Once again, primary industry is on the receiving end of the Government's authoritarian fist. The Government's action in overriding the Australian Wheat Board and forcing it to sell wheat to Egypt on terms and conditions dictated by the Government against the considered commercial judgement of the Board, is yet another example of an abuse of power. I am also advised that the Government is requiring the Board to carry a certain amount of the insurance risks on its own account. That basically means the growers themselves will be carrying the insurance risks if there is any forfeiture of payment by Egypt.

Apparently, primary producers are not only going to be used as instruments of foreign policy, they are going to have to pay the cost as well.

There is no limit to where this principle could lead. If the Government persists in forcing its will on bodies such as the Wheat Board, it will destroy all confidence of farmers in the statutory organisations established to market their products to the best advantage. For example, there must now be doubts about the terms of recent sales of wool and wheat to China.

Inevitably there must be a danger that the Government will be tempted to appoint 'yes men' to Boards, rather than run the risk that they will have political pressure put upon them and be exposed as a result.

By embarking on this course of deliberate interference, the Government has forfeited all rights to claim the confidence of primary producers. This is against the interests of producers and of the community.

The role of the Monarch in our constitution is sometimes not fully recognised. It has evolved over centuries. It provides a most valuable safeguard to our particular form of democratic Government.

Recent events in the United States have demonstrated in a dramatic way the advantages of separating the Head of State from the day to day business of Government and from the electoral processes involved in periodic changes of Government.

It has become clear to the world that there are very real advantages in having a Head of State quite divorced from political consideration, even though that Head of State has only limited and quite clearly defined powers.
But there are other less tangible reasons why we should retain our links with the Crown. The British Commonwealth of Nations, the successor to the old British Empire, is a remarkable, even unique, organisation. Even though it is a loose association of nations without any power to enforce decisions on its members, it provides the only forum in which countries of all races, with Governments of all political complexions, can come together to discuss problems and hopefully to evolve policies to their mutual advantage.

The bond that binds these countries may be a nebulous one in some respects, but it does have a very real and human personification in the Queen. She is the link, the symbol, which maintains the British Commonwealth, the only organisation of its kind in recorded human history.

It is always a major occasion when the Queen pays a visit to Parliament, especially as her official title is now Queen of Australia.

Most Commonwealth Departments and Authorities present their Annual Reports to Parliament at about this time each year, and one of the most interesting is always that of the C.S.I.R.O.

This year's report covers an even wider field than usual and is a reminder that this organisation is in the forefront of world research in many areas.

In primary industry, subjects under investigation include the possibility of being able to cull merino breeding stock at weaning time by studying a wool follicle curvature, protecting stored grain, the method of measuring wool fineness by sound waves, and using goats to clear scrub land.

Some other research projects are a radically new type of influenza vaccine which it is hope will prove effective against any strains that arise between now and 1978, using solar energy to kiln dry timber, clearing smoke from Power Stations, and studying radio signals from stars at a great distance from earth.

In all these fields we are up with the latest work in the world, and in many cases, are ahead of any other country.