

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 1969

Electronic reproduction of original hardcopy

**WEDNESDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER,
1969**

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

QUESTIONS

CONSTRUCTION OF DAMS, WIVENHOE
AND MIDDLE CREEK

Mr. Bousen, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

(1) Is it proposed to proceed with the construction of a dam at Wivenhoe, or in the Middle Creek area in the Brisbane Valley? If so, how much land will be inundated and how many and what types of farms will be affected?

(2) What will be the format of compensation for any land inundated?

(3) What proposal has been made for the resettlement of those affected?

(4) Have any investigations been made into the effects on the economy and stability of the township of Esk and in particular will the loss of dairy farms bring about the closure of the Esk butter factory?

Answers:—

The Honourable Member for Somerset has been most active in this matter since its commencement both as the local member and as Minister for Local Government and Conservation. However, for the information of the Honourable Member for Toowoomba West, I would advise:—

(1) "Sites at present under investigation for future water supply to the Brisbane Area include Wivenhoe and Middle Creek in the Brisbane River Valley. Following the preparation of a report, which is nearing completion, a recommendation will be made by the Co-ordinator-General."

(2) "At this stage it is not known if the proposal will proceed but, should it do so, the land which will be inundated will be resumed under "The Acquisition of Land Act of 1967," and dispossessed owners will be entitled to claim compensation under the provisions of that Act."

(3) "The compensation payable to dispossessed land-holders will be sufficient for them to re-establish, in comparable conditions, if they wish to do so."

(4) "The report under preparation will include considerations of the loss of production and the economy of the township of Esk."

EMPLOYEES ON CONSTRUCTION WORK
AT QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY

Mr. Jensen, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

Has his attention been drawn to the article in *The Courier-Mail* of September 10 in which it was stated that the University Senate hoped to become its own constructing authority instead of having the Co-ordinator-General handle construction? If so, what are the prospects for the employees now working at the University under the Co-ordinator-General's Department?

Answer:—

"Yes. Should a change occur it is considered that the prospects of the employees in question would remain unaltered."

PUBLIC WORKS SURVEY FOR TOWNSVILLE

Mr. Tucker, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

In view of the depressed state of the building industry in the Townsville area and the financial recession which business generally is experiencing from this, freight rates and other causes, will he have an immediate survey made with a view to having a crash programme of public works instituted to restore the position? If not, why?

Answer:—

"I cannot reconcile the statement by the Honourable Member that there is a financial recession in the Townsville area when it is generally recognised that Townsville is one of the fastest growing cities in Queensland. I am satisfied that there is no justification for the sweeping statement made by the Honourable Member in his Question."

WITHDRAWAL OF SCHOOL RAIL-MOTOR
SERVICES, TOWNSVILLE

Mr. Tucker, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Transport,—

(1) Are rail-motors used to convey school children from Birigaba to Townsville and Ingham to Townsville to be withdrawn from November 30, 1969? If so, why were the unions concerned and the Railway Department, Townsville, left to obtain this information second-hand from the parents of children who had been advised by officers of the Education Department?

(2) If the motors are to be withdrawn, what is the reason and what will be the financial savings to the Department?

Answers:—

(1) "The rail motors on the Birigaba to Townsville run will be withdrawn from service as from December 5, 1969. The Railway Department in Townsville is aware of the arrangements; in fact, the information concerning this matter was supplied by the Townsville office. The Townsville-Ingham rail-motor service is under review. No decision has been made in respect of it."

(2) "The weekly cost of operation of these rail-motor services is \$169.18, as against the total revenue of \$81.40."

PROPOSED BALLOT FOR "MOUNT HARRIS"
GRAZING BLOCK

Mr. Tucker, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Lands,—

(1) Was a grazing block south of Charters Towers, known as "Mount Harris", to be balloted for on May 9, 1968?

(2) Had the identifying lithographs been issued by his Department previous to this date?

(3) Was the block withdrawn from the ballot before the due date and, if so, what was the reason?

(4) Who was the registered lessee prior to the proposed ballot?

(5) Who now holds the land and under what tenure?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "Yes."

(3) "Yes. The block, after further investigation, was considered substandard in relation to other blocks in the locality."

(4) "William James Prichard and Gerald Frederick Henry Prichard as tenants in common in equal interests."

(5) "William James Prichard and Gerald Frederick Henry Prichard as tenants in common in equal interests hold the land as part of Mount Ravenswood Preferential Pastoral Holding. After special inquiry by the Land Administration Commission and having regard to size and productive capacity of other new leases granted in the locality, it was decided that the lessees were entitled to renewal of lease of the whole of the land comprised in the former lease."

The hon. member for Flinders indicated to me a few minutes ago that during the Budget debate he will be talking on this very matter and will support the decision made by the department.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! No comment is permitted in either questions or answers.

COST OF STATE GENERAL ELECTIONS
HELD IN 1966 AND 1969

Mr. Ramsden, pursuant to notice, asked
The Premier,—

(1) Is there any convenient way that the total cost to the State of a general election can be readily determined? If so, what was the cost of the election held on May 17, 1969? If not, when will this information come to hand?

(2) Has the cost of the 1966 State Election been determined? If so, what amount was involved?

Answers:—

(1) "The cost to date of the 1969 general election is \$214,359."

(2) "The total cost of the 1966 general election was \$185,154."

FODDER FOR STARVING STOCK, MONTO
AND EIDSVOLD

Mr. Davies, pursuant to notice, asked The
Minister for Transport,—

(1) As wagons and New South Wales fodder for starving stock have been held at Monto for periods varying from one to three weeks, what action is he taking to rectify this delay?

(2) Is he aware that fodder produced in the Monto area is dearer than the imported grain and is being sent from the Monto district to Alpha and other parts of the State?

(3) Are loading and unloading facilities at Monto adequate? If not, what is being done to improve them?

(4) Is it a fact that only one wagon can be unloaded there each day?

(5) During each month of this year, how much (a) rebate has been granted on fodder brought into Monto and forwarded out of Monto and (b) demurrage has been paid by the Department at the Monto centre?

(6) How many wagons were held at Monto last week?

(7) What delays are occurring at Eidsvold and what are the causes of delays at that centre?

Answers:—

(1) "The Honourable Member for the district is concerned about this matter. The cause of the delays referred to is not with the Railway Department but with the consignees who are being pressed to unload the wagons. Meantime, demurrage is being enforced."

(2) "No."

(3 and 4) "There is adequate siding accommodation with road access thereto, to enable the traffic to be promptly dealt with."

(5) "(a) This information would require to be specially extracted. (b) Demurrage—Nil."

(6) "Nine."

(7) "Very little delay is occurring at Eidsvold. There are three wagons there today, which arrived on September 23. It is expected that these will be cleared today."

PERMITS TO OPERATE ROAD TRAINS,
CENTRAL QUEENSLAND

Mr. V. E. Jones, pursuant to notice, asked
The Minister for Mines,—

As the severe drought in Central Queensland is causing large numbers of stock to be shifted from property to property, to rail loading centres and the Gracemere saleyards, will he make arrangements for the granting of permits to livestock carriers to operate road trains so that cattle can be shifted more economically and so assist stock owners?

Answer:—

"Permits for over regulation length vehicles and vehicle combinations are issued by the Police Department on the recommendation of the appropriate Main Roads District Engineer. I understand that permits have currently been issued to railheads over the major portion of the area covered by the Question. However, in the interests of traffic safety, it is not possible to recommend the issue of permits east of Emerald on the Capricorn Highway, or east of railheads at Theodore, Moura or Daringa because of the high traffic volumes on the roads in these areas."

BAMAGA SHOW HOLIDAY FOR THURSDAY
ISLANDERS

Mr. B. Wood, pursuant to notice, asked
The Minister for Labour and Tourism,—

As he has displayed ignorance of conditions at Thursday Island and Bamaga, especially the desire of residents to overcome problems associated with isolation and their wish to display the resources of their area, will he recognise that the Bamaga Show is *THE* show for the Torres Straits?

Answer:—

"The Honourable Member is referred to my Answer of yesterday and section 14 (3) of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Acts."

PROTECTION OF SHORE-BASED PRAWN-
PROCESSING PLANTS

Mr. B. Wood, pursuant to notice, asked
The Minister for Conservation,—

What action is his Department taking legislatively to protect shore-based prawn-processing plants from activities of "mother" ships?

Answer:—

"A general review of fisheries administration and legislation in Queensland is at present in hand. It is too early yet to indicate precisely what changes will be made and when amending legislation will be approved for presentation to Parliament. At the same time I can assure the Honourable Member that I am conscious of the need for early action to control the activity of "mother" ships in Queensland waters."

KARUMBA PRAWN-PROCESSING PLANTS

Mr. Houghton, pursuant to notice, asked
The Minister for Conservation,—

(1) Did the Government recently call tenders for the leasing of four blocks of land at Karumba for prawn receival or processing plants?

(2) Is he aware that some of the processing plants at Karumba have recently closed down due to the shortage of prawns?

(3) Will he consider withholding further permits in this area until the industry warrants their issue?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "There is only one processing plant at Karumba and one depot. Although activity at each of these establishments has eased due to a shortage of prawns neither has closed down."

(3) "The question of issuing further permits will be reconsidered when tenders for the four blocks referred to in the first Question are being examined."

PROPOSED DEED UPON TRUST FOR
RECREATION PURPOSES, TOWNSVILLE

Mr. Alkens, pursuant to notice, asked
The Minister for Lands,—

(1) Have all details been finalised for the creation of a new Trust to control the sports reserve at Townsville?

(2) Does the new Deed of Trust or similar document provide that portion of the sports reserve be leased to an oil company for the purpose of erecting and operating a service station thereon and, if so, under what terms and conditions will this lease be granted and to whom will the lease fees or payments be made?

Answers:—

(1) "No."

(2) "No part of the proposed Deed of Grant upon Trust for Recreation purposes is to be leased to an oil company. However, when the Townsville Rugby League is ready to form the Townsville Rugby League Club, consideration will be given to excision of an area from the Trust land so that a Special Lease can be granted to such club. I understand that the club proposes to sublet the area of such proposed lease to an oil company on the basis that the sublessee will construct a clubhouse on the second floor level with the vending of petrol on the ground floor. Whilst the proposition has been canvassed by the Townsville Rugby League, a decision in the whole matter must necessarily await lodgment of a formal application."

CONFERENCE ON MINING ACTIVITIES
IN AYR SHIRE

Mr. Bird, pursuant to notice, asked The
Minister for Mines,—

In view of the concern of members of the Ayr Shire Council that an authority to carry out actual mining activities in their Shire could be issued and that these mining activities could have a detrimental effect on waters of the underground basin from which the district's water is drawn, will he accede to the Council's request for a representative of his Department to attend a conference with Council members?

Answer:—

"Yes. A representative of my Department will confer with members of the Ayr Shire Council."

ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR
QUEENSLAND SCHOOLS

Mr. Bird, pursuant to notice, asked The
Minister for Education,—

As the constitution of the Queensland State Primary Schools' Amateur Athletic Association does not permit the participation of non-State schools in the annual athletic championships, will he consider staging championships which would be open to pupils of all Queensland schools?

Answer:—

"The Queensland Amateur Athletics Association conducts school-boy championships in October for school boys in age divisions down to the under-twelve division. The whole range of athletic events is offered for competition. Similar championships are held for girls by the Queensland Women's Amateur Athletics Association. These competitions are open to all school children from State and non-State schools in any part of the State of Queensland. I feel that there is no need to stage another competition."

SURVEY OF WATER CONTENT OF RIVER SANDS

Mr. Wallis-Smith, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Conservation,—

(1) Have any accurate surveys been made as to the water content of the river sands in Queensland rivers and, if so, on what date?

(2) If not, will he consider a survey of river sands especially in the north and west where irrigation would be of great value?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes. An accurate survey was made in 1968 of the water content of the river sand of the Haughton River, near Giru."

(2) "The Irrigation and Water Supply Commission is proceeding with the investigation and measurement of groundwater supplies to the limit of its staff and financial resources. The importance of groundwater stored in river sands especially in the North and West of Queensland is fully appreciated. However, other heavy demands on the State's funds for water resources investigation and development prevent any significant increase in the allocation available. During the past year the entire allocation of \$341,500 was expended on groundwater investigations in sixteen separate areas as far apart as Weipa in the north and Charleville in the south-west. Of this amount \$125,000 was provided by the Commonwealth Government under its *State Grants (Water Resources Measurement) Act 1967*. Groundwater investigations in the current year's programme include the Flinders, Burke, Warrego and Isaac rivers."

WATER SUPPLY FOR EDWARD RIVER COMMUNITY

Mr. Wallis-Smith, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Conservation,—

(1) Has any improvement been made to the underground water supply to Edward River residents? If so, what has been done?

(2) Will he consider the provision of an adequate water supply to allow the growing of vegetables and shrubs which would greatly improve the existing surroundings?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "Improvement has been made to the water supply at Edward River as an interim measure. However, an assured and adequate water supply will entail considerable reassessment of supply sources and currently the drilling of a deep bore is under consideration. Policy is directed towards providing sufficient water to meet all needs."

ELECTRICITY GENERATING PLANT FOR EDWARD RIVER COMMUNITY

Mr. Wallis-Smith, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Conservation,—

(1) Has any consideration been given to the supply of 240-volt power for Edward River? If so, when is it intended to establish a generating plant of sufficient output to provide power for all homes and other requirements?

(2) If there are no plans at present to establish such a plant, will he give early consideration to providing electric power for the area?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "Provision of 240-volt power for Edward River and other centres which do not enjoy this facility is continually under review. It is not possible at this time to indicate when a suitable plant will be available for Edward River. The Honourable Member is assured that needs are not overlooked and are reviewed in the light of financial circumstances, coincidental with all other requirements."

UNITED GRAZIERS' ASSOCIATION'S REQUEST FOR LOW-INTEREST LOAN

Mr. Aiken, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

(1) Is he aware that the Queensland President of the United Graziers' Association is to visit Canberra in the immediate future for the purpose of requesting a loan of \$100 million, at low interest rates, to rehabilitate the pastoral industry in Queensland?

(2) Has the United Graziers' President or any other responsible officer of this organisation discussed this matter with him or any member of his Cabinet? If so, what action is being taken by the Government in support of this request?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "No, but the Minister for Local Government and Electricity attended the recent meeting in Longreach when the problems of the Pastoral Industry were discussed."

SHORTAGE OF RAILWAY WHEAT WAGONS, DARLING DOWNS

Mr. Bousen, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Transport,—

(1) Is he aware that there is an acute shortage of rail wagons on the Darling Downs for carting bailed wheat? If so, has his attention been drawn to the fact that this wheat is required for starving stock and its life and value is very limited because it has been frost-bitten?

(2) Has he received complaints concerning the cost involved for double cartage, (a) from a property to a storage depot and (b) from this point to rail wagons when available, which is causing financial hardship?

(3) In view of the urgency of the situation, will he arrange for this type of fodder to have first priority for the supply of wagons?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) "All orders for wagons for baled wheat have been met to date and every effort will continue to be made to meet orders placed by consignors for this type of fodder and other customers of the Department. The Department has already some 585 wagons under load with fodder and further wagons being loaded."

COPYRIGHT LAW AND PHOTO-COPYING OF SCHOOL TEXT BOOKS

Mr. Hanson, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Justice,—

(1) Is he aware of a warning given by Mr. G. C. O'Donnell, Chairman of the Australian Copyright Council, to teachers, principals and Ministers for Education, including the Minister in this State, that anyone using a photocopy machine in a school uses it at risk of action in law for restraint or damages?

(2) Did the Minister for Education or the Education Department refer such warning to his Department for advice or opinion?

(3) If the Federal copyright laws in this matter are held as being sound in law, has the Education Department sought from his Department, in an interpretative sense, the position of textbooks being photocopied for research or private study exclusively?

(4) Has the matter of the copyright law been raised at the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General seeking uniform clarification of the question of photocopying of textbooks in schools?

Answers:—

(1 to 3) "These Questions relate to matters which come under the administration of my colleague the Honourable the Minister for Education."

(4) "No."

CROWN LEASE AND RENTAL EXTENSIONS IN DECLARED DROUGHT AREAS

Mr. Casey, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

Has any decision been made, similar to that made in 1965, to extend the lease and rental period for those occupying

Crown leasehold lands in declared drought areas? If not, will he give urgent attention to this matter which is of great importance to those people in rural industries who are struggling through this crippling drought?

Answer:—

"No, but the Government is continually examining methods by which drought-relief measures might practically be extended. I would refer the Honourable Member to my Answer on August 26 to a Question when I dealt in detail with the financial responsibilities undertaken by the Government in its current Drought Relief Assistance Scheme."

SUBSIDISING OF ROAD TRANSPORT OF MOLASSES IN MACKAY HINTERLAND

Mr. Casey, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Primary Industries,—

As there is no rail access to areas in the Mackay hinterland, will he approve a subsidy of 5 cents per ton-mile for molasses purchased from sugar mills in the Mackay district and transported by registered road carriers direct to properties in the declared drought areas of the Mackay hinterland, such subsidy to be on similar lines to that now operating at St. George?

Answer:—

"This question of a road transport subsidy for molasses in the Mackay hinterland has already been raised with me by the Honourable Member for Mirani. The subsidy of 5 cents per ton-mile on fodder produced in the St. George Irrigation Area was introduced to assist growers in that area to preserve some of the market for fodder which they had been building up in the surrounding district. This had been jeopardised by the subsidies on rail and road transport of fodder from other sources. In the case of molasses for use in the drought feeding of stock in the Mackay hinterland however, it is possible for graziers in these drought-declared areas to purchase molasses consigned by rail to their nearest siding or molasses from their nearest mill whichever is the cheaper. This allows them two alternative avenues for the purchase of molasses, supplies of which are now readily available. In these circumstances, I regret that I cannot support the granting of a 5 cents per ton-mile subsidy on molasses purchased from sugar mills in the Mackay district by graziers in the region."

ROAD CLOSURE, HAY POINT AREA

Mr. Casey, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Lands,—

(1) Has an application for closure of a road between Portions 742, 26 and 1108, County of Carlisle, Parish of Hector, near Hay Point, been received and processed by his Department?

(2) If so (a) were the landowners in the area given the opportunity of objecting to this closure in the normal way and (b) was the local authority concerned notified of the closure proposal?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "I am advised that certain actions in this connection are proceeding at this stage under the provisions of the Railways Acts and accordingly I suggest that the Honourable Member re-direct his Question to my Cabinet colleague, the Minister for Transport."

SALE OF PROPERTIES AND LAND BY ROCKHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

Mr. Wright, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Local Government,—

(1) What freehold properties and land under registered title to the Rockhampton City Council have been sold during the last 12 years?

(2) What was the sale price of each?

(3) What was the date of each sale?

(4) Who were the purchasers?

(5) Why were the properties and land sold?

(6) To what use was the money received by the Council put?

Answers:—

(1 to 4) "*The Valuation of Land Acts, 1944 to 1959*" and regulations made thereunder provide that any person, upon payment of the prescribed fees, may obtain from the Valuer-General particulars or information of the type referred to in this part of the Honourable Member's Question. I would accordingly refer him to the relevant provisions of the Acts and regulations in regard thereto."

(5 and 6) "I have no knowledge of these matters."

CONTRACT FREIGHT RATES, QUEENSLAND RAILWAYS

Mr. Wright, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Transport,—

Further to his Answer to my Question on September 18 regarding negotiated freight rates and in view of published estimations by the D.I.D.—

(1) Is approximately 75 per centum of merchandise carried by the Queensland Railways on a negotiated contract basis?

(2) Do contract rates vary between 39 and 52 per centum of the normal rate for merchandise, class II?

(3) Is the special rate negotiated between the State Government and the mining company in Central Queensland below that of these special negotiated rates, being as low as \$1.942 per ton?

(4) Are manufacturers, producers, distributors and consumers in country areas at a considerable financial disadvantage because of the disproportionate tapering of freights which is evident in the figures given by him?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) "The information sought by the Honourable Member involves considerable detail and would take some time to extract. I do not propose to do this for the purpose of this Question. The Government has decided to have carried out a freight investigation and some of the matters raised in this Question will be examined by the consultants appointed to carry out the investigation."

RAIL SIDING FOR AUSTRAL-PACIFIC FERTILIZERS LTD., BUNDABERG

Mr. Jensen, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Transport,—

When will the proposed rail siding for Austral-Pacific Fertilizers Ltd. at Bundaberg be put into operation?

Answer:—

"Further information is to be supplied by the company as to the position of its buildings in order that the final location of the siding may be decided and construction put in hand."

NEW UNIFORMS FOR RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

Mr. Davies for Mr. Harris, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Transport,—

Have any new sample railway garments been made and submitted for approval? If so, what is the name of the clothing manufacturer who made them?

Answer:—

"A tunic and one pair of trousers were manufactured by Messrs. Struthers and Adams as a suggestion of the type of tunic and trousers which might be adopted. This firm also supplied a shirt and tie. Messrs. Woulfe and Son manufactured a tunic and a pair of trousers to the style which was suggested by Messrs. Struthers and Adams. A new style uniform for railway refreshment rooms staff is being obtained from Messrs. B. J. Howes, clothing manufacturer of 15 Charlotte Street, Brisbane, and issue of this new uniform has been made to the dining car staffs. A uniform has been issued to the station

mistresses in the Brisbane suburban area, and these uniforms are obtained from Messrs. Uniform Specialists Queensland Pty. Ltd., 160 Edward Street, Brisbane."

CHANGE IN POLICE UNIFORMS

Mr. Davies for **Mr. Harris**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Works,—

(1) Has any decision been made to change the style or colour of Queensland police uniforms?

(2) If so, will the present Advisory Committee, formed by the Minister for Transport to consider sample railway garments, be consulted in connection with the sample police garments or will a new committee be formed?

Answers:—

(1) "No."

(2) "See Answer to (1)."

STEEL FOR USE AT TULLY HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. F. P. Moore, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Education,—

As steel is essential for the courses in State high schools and the Tully High School is in urgent need of this material, will he see that it is immediately supplied to the high schools in the Electorate of Mourilyan?

Answer:—

"Yes. Part of the issue of steel for Tully High School was despatched by the supplying firm on June 20. The remaining portion is now being forwarded."

FEES CHARGED BY DENTAL TECHNICIANS FOR REPAIRS TO DENTURES

Mr. Davies for **Mr. Melloy**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Health,—

Is there any section of the Dental Acts or Regulations which prevents a dental technician from legally repairing a denture for a fee when the repair entails no physical contact with the owner of the denture? If so, what is the relevant section and how is it applied?

Answer:—

"Section 20 of *The Dental Acts, 1902 to 1961*," prohibits the practice of dentistry by a person who is not a medical practitioner or a person registered under the Dental Acts, "Dentistry" is defined to include the construction or adjustment of artificial teeth for a human subject except in the case of the mechanical construction by an artisan of artificial dentures or other devices for registered dentists. An offender may be prosecuted, the penalty on conviction being not less than \$40 nor more than \$200."

PEDESTRIAN OVERBRIDGE, GEEBUNG RAILWAY STATION

Mr. Davies for **Mr. Melloy**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Transport,—

(1) Have plans been drawn up and estimates compiled for the construction of a pedestrian overbridge at Geebung railway station?

(2) What is the estimated cost and when will construction commence?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "No plan has been prepared, but an estimated cost of a timber footbridge is \$4,400. The works' programme does not provide for the provision of such an overbridge in this financial year."

TOURIST SURVEY OF QUEENSLAND

Mr. R. Jones, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Labour and Tourism,—

(1) Further to his Answer to my Question on September 18 concerning the tourist survey of Queensland presently being carried out, what organisations and/or Government departments are involved in the project?

(2) What is the extent of the State Government's contribution and what is the estimated over-all cost?

(3) What is the anticipated date of completion and to whom will the report be made available?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) "On October 24, 1968, I announced during the concluding stages of the third State-wide Tourist Industry Seminar that a research project to assess the value of Queensland's tourist industry is to be undertaken during the next two years by the State Government and the University of Queensland. It had been evident for some time that there was a need for accurate estimates of the industry's value, present and future, in planning for anticipated extensive expansion in the years ahead and the project would represent an important step forward in the industry's development. The research would embrace the kinds of markets on which the tourist industry should concentrate and eventually would become the basis of future planning and expansion of the industry in Queensland and it would be made as a thesis for a Masters' Degree under the supervision of the Head of the Department of Economics at the University. Arrangements were made with the Deputy Commonwealth Statistician who is also the State Statistician for a research officer of the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics to be seconded to the Department of

Economics to carry it out. The State Government's contribution, spread over three financial years will be \$19,237. In addition the Bureau of Census and Statistics is making its services including computer time available. Overseas, inter-State and domestic tourists would be interviewed personally, in all of the major tourist resorts in the State during research. Professor Gates of the University saw me last week and reported that interviewers have been engaged and interviews will commence next week throughout Queensland. An appropriate form of questionnaire has been prepared in consultation with Professor Gates and his staff, the State Statistician and officers of my Department. Where it is not convenient nor possible for personal interviews to be made, endeavours will be made to obtain the information by mail. It is expected the survey will be completed during the financial year 1970-71 and the results of the survey will be made available after they have been analysed by the University."

BAGASSE DUST NUISANCE, FAR NORTHERN SUGAR-MILLING TOWNS

Mr. R. Jones, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Health,—

(1) Further to his Answer to my Question on September 7, 1967, concerning the bagasse nuisance in far North Queensland sugar-milling towns, have the Director of Air Pollution Control, the Director of Industrial Medicine and the Director of the Research Institute at Mackay, in collaboration or separately, yet devised techniques to combat this problem and, if so, will he urgently consider having their recommendations implemented as early as possible?

(2) If not, in view of the general nuisance and the health hazard to sufferers of bronchitis, asthma and other respiratory conditions, created by bagasse and/or megasse from these mills, will he arrange for fall-out arrestors to be installed or similar set standards to be met to prevent this practice at an early date?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "The Director of the Sugar Research Institute, Mackay, has advised that the institute has a pilot plant operating to test methods of the elimination of the bagasse nuisance. In addition, one mill is conducting a trial using a wet scrubbing method and another mill is using a dry cyclone type installation. When these tests are completed the results will be forwarded to the Air Pollution Council which will use them as a guide for the determination of emission standards when areas in which sugar mills are situated are proclaimed under the Clean Air Act."

LOAN ALLOCATIONS TO PROVINCIAL CITIES

Mr. R. Jones, pursuant to notice, asked The Treasurer,—

What are the loan allocations for the year 1969-70 to the provincial cities of (a) Townsville, (b) Toowoomba, (c) Rockhampton, (d) Ipswich, (e) Gold Coast, (f) Cairns, (g) Mackay, (h) Bundaberg, (i) Maryborough, (j) Mt. Isa, (k) Gladstone and (l) Gympie?

Answer:—

"I refer the Honourable Member to my Answer to a Question asked by the Honourable Member for Ipswich East on August 21 last. The information regarding the other cities is as follows:—Ipswich, \$1,350,000; Cairns, \$801,621; Mackay, \$715,000; Bundaberg, \$300,000; Maryborough, \$413,928; Mt. Isa, \$1,400,000; Gladstone, \$1,640,000; Gympie, \$358,973."

PAPER

The following paper was laid on the table, and ordered to be printed:—

Report on the Operations of the Sub-departments of the Department of Health—"Eventide" (Sandgate), "Eventide" (Charters Towers), "Eventide" (Rockhampton), and Queensland Industrial Institution for the Blind (South Brisbane) for the year 1968-1969.

ORDER IN CHAMBER DURING QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! There is too much audible conversation on both sides of the Chamber.

FORM OF QUESTION

Mr. WRIGHT (Rockhampton South) having given notice of a question—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member knows full well that he cannot dictate the type of answer he wishes to obtain from the Minister. I will have a close look at the question. It would appear that too many questions along the same lines are being asked on the same subject, to which answers have already been given.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS AND GRIEVANCES; ADDITIONAL SITTING DAY

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

"That, during this session, unless otherwise ordered,—

(1) On the days on which general business has precedence of Government business—

(a) The time allocated for speeches on private notices of motion shall be:—Mover of the motion, twenty-five minutes; seconder of the motion and

any other member, fifteen minutes; the mover in reply, ten minutes, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order No. 109; and

(b) On each alternate sitting Thursday, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order No. 37, a question shall be proposed by Mr. Speaker, 'That grievances be noted', to which question any member may address the House for ten minutes. If this question is still under consideration at 1 o'clock p.m. the debate thereon shall be brought to a conclusion by Mr. Speaker putting the question:

Provided that the consideration of the business of Supply may take precedence on these days.

(2) The House will meet for the dispatch of business at 11 o'clock a.m. on Friday in each week, in addition to the days already provided by Sessional Order, and that Government business do take precedence on that day."

Motion agreed to.

AUDIT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier) (11.47 a.m.): I move—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

As I informed hon. members in my introductory speech, this is a simple Bill to adjust the salary payable to the Auditor-General by granting him an increase in salary comparable to that given to other senior government officers earlier this year in the variation of the Public Service Award—State by the Industrial Commission.

The Opposition, through the hon. member for Townsville North, indicated its support for the principles of the Bill as I outlined them in my introductory speech. I have nothing to add to the details I gave at that stage.

However, I should like to take this opportunity to pay a tribute to the various Auditors-General whom the State has been fortunate in having over the past years. In particular, I should like to mention Mr. N. E. Kropp, who, as all hon. members know, retired from this office on 5 September last after 2½ years' service. Mr. Kropp was a man who, I am sure, was highly respected by hon. members on both sides of the House. He gave a service of more than 50 years to the State of Queensland. Of that period, he spent almost 36 years in the Department of the Auditor-General. Mr. Kropp also spent 13 years in the Transport Department, first as Deputy Commissioner and later as Commissioner. Here again he rendered excellent service to the State and to the Government of the day.

I should also like to say that Queensland is indeed fortunate in having a man such as Mr. J. A. Sewell, I.S.O., to succeed Mr. Kropp. He will take up his new position as from 1 January next year. Mr. Sewell has been the Government's chief financial adviser since he was appointed Under-Treasurer in 1960, and the wide experience which he has had, particularly in Federal-State financial relationships and local government matters, will make him an invaluable officer of this Parliament.

I am sure that hon. members will agree that men of this calibre warrant a salary commensurate with their abilities, and that is what the Bill before the House provides.

Mr. TUCKER (Townsville North) (11.50 a.m.): As I indicated on behalf of the Opposition at the introductory stage, we raise no opposition to the Bill. Obviously it is a machinery measure because, as provision for the Auditor-General is made under this special Act, an amendment has to be moved each time his salary is to be increased. If one refers to the increases granted to the Public Service earlier this year, one sees that the proposed increase for the Auditor-General is commensurate with them.

I join with the Premier in paying tribute to all those who have occupied the office of Auditor-General in this State over the years. The Premier made particular reference to Mr. Kropp. I am sure that I express the opinion of all Opposition members when I say that Mr. Kropp has been a very dedicated officer not only in his duties as Auditor-General but, before that appointment, as Commissioner for Transport. The Opposition wishes him well in his retirement.

We also extend congratulations to Mr. Sewell on his appointment as Auditor-General. He is particularly well equipped for the position which he will take up at the beginning of next year, and we know that he will bring to his duties a brilliant mind and a sense of dedication which has been common to those who have occupied this office throughout the years.

Again I indicate that the Opposition is in agreement with the Bill and certainly will not oppose its second reading.

Mr. AIKENS (Townsville South) (11.52 a.m.): The position of Auditor-General is indeed a very onerous and very important one, and Parliament has made it so over the years by making the Auditor-General—in theory, anyway—responsible only to Parliament. That is why his report must be tabled in Parliament, and why he is not under the control of any specific Minister, even the Premier himself. In theory, that is how it should be. There is, however, the statement by Lord Acton, "Power tends to corrupt; absolute power corrupts absolutely", and I sometimes think that whilst Auditors-General have not been corrupt, they have sometimes been somewhat secretive. At times they have investigated matters on

behalf of the Government, but members of Parliament, however hard they have tried to get information on the results of the investigations, have been told that they cannot question the Auditor-General or even the Premier on those matters.

Mr. Hanson: The Auditor-General is responsible to Parliament itself.

Mr. AIKENS: But how can Parliament question the Auditor-General? I suggest that the hon. member for Port Curtis try to question some of the activities of the Auditor-General. I am not suggesting, of course, that there is anything wrong with them; in fact, I hold the same opinion of the Auditor-General as do the Premier and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. However, I really believe that there should be some way in which members can question the administrative activities of the Auditor-General. At the present time that cannot be done, and that is all there is to it.

I really believe that the duties of the Auditor-General should be a little wider and broader than they are now. At present he is required only to examine all books, papers, and documents of Government departments and semi-Government departments, and to make a report to Parliament.

We all get the Auditor-General's annual report and I, for one, look for it very eagerly and am very interested in some of the comments he makes. Here again, I think the Auditor-General could be a little bit more expansive than he has been in the past. I believe that we have reached a stage in this so-called affluent society, when the job of the Auditor-General should be broadened and he should be empowered to make to Parliament certain recommendations on the audits conducted by ordinary auditors, or chartered auditors, or whatever they like to call themselves.

When any organisation, whether it be commercial, business or sporting, submits its annual balance sheet, it also submits an auditor's report or certificate, and for all general purposes that certificate is absolutely worthless. It merely says, "I certify that the figures in this balance sheet correspond with the figures in the books of this organisation"—or firm or sporting body, or whatever it is.

That signifies nothing, because if the books are false then the auditor's certificate is just as false although it may not be intentionally so. I am not going to labour the point but I believe that Parliament should consider giving the Auditor-General power to recommend to Parliament, in his annual report, amendments that should be made to the law covering the auditing of the books and documents of any organisation in the State.

Of course, we know that auditors today work under a system of blackmail and duress. Should the auditor of a big commercial firm or business, or any firm that pays him a large sum of money per year in auditor's

fees, even suspect that something wrong is going on, he is not game to draw the attention of the shareholders in the firm to it; he is not game to advertise it or mention it in his so-called auditor's report because, if he does, he knows he will lose his job and the lucrative fee that he earns as auditor for that company.

Mr. Hanson: Isn't this covered by the Companies Act? The registrar does a very good job.

Mr. AIKENS: It is in the Companies Act, Mr. Speaker, and later, with your tolerance, I hope to draw an analogy between a Bill that is coming before this Chamber this morning and some Bills of an absolutely farcical nature—particularly in their implementation—that have gone through this Parliament. I was in the House when we amended the relevant Act to make auditors face up to their responsibilities in disclosing all sorts of illegal rorts and rackets carried on by company directors and people whose job it was to look after the financial side of company organisation.

If I may, I ask the loquacious and garrulous hon. member for Kurilpa, through you, Mr. Speaker, how often has an auditor been game to draw the attention of members of a particular organisation, or the shareholders of it, to the fact that a little bit of hanky-panky was going on? If there is some legal loop-hole or deficiency in the law governing the operation of auditors outside the service of Government and semi-Government instrumentalities, I think the Auditor-General, being a man well versed in these matters and knowing the game from Alpha to Omega, should be authorised to report to Parliament. As a matter of fact I think we should let him know that we place an obligation upon him to report on the best way in which these loop-holes can be closed.

Mr. W. D. HEWITT (Chatsworth) (11.57 a.m.): The venom which the hon. member for Townsville South has vented for so many years upon the legal and medical professions is now permeating through to other professions. He now makes the strange observation that auditors demonstrate little responsibility when they certify to figures and statements from organisations. The hon. gentleman can be devastated by one simple fact. I remind him that in recent months the auditor of H. G. Palmer Ltd. has been sentenced to gaol for affixing misleading statements to certain documents of that company, so the simple fact of the matter is that a precedent has been established. The fact also is that a very highly ethical body, the accountancy profession, is looking closely and continually at auditor responsibilities. The hon. member can rest assured that chartered accountants and auditors of repute are conscious of their responsibilities and discharge them adequately.

It is pleasing to note that there is unanimity on the measure introduced today, and I do not seek to introduce any discordant note. But I do want to make some

observations about the salary range that the Auditor-General will now enjoy. The rise that is being voted to him will lift his annual salary to \$15,100. It is a strange coincidence that on the very day that this measure was introduced the newspaper "The Australian" headlined certain increased wage rates that would be paid to Commonwealth public servants. The edition dated 23 September indicated that an 18 per cent. rise had been granted to 680 2nd division Commonwealth public servants by the Commonwealth Public Service Board. At the outset, we should understand what is meant by the term "2nd division public servants". They are public servants who are rated below permanent heads, but are, nevertheless, engaged in top policy-advising and management services.

The salary rates that they will now enjoy are—

2nd division—		\$
Grade 6	17,378
Grade 5	16,198
Grade 4	15,018
Grade 3	13,838
Grade 2	12,658
Grade 1	11,478

The simple fact is that the Auditor-General's increased salary rate will be equivalent to that of a Grade 4, 2nd division Commonwealth public servant, and that fact shows the great disparity that exists between salary rates enjoyed by Commonwealth public servants and those enjoyed by State public servants. I refer to Queensland permanent heads, whose salaries, as revealed by the most recent Estimates, averaged \$12,000. The Commonwealth Grade A permanent head will now receive \$22,750, and the Grade B permanent head will receive \$19,500. Those figures show the great disparity that exists between Commonwealth and State wage rates. If a figure can be estimated, I should like to know the degree of dilution of the State Public Service that has taken place owing to the understandable desire of State public servants to pursue higher salary rates. We know that Queensland has provided a rich pool of librarians for bodies in other States to plunder, and I think plundering occurs at all levels. It is obvious that the State itself is conscious of this problem and is trying to contain it.

I refer to the Treasurer's speech of 26 September last year in which he said, when introducing the Financial Statement—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I do not want the debate to develop into a general discussion on public servants' salaries and a comparison between Commonwealth and State rates. We are dealing with only one subject, the Auditor-General's salary.

Mr. W. D. HEWITT: If I may be permitted to consolidate my argument by quoting an extract from the Treasurer's speech, I would be happy to abide by your ruling.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon member may be happy, but I will not be. I ask him to confine his remarks to the matter before the House.

Mr. W. D. HEWITT: I apologise for any apparent discourtesy.

It is necessary to assess these disparities that are now opening up, and, while I do not pretend to know the answer to the problem, I believe that the Commonwealth should be reminded of the degree to which its high salary rates aggravate it. The problem faces not only this State but other States as well.

Finally, I would remind those people who think that the Auditor-General's increase in salary lifts him into a very high salary range that, although his salary appears to be a substantial one, it will be eroded to a degree by the payment of Commonwealth taxation. Of the \$1,900 that will be voted to him, he will receive only \$772 after the deduction of Commonwealth taxation. That figure shows the high rate of taxation that prevails in the Commonwealth. I associate myself with the vote and support the Bill.

Mr. HUGHES (Kurilpa) (12.5 p.m.): I wish to make a few brief comments on this measure and to support the contentions put forward by my colleague, the hon. member for Chatsworth.

There is no doubt that the task that faces the Auditor-General is an onerous and exacting one, but in carrying it out he is somewhat limited by certain restrictions that are placed upon him. A number of hon. members are associated with ambulance committees, and under the Act the Auditor-General is required to audit the books of those committees as well as the books of other committees. I question the restrictions placed on the Auditor-General in carrying out audits of the affairs of governmental and semi-governmental authorities. He does so by reconciling invoices and statements with payments made, and, in addition, he examines revenue obtained and operating costs. He can go a little further and suggest ways of implementing proper accounting procedures, but that is about as far as he can go. I do not think he has sufficient authority. We should have a public accounts committee which may, or may not, be associated with the Auditor-General's Department. It would implement the suggestion made by the hon. member for Townsville South and other hon. members. It could do what the Auditor-General cannot do, namely, ascertain if the best use is being made of public money, and ensure that it was put to the wisest and best use. I hope that early consideration will be given to the establishment of a public accounts committee.

Although it may be outside the ambit of the Auditor-General he sometimes makes suggestions to organisations whose books he audits about salaries and wages. However, I believe that the Auditor-General

should be able to recommend to Cabinet the establishment of a public accounts committee which could more closely examine Government and semi-Government departments, not only by auditing their accounts but by determining the use made of their money. Sometimes it is questionable whether they are making the most of their money in terms of public benefit.

Motion (Mr. Bjelke-Petersen) agreed to.

COMMITTEE

(The Chairman of Committees, Mr. Hooper, Greenslopes, in the chair)

Clauses 1 and 2, as read, agreed to.

Clause 3—Amendment of s. 2; Salary of Auditor-General—

Mr. AIKENS (Townsville South) (12.8 p.m.): In accordance with your ruling, Mr. Hooper, I will remember that while we are discussing the salary of any officer of the Crown we are at liberty to discuss the duties carried out by that officer. I did not intend to take part in the debate at this stage but the irresponsible, splenetic attack of the hon. member for Chatsworth has prompted me to do so. He seems to think that amiable or affable remarks in this House about any profession amount to a venomous attack on it. My job is to tell the truth simply, as I see it. The hon. member for Chatsworth said that the auditor of H. G. Palmer Ltd. was brought to trial and punished in Victoria. Why was he not honest enough to say that had H. G. Palmer Ltd. operated as a Queensland-based company he would not have been brought to trial because of the weaknesses in our legislation? He was unlucky in that he was not in Queensland, and that the head office of the company was not registered in Queensland.

I have been informed by a very reliable source, which has rarely led me astray, that the Auditor-General has no power to audit the funds of the T.A.B. Surely to goodness the T.A.B. is a semi-governmental authority. If the Auditor-General cannot audit the books and accounts of the T.A.B., who conducts the audit?

Mr. Jensen: There could be a big swindle going on there.

Mr. AIKENS: I am not saying that anything irregular is happening in the T.A.B.

It has revitalised the racing industry, and many racing clubs which were going out the back door before the T.A.B. was formed are operating very profitably today. The formation of the T.A.B. also stopped a putrid racket in graft and corruption that A.L.P. politicians and many members of the Police Force used to work with S.P. bookmakers before its establishment.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. AIKENS: If Opposition members want a befouling or besmattering match, all they need do is start me off.

Mr. Davies interjected.

Mr. AIKENS: No-one could suggest that two-up is a fair game.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The hon. member for Townsville South will please keep to the matters contained in clause 3 of the Bill.

Mr. AIKENS: In my opinion the Auditor-General is unduly secretive at times. I remind the Committee that last year or the year before, the then Auditor-General, Mr. Kropp, conducted an investigation in Townsville into the affairs of a semi-governmental body and of one particular man relative to it. I pay Mr. Kropp a tribute. He conducted that investigation honestly and fearlessly. He returned to Brisbane and made an honest and fearless recommendation to the Government. I had to discover all this information through the grapevine.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The speech of the hon. member for Townsville South might be interesting but I cannot align his remarks and clause 3 of the Bill which deals with an increase in an amount.

Mr. AIKENS: With respect, Mr. Hooper, I draw your attention to a ruling given by Mr. Speaker, and frequently upheld by you because you are, I suppose, one of the most well-balanced chairmen we have had, that when we are discussing the salary to be paid to a public servant, we can discuss the duties that should be performed by that officer. That is axiomatic.

The honest and fearless recommendation made by Mr. Kropp caused the Government considerable embarrassment. No proceedings were taken against the person involved, for reasons that are well known, and the Government passed Mr. Kropp's recommendation—

The CHAIRMAN: I do not want to cause any embarrassment to the hon. member for Townsville South by asking him to resume his seat. However, if he continues in the same vein, I shall have to.

Mr. AIKENS: I conclude by thanking you, Mr. Hooper, for your tolerance and forbearance, and by saying that the Government passed the recommendation to the Crown Law Office where a legal—

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. W. D. HEWITT: I rise to a point of order. I ask for a ruling. During the speech of the hon. member for Townsville South, the hon. member for Bundaberg interjected, "There is a big swindle going on in the T.A.B."

Mr. Jensen: I said, "There could be."

The CHAIRMAN: Order! Too much time has elapsed since the statement was made for me to allow a point of order to be taken. I did not hear the remark.

Mr. JENSEN: I rise to a point of order. I did not pass that remark.

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier) (12.15 p.m.): Judging by the speeches at the introductory stage, I did not anticipate that so many different aspects would be introduced at this stage. The hon. member for Townsville South mentioned that the Auditor-General does not audit the books of the T.A.B. In fact, a firm of public accountants has this responsibility.

Mr. Aikens: Don't you think that the Auditor-General should do it?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: This matter could be argued in many ways. However, that is the way it is done and I believe that it is the fairest and best way.

Clause 3, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

CHIROPODISTS BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. S. D. TOOTH (Ashgrove—Minister for Health) (12.17 p.m.): I move—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

As I indicated in my introductory speech, this Bill provides for the setting up of the necessary machinery for the constitution of a chiropodists board, the establishment of a register of chiropodists and the regulation of the practice of chiropody.

The Bill is divided into four parts. Part I, or the Preliminary, prescribes the short title of the Act, the commencement of the Act on a date to be determined by proclamation, and the definition of various terms. One of the terms is "chiropody", which is defined as the care of the toenails of human beings and the treatment of disorders of toenails or of superficial excrescences of the human foot.

I mentioned in the introduction of the Bill that it is well recognised that regular and professional attention to the feet may prevent some disabilities, especially complications related to reduced blood supply to the legs, and information was sought as to the roles of the medical practitioner and the physiotherapist in ensuring an adequate supply of blood to the legs of elderly people.

Medical practitioners are, of course, able to carry out all the procedures recognised to be carried out by a chiropodist. Clause 26 of the Bill specifically provides that "holding out as chiropodist unlawful" does not apply to a medical practitioner.

The physiotherapist's treatment of a patient's legs does not come within the field of chiropody, since his treatment involves—

- (a) improving the range of movement of joints;
- (b) increasing muscle power;
- (c) improving blood circulation by exercise;
- (d) increasing co-ordination by exercising and walking training.

Any treatment to the foot of a person with reduced blood supply to the legs has to be carried out very carefully by a person who understands all the possible complications. As this could be undertaken by a chiropodist, it is essential that he be adequately trained, and it is considered that the best safeguard for this will be to regulate the practice of chiropody by the registration provisions of this Bill.

Part II contains clauses dealing with the administration of the Act. Provision is made therein for the constitution of The Chiropodists Board of Queensland which shall be a body corporate with powers, duties, legal responsibilities and a common seal.

The board shall consist of seven members appointed by the Governor in Council, four of whom are to be nominated by the Minister. Of these four members, one shall be a medical practitioner employed in the State Health Department; two shall be medical practitioners in active practice as orthopaedic surgeons; and one, a chiropodist registered under the Act.

The remaining three members will be chiropodists nominated by one or more associations which are accepted by the Minister as being representative of chiropodists. At the present time there is in Queensland only one such association, namely, The Australian Chiropody Association (Queensland Branch). If at some future date another association is formed, it will be entitled also to nominate members for the Minister's consideration.

Provision has been made for the appointment of members to first constitute the board at any time after the passing of the Act, even though the Act may not have commenced at that date. This is considered essential to enable the board to be constituted and carry out all necessary functions in preparation for the commencement of the Act.

The chairman of the board will be appointed by the Governor in Council, and the deputy chairman shall be elected at the first duly constituted meeting of the board. Each member shall hold office for a period of three years except in the case of an extraordinary vacancy, when the appointed member will hold office for the balance of his predecessor's term of office as member.

The board is required to meet as often as is necessary for the proper administration of the Act, and the procedure to be followed at such meetings is contained in clause 10 of the Bill. These are formal provisions similar to those contained in the Acts applicable to the other professional boards within the jurisdiction of my department.

From time to time the board may find it necessary to seek the advice of other persons concerning various matters which come within the scope of the board's functions. The Bill gives authority to the board to

select persons, who may or may not be members of the board, to form an advisory committee for this purpose.

Clause 12 of the Bill provides for every member of the board to be paid such allowances as are from time to time prescribed. These allowances will be similar to those paid to members of other boards and will apply only to attendances at meetings which are normally held each month.

I might mention that these allowances are not extravagant, members of the other boards administered by my department receiving the following allowance for each meeting attended—

The Medical Board, Chairman and members \$8.40 each;

The Dental Board, Chairman and members \$6.30 each;

The Pharmacy Board, Chairman and members \$6.30 each;

The Nurses Board, Chairman and members \$6.30 each;

The Physiotherapists Board, Chairman \$6, members \$4 each;

The Board of Optometrical Registration, Chairman \$8.40, members \$4.20 each.

The Bill also provides for the appointment of a registrar of the board, and it is proposed that he be the same person as the registrar of all other professional boards administered by my department.

Part III of the Bill concerns the registration of chiropodists. Clause 16 prescribes that the board shall cause to be set up and maintained a register of chiropodists in which the names and other necessary particulars of persons entitled to be registered under the Act shall be recorded. This register shall be open to inspection at the office of the registrar upon payment of a fee to be prescribed. Provision is also made for the annual publication in the Government Gazette of the names of all persons so registered.

The qualifications required for registration of chiropodists in Queensland are set out in clause 17 of the Bill. It provides that a person of good fame and character may be registered as a chiropodist if he applies to the board, pays the prescribed fee, and is the holder of a degree, diploma or certificate in chiropody recognised by the board and obtained after due examination in any university, college or other body in a State or Territory of the Commonwealth of Australia, or in Great Britain, Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland or the Dominion of New Zealand. A person who may not be so qualified but has been engaged in Queensland in the full-time practice of chiropody before the passing of the Act and for a continuous period of two years immediately preceding the date of commencement of the Act, is also entitled to registration.

All other Australian States make provision for the registration of chiropodists. They also have recognised training courses either at an institute of technology or a college set up by the Chiropody Association.

Two of the other States, Western Australia and South Australia, also recognise as a qualification for registration two years' experience in the three years preceding commencement of their respective Acts. New South Wales requires twelve months in the two preceding years and Victoria requires to be satisfied with the applicants' proficiency in chiropody.

In the United Kingdom, chiropodists are registered under the Professions Supplementary to Medicine Act.

Concern was expressed in the earlier debate regarding the training proposed to be required of chiropodists before registration. The training course envisaged at this stage is a full-time diploma course of three years, similar to the course conducted by the Australian Chiropody Association (New South Wales) College, which is recognised by the Chiropodists Registration Board of New South Wales.

The Department of Education is giving active consideration to the establishment of a course at the Queensland Institute of Technology similar in structure, with, of course, the necessary curriculum changes, to the optometrical course conducted by that institute. It is possible, however, that the clinical facilities for the chiropody course may be better situated within the hospital services, where they would be adjacent to hospital and medical treatment.

The course would thus include theoretical and practical training, and a student qualifying for a diploma on completion of the course would be eligible for registration as a chiropodist and be entitled to practise chiropody.

During the introduction of the Bill, advice was also sought concerning the qualifications of those persons practising at present as chiropodists in Queensland and whether all such persons would be registered under the provisions of the Bill.

I am informed that the 80 members of the Australian Chiropody Association (Queensland Branch) have qualified for such membership in accordance with the rules of the association which include the following requirements—

(a) An applicant shall pass the examinations prescribed by the association for candidates for admission as members or produce to the association satisfactory evidence that he has completed by examination a course of training equal to that laid down by the association; and

(b) The applicant, at the time of his application for admission to membership of the association must be a financial member of any other institute, association or society of chiropodists in any State

or country recognised by the association as being of equal standing with the association provided that the association may in its discretion require the applicant to pass such examination as it thinks fit.

The qualifications possessed by the other estimated 40 chiropodists reported to be in active practice are not known but I am advised there would be some who would be eligible for membership of the Chiropody Association but who have not bothered to join the association because they are in country areas or for other reasons.

As the qualifications of the remainder will not be known until they apply for registration and since a person not possessing a recognised qualification will be required to satisfy the Chiropodists Board that he has been in full-time practice of chiropody for the prescribed period of time, it will be apparent that I am unable to state, at this stage, whether all chiropodists presently practising will be registered.

Further advice sought in the earlier debate related to reciprocal agreements with other States. Provision for such agreements has not been included, since the Bill contains provision for the board to recognise qualifications of prescribed institutions recognised in other States, and there is no reason to believe that the other States would not accept the qualification to be based on Queensland's course of training now under consideration.

Prescription is made also for the provisional registration of chiropodists where the chairman or, in his absence, a duly authorised member of the board is satisfied that the applicant for registration is entitled to be registered. The period of such provisional registration may be extended by the board up to a maximum period of six months. Similar provision is contained in the Medical Act, and has been included so that any person who is entitled to be registered is not precluded from carrying on his calling owing to some technicality. The certificate of provisional registration may be cancelled or full registration granted when the board is in possession of all the facts.

A certificate of registration will be issued to every person whose name is entered in the register, and payment of an annual licence fee is also prescribed.

The disciplinary powers of the board are contained in clause 22 of the Bill. The board is empowered to de-register, suspend from the register, impose a fine of up to \$200 or reprimand a chiropodist who has

- (a) Been convicted of an indictable offence;
- (b) Been convicted of an offence against this Act; or
- (c) Been guilty of conduct discreditable to a chiropodist.

Before any such action may be taken, however, the board is obliged to hold a full and proper inquiry into the matter in question. The chiropodist involved will be

given due notice of the matter suspected against him and will be afforded every opportunity of making a defence to the allegations either in person or by counsel or solicitor. Those inquiries shall not be open to the public unless the board thinks it necessary or the chiropodist in question desires it.

Any person aggrieved by a decision of the board may appeal therefrom to a judge of the District Court at Brisbane.

The powers conferred on the board by this clause of the Bill are generally in keeping with the powers contained in the Acts applicable to similar professional boards.

Part IV of the Bill contains general provisions, including regulation-making powers which are essential for the proper functioning of the proposed Act.

Clause 26 prohibits persons other than chiropodists from claiming that they are chiropodists.

Since all chiropodists admitted to registration have to satisfy the board as to their qualifications and pay registration and annual licence fees, it is considered only just and proper that their titles should be afforded protection against unregistered and unqualified persons who claim to be chiropodists or in any way indicate that they have the qualifications necessary for registration. This clause goes further in prohibiting the use of a name, initial, title or description which is capable of indicating that he is registered under this Act or is qualified to practise chiropody.

Such terms as "Foot Specialist", or "Podiatrist", which is an American term for chiropodist, would be prohibited. This clause does not, however, apply to a registered medical practitioner.

Clause 31 contains the authority for the board to make regulations which are deemed to be necessary for the administration of the Act or to achieve the objects and purposes of this Act.

As I mentioned when I introduced the Bill, it is anticipated that chiropodists will play an increasingly important part in the community care of elderly people. With the rapid development of community services increased numbers of efficient chiropodists will be required.

In the interests of the profession and those people who require the professional services of a chiropodist, it is desirable that a measure of control be introduced.

There is nothing of a controversial nature in the Bill and I commend it to the House.

Mr. HOUSTON (Bulimba—Leader of the Opposition) (12.35 p.m.): On more than one occasion I have referred to the fact that Parliament is deliberately being allowed to degenerate to the role of sitting only to hear Ministers make statements whether other hon. members like it or not. Less than 20 hours after the Bill was introduced the

House is now asked to debate it. I believe that that practice is a wrong one. It degrades Parliament and does not afford to any hon. member, whether he be a member of the Opposition or a Government back-bencher, a chance to analyse the Bill or to seek the views of those people who are greatly concerned with it. Not only are people who follow the calling of chiropodists concerned with the Bill but so also are members of the general public, so I take strong exception to the practice of debating the second reading of a Bill so soon after its introduction.

As the Minister has indicated, similar legislation exists in Western Australia, South Australia and New South Wales. An analysis of other State legislation discloses that it differs considerably from the Bill. But without sufficient time it is unreasonable to expect anyone to compare the Bill with the law in other States, particularly as the Minister devoted only four minutes to the introduction of it.

Mr. P. Wood: He told us nothing at all.

Mr. HOUSTON: That is so. But within 20 hours we are asked to pass judgment on it.

If we agree to it at this stage we will be passing the legislation without due consideration, but if we do not agree to it we will be denying those who have sought the Bill an opportunity to have their case properly analysed. I therefore move the following amendment—

“Omit the word—

‘now’

and add the words—

‘this day two weeks or later.’”

If my amendment is carried—and I hope it is—every member will have an opportunity to study the legislation, to compare it with the law in other States and to seek the views of those who are interested in it. They will also have an opportunity to ascertain the views of people who have sought the aid of chiropodists.

The Minister virtually told us in his second-reading speech nothing more than would be known by anyone who read the Bill. The only new information he disclosed related to the proposed training scheme. I do not know why he did not tell us about that at the introductory stage. Is this something that has been cooked up since then?

Mr. P. Wood: I do not think he is very happy with this legislation.

Mr. HOUSTON: If the Minister is not happy with the Bill he should settle his differences in caucus or, as he did previously, decide to have no part of it. The fact that he may be bringing it here under pressure is not a reason why the Opposition should agree with it.

Mr. Ramsden: That is a shocking accusation.

Mr. HOUSTON: Let us consider the facts: the Minister said in his reply at the introductory stage, and again this morning, that he was informed about various matters which should be included in the legislation, yet Mr. Claxton, the president of the Australian Chiropodists' Association, Queensland Branch, has not been interviewed recently by the Minister or his officers.

Mr. Hughes: Mr. Claxton has made his case known.

Mr. HOUSTON: Yes, but the legislation has not been discussed with him.

The Minister told us today that he has been informed about various matters. I ask him who informed him? Who made the recommendations, if it was not the president of the association? When Bills are contemplated, surely the Government has a duty to discuss them with those who are concerned. I can remember many occasions when legislation has come before the House and Ministers have boasted—and we have agreed—that the Bills had previously been circulated in draft form among those who were directly concerned. There is nothing wrong with that practice. Parliament is the law-making body in the State, but surely the laws should help the people mainly concerned. If a body of people want legislation to be enacted, they should be asked for their advice. On this occasion submissions were forwarded by the Chiropodists' Association, but it was ignored completely.

If the Government has chosen to ignore this organisation and its president, that is its business, but Opposition members certainly wish to talk to him and to other members of the association. We want to discuss with them whether the legislation is in their interests, and we also want to talk to people who have attended chiropodists. In the present circumstances we have no time to do so, and that is why I have moved the amendment.

I thank the hon. member for Nudgee and his committee for the long hours they have devoted at night to a study of the Bill, and the report they submitted to me this morning. It is evident that the different States have a completely different definition of “chiropodist”. It appears that the Government has adopted, in general terms, the New South Wales definition. The Bill does not cover situations that could arise in the future. In fact, all that the Minister said of the future was that it is intended to have a three-year training scheme. He said that it could take that time to train a person in this calling. Only two years' experience is necessary at present to entitle a person to be registered, but a person who is trained in a recognised school is required to have three years' experience. I do not debate whether that provision is good or bad, but it does need investigation.

There is no provision in the Bill, as there is in the New South Wales Act, for the board "to determine the character, subjects and conduct of examinations qualifying persons to become chiropodists and to appoint examiners." The New South Wales legislation clearly defines that the board has the power—in fact, it has a duty—to consider the subjects that are to be studied and that it accepts the responsibility to conduct examinations. In addition, the New South Wales Act prescribes the course of training for all persons desiring to be registered under that Act.

Mr. Ramsden: I thought you were complaining that you had not had time to study this Bill.

Mr. HOUSTON: How stupid! I spent some considerable time studying the Bill last night while the hon. member was out playing.

Mr. Aikens: Where was he?

Mr. HOUSTON: He was with the hon. member for Townsville South, and I know where he was. However, I do not want to make that information public. I am saying that 20 hours is not sufficient time in which to study legislation. I do not care what the Government thinks about it. It is obvious that the Government has no other legislation to introduce. It has had eight months' holiday. Committees have been scurrying around the House every day attempting to reach agreement on legislation. Yet the Opposition is required to give a considered opinion on legislation in 20 hours. This is completely wrong, and I am pointing out some of the matters that we need time to analyse.

Why does this Bill not contain some of the requirements of the New South Wales Act? There may be a logical reason. An analysis of the legislation in other States might disclose the reason. But the Minister has given us no reason. Surely it is the Opposition's responsibility, then, to obtain this information before saying anything about the Bill.

The New South Wales Act prohibits a person practising as a chiropodist. This Bill contains no such provision.

Mr. Tooth: Did you say that the New South Wales Act prohibits a person practising as a chiropodist?

Mr. HOUSTON: Yes.

Mr. Tooth: Prohibits a person from what?

Mr. HOUSTON: From practising as a chiropodist.

Mr. Tooth: It prohibits a person practising as a chiropodist from practising as a chiropodist.

Mr. HOUSTON: In New South Wales.

Mr. Tooth: I do not understand what you are saying. It does not seem to make sense.

Mr. P. Wood: Unless he is registered.

Mr. HOUSTON: Unless he is registered. What are we talking about—the registration of chiropodists! The New South Wales Act prescribes that unless a person is registered, he cannot practise. The Bill does not lay down that he cannot practise; it says that he cannot call himself a chiropodist.

Mr. Tooth: Nor can he call himself anything else that would indicate that he is capable of practising chiropody.

Mr. HOUSTON: The Minister is kidding himself. Section 28 of the New South Wales Act states—

“ . . . no person other than a chiropodist shall—

(a) for fee or reward practise chiropody;”

It then goes on to deal with other things. Why is there not a similar clause in the Queensland legislation? Without debating now whether or not it should be there, surely an opportunity should be given to the Opposition to ascertain what is prescribed in other States and to consider whether it is desirable to include such a provision.

Mr. Tooth: You have had time.

Mr. HOUSTON: It is no good the Minister laughing and saying that we have had time. I am saying that we have not.

Mr. Tooth: You are just playing politics.

Mr. HOUSTON: I am not playing politics at all. It took the Minister three weeks from the time of introducing the Bill to complete the first reading. Why then is it necessary to rush it on today?

Mr. Tooth: We had other things to do.

Mr. HOUSTON: That is right—and so do I have other things to do. Why was it necessary to bring this on today?

Mr. Tooth: You knew so much about the procedure that when the continuation of the introductory stage was called on you were completely puzzled; you had forgotten all about it. And that applies also to the hon. member who was speaking when the debate was adjourned.

Mr. HOUSTON: That is a deliberate lie.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member has again used an unparliamentary term. I ask him to withdraw it.

Mr. HOUSTON: I will withdraw it and say that it is a deliberate untruth.

Mr. Tooth: That is nonsense. You know perfectly well that when the resumption of the introductory stage was called, the hon. member for Maryborough, who had the call, was not even in his place.

Mr. HOUSTON: Yesterday not even the Government knew what the order of business was to be. For various reasons best known to the Government, we were going to discuss a Bill, and then the word was given, "We won't do that. We will discuss this other Bill." Then the Premier rose and moved that items 1 and 2 on the Business Paper be held over till later.

Mr. Tooth: That often happens. That is within the discretion of the Premier.

Mr. HOUSTON: That is all right, but it shows a great deal of incompetence when within five minutes the House returns to item 1. The Minister himself did not know which Bill was to be dealt with next.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The House is at present discussing the second reading of the Chiroprodists Bill, and I ask the Leader of the Opposition to confine himself to the principles of the Bill.

Mr. HOUSTON: I moved an amendment that the second reading be deferred, and I am giving my reasons for doing so. The Minister said that I had plenty of time to study the Bill, and I am saying that I had not.

Mr. Tooth: I said that you will have plenty of time.

Mr. HOUSTON: What does that mean?

Mr. Tooth: You know what the procedures are.

Mr. HOUSTON: I do not know what the procedures are. The Minister could proceed and have the Bill passed through the committee stage. In fact, in the case of the last Bill that the Minister brought before the House, he moved the third reading on the same day that it passed through the committee stage. He did not ask my permission, or the permission of anybody else, to do that. Of course, the Minister may say, "We will adjourn at 1 o'clock, and you will then have a couple of weeks to have a look at it." He did not in his earlier remarks say that that would happen. If, as I could have done, I had said, "We have not had time to study the Bill properly but it looks all right in principle," I am quite certain that the Minister would not have stopped its going through all stages today.

Mr. Aikens: You are sorry now that you supported him on the Chiropractors Bill.

Mr. HOUSTON: I did not support the Minister when the Chiropractors Bill was before Parliament. He with others crossed the floor to vote with us against it and defeat it.

My present concern is not whether the clauses of the Bill are desirable or undesirable. In general, the Opposition supports the registering of those qualified in the calling of chiropody. What we want to ensure is that chiropodists are properly and fully trained. As I said at the outset, a quick

glance through the Bill makes it clear that it is being introduced for the present, not the future.

Let us see what provisions it contains dealing with those who wish to enter this calling. It is prescribed that those who have been practising chiropody for two years can be registered and can continue in this field. But what of those who have been working as chiropodists for 18 months? What is to happen to them? Are they to be thrown out? Are they to be told, "You have not completed two years of practice, so you must get out."? They certainly cannot be allowed to continue what they were doing before, because the Minister, in arguing with me, said that people are prohibited from practising if they are not registered. Surely some provision must be made for those who are partly trained, or who believe themselves to be partly trained. These points are not covered by the Bill, and they certainly should be. The Minister did not indicate, by interjection or in any other way, what he intended to do in this matter.

No legislative provision has been made, either, for juniors entering this calling, as there is, for example, in the case of young doctors in the medical profession. I do not, of course, intend to compare doctors with chiropodists; no-one could reasonably suggest that the skills and qualifications of doctors and chiropodists are comparable. But in many fields university degrees or diplomas, which require years of study to obtain, and then periods of time spent in the callings, are required before a person is considered to be fully qualified.

There is no mention in the Bill of what is required of those coming into the calling or profession. In apprenticeships to trades and at the Institute of Technology provision is made for apprentices, or juniors, or cadets to enter the trade, but the Bill does not indicate what will happen to people now being trained or how they are to be trained.

I am concerned about the position of those who have been practising for less than two years. Are they going to be cast aside or forced to practise illegally? Or is the Minister suggesting that we should not give the Bill the force of law for a period of six to eight months, to allow them to complete their training? If that is so, the forcing of this Bill through the second-reading stage today is farcical. I think the reason is that the Government had nothing else prepared and, to make sure there was something to do today, the second reading of this Bill was brought on. The forcing of this or any other legislation through the House in this fashion is not acceptable to the Opposition, particularly when it contains 32 clauses which affect not only the occupation, income and livelihood of many people, but also the public as a whole. That is why we want the Bill deferred at least until the next regular sitting day on which Bills will be discussed.

Mr. MELLOY (Nudgee) (12.56 p.m.): This is an extraordinary Bill introduced in a rather extraordinary manner. The Minister has been completely reluctant to elaborate on the reasons for its introduction. The Bill appears to be ill-conceived and the Minister to be ill-advised. In addition, quite apart from the circumstances relative to the various stages, its introduction has been badly timed.

Apparently the Minister is not prepared to invite criticism based on extensive study of the Bill because the second reading has been brought on at very short notice. To me there is something fishy in his introducing the Bill in this manner. His reluctance to elaborate is alarming and in contrast to his very pronounced will-power in the matter of the Chiropractors Bill. He has not exhibited anything of that nature on this occasion.

Mr. Tooth: I am in favour of the Bill.

Mr. MELLOY: I would not believe that from what we have heard.

Mr. Tooth: You can believe what you like; I am in favour of it.

Mr. MELLOY: We feel the Minister is not in favour of the Bill.

Mr. Tooth: Well, you are wrong.

Mr. MELLOY: If he were he would set out to convince Parliament and the Opposition of its desirability.

Mr. Tooth: I have convinced you of its desirability.

Mr. MELLOY: The Minister has not convinced us of the desirability of introducing the Bill. We are in favour of any Bill that protects public interest and the Minister has not convinced us that the Bill now before the House does that. Neither in his introductory speech nor in his closing speech at the introductory stage did he manifest any enthusiasm for the Bill. He failed to expand, to any degree, on the reasons for introducing it and we are justified in thinking that certain pressures are animating some portion of the Government or Cabinet to introduce it.

Mr. Tooth: You have a distorted imagination.

Mr. MELLOY: This lack of enthusiasm by the Minister is reflected in the composition of the Bill. It contains nothing that would give the public in this State any confidence in chiroprodists.

(Leave to continue speech tomorrow granted.)

The House adjourned at 1 p.m.