of these complaints from him for the last six months.

MR JACKSON: I sent you a telegram. You are a liar.

MR MORTON: I shall have a look at the position in the morning.

Mr HEALEY: Mr Speaker, I object. The honourable member has called the Minister a liar.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Heathcote will withdraw that expression.

Mr JACKSON: I withdraw the word liar and say that the Minister—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member will withdraw the expression without qualification.

Mr JACKSON: I have done it.

Mr HEALEY: You have to do it often.

Mr SPEAKER: Just do it again without qualification.

Mr JACKSON: I withdraw the word liar and take a point of order.

Mr SPEAKER: What is the point of order?

Mr JACKSON: The honourable member for Davidson said that I have to do this often. I object to that remark and ask that he be directed to withdraw and apologize.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! They are not remarks that the Chair should order to be withdrawn in the circumstances.

Motion agreed to.

House adjourned at 10.3 p.m.

Legislative Council

Thursday, 19 August, 1971

Printing Committee (First Report)—Questions without Notice—Governor's Speech: Address in Reply (Seventh Day's Debate)—Special Adjournment—Adjournment (Business of the House).

The PRESIDENT took the chair at 4.28 p.m.

The Prayer was read.

PRINTING COMMITTEE

FIRST REPORT

The Hon. J. A. WEIR, as Chairman, brought up the First Report from the Printing Committee.

Ordered to be printed.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

STUDENT BEHAVIOUR AT UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The Hon. H. D. O'CONNELL: I direct a question without notice to the Vice-President of the Executive Council. Has the Minister received information which would enable him to reply to the question that I asked recently relating to the University of New South Wales?

The Hon. J. B. M. FULLER: In answer to questions asked by the Hon. H. D. O'Connell and the Hon. N. K. WRAN, I have conferred with Professor R. E. Vowels, acting vice-chancellor of the University of New South Wales in the absence overseas of Professor R. H. Myer, the vice-chancellor, with regard to unruly behaviour at the university on 9th August. Professor Vowels has informed me that damage to property at the university was negligible. He has no knowledge of any police brutality associated with the disturbance. The acting vice-chancellor expressed the opinion that excessive publicity was given to the students' actions on that occasion. I have received a letter from a student at that university who is a member of the particular college involved, praising the actions of police during these incidents. The student wrote that the police called to the disturbance at the university acted in a way that nobody could criticize. This was a voluntary letter from a student who in some way or other must have been at least a bystander when this disturbance occurred. His views must be of particular interest to honourable members and afford great credit to the police force.

The Hon. N. K. WRAN: He may have been the person who called the police.

The Hon. J. B. M. FULLER: I doubt it. That would not accord with the history of the incident as we know it. I believe that the answer given by Professor Vowels should play down the incident to its proper proportions, especially having regard to the tremendous amount of publicity given earlier to the matter.