

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**THURSDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 1972**

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Mr. SPEAKER (Hon. W. H. Lonergan, Flinders) read prayers and took the chair at 11 a.m.

**PAPERS**

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Orders in Council under the Medical Act 1939–1971.

**PERSONAL STATEMENT**

Mr. N. F. JONES (Everton) (11.3 a.m.), by leave: Yesterday I was sickened by an attempt made in the House by an elected member to use the deaths of members of the Israeli Olympic Games team at Munich in an attempt to gain some cheap political advantage by saying that my stand, and the stand of the Australian Labor Party, against apartheid was parallel with the murders of members of a team representing their country. I believe that his statement must have amazed and sickened all honourable members.

I should like to make my position clear. I support the United Nations in their fight against racism of any kind. I believe in non-violent protest against all forms of discrimination. Making use of the murder of members of an Olympic Games team, an event which has horrified the world, is all that I would expect from a person who would like to drag people down to his level of gutter-type politics. I refer to the member for Merthyr, Mr. "Shady" Lane.

Mr. LANE: I rise to a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I ask the honourable member for Everton to withdraw his concluding statement. It is unparliamentary to refer to any member other than as "the honourable member".

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I draw your attention to the fact that the honourable member for Everton said he wanted to make a personal statement.

**Opposition Members** interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I merely want to say that I believe that the honourable member for Everton is entirely out of order in making the type of statement that he has.

**Opposition Members** interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

**Opposition Members** interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I warn the honourable members for Salisbury and Brisbane. When I call "Order", I expect them to take notice of it.

I again ask the honourable member for Everton to withdraw the statement he made about the honourable member for Merthyr, otherwise I shall deal with him under Standing Order 123A.

**Mr. N. F. JONES:** I withdraw the word "Shady" from the statement that I made. Is that what you require, Mr. Speaker?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I ask the honourable member to withdraw the whole of the statement that is unparliamentary by saying, "I withdraw". Everyone will then be satisfied.

**Mr. N. F. JONES:** I withdraw.

#### QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

##### CATTLE HOLDING YARDS, FORSAYTH RAILWAY STATION

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

In view of the importance of Forsayth as a cattle-railing centre and as its geographical position provides an ideal rail-head centre, will he give consideration to increasing the capacity of the holding yards so that sufficient cattle can be held in order to speed up the loading of cattle?

*Answer:—*

"The matter will be examined."

##### APLIN HOSTEL, THURSDAY ISLAND

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

(1) When will work commence on alterations to the Aplin Hostel, Thursday Island?

(2) Have plans been prepared for the work and how many families will be accommodated?

(3) What work-force will carry out the work and when is it expected to be completed?

*Answers:—*

(1) "Necessary materials have been ordered and when to hand work will proceed consistent with priorities in the region and availability of tradesmen. It is not presently expected that this will occur until early in the new year because of commitments."

(2) "All planning has been completed. It is expected to cater for five families."

(3) "Departmental labour will be used and it is anticipated work will be completed mid 1973."

##### LOCAL AUTHORITY CONTROL OF LAND FOR HOME SITES, HORN AND PRINCE OF WALES ISLANDS

**Mr. Wallis-Smith,** pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Local Government,—

(1) Is he aware that land has been sold for home sites at Horn Island and Prince of Wales Island?

(2) Has any provision been made for these areas to come under local government control? If not, will he give early consideration to embracing these areas so that early control can be exercised and the area developed on sound lines?

*Answers:—*

(1) "Yes."

(2) "Not up to the present. The matter will, however, be considered when the report of an inter-departmental committee appointed by Cabinet for the purpose of submitting a plan to stabilize the population on Thursday Island while still maintaining it as a health, education and administration centre, comes before Cabinet."

##### DECLARATION OF LIVINGSTONE, FITZROY AND BANANA SHIRES AS DROUGHT-STRICKEN AREAS

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

As practically no worth-while autumn or winter rains have fallen in Central Queensland and as once again the wheat crop and other winter crops have failed and many thousands of cattle are being hand-fed, will he consider declaring the shires of Livingstone, Fitzroy and Banana as drought areas so that primary producers can claim rebate of freight on fodder and on the movement of stock for agistment purposes?

*Answer:—*

"The Honourable Member may be assured that his request will receive full consideration. At the present time I have staff engaged in a detailed and comprehensive study of seasonal and pastoral conditions, not only in the shires mentioned in the Question, but over much of the State."

##### INVESTIGATION OF BUNDEBERG ACTIVITIES OF FIRM, QUALITY PAINTERS

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

As Quality Painters, 256 Harcourt Street, New Farm, Brisbane, have issued a circular to Bundaberg householders from an address in Bundaberg, namely 36 Electra Street, offering a 20-year guarantee on house painting, will he have an investigation made

into this firm to ascertain whether the proprietors have any connection with previous firms which gave similar offers and later went into liquidation so that the dissatisfied clients had no claim on the guarantee?

*Answer:—*

“The matter raised by the Honourable Member is not one coming within my administration.”

ESTABLISHMENT OF STATE-CONTROLLED BUILDING SOCIETY

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

Will he give consideration to the establishment of a State-controlled building society similar to the permanent building societies but with lower interest rates, in order to give the people a gilt-edged investment, and not the so-called pass-book security in home building, such as is given by the State Electricity Commission for power generation and electricity reticulation throughout the State?

*Answer:—*

“No. With the provisions for liquidity protection which this Government has stipulated in the *Building Societies Act 1886-1971* and with the mortgage insurance protection which such societies obtain from the Housing Loans Insurance Corporation or other similar established insurer there is no question of the stability of funds deposited with permanent building societies. I see no reason why persons desiring to invest in a building society would give preference to a society paying a lower rate of interest than they can obtain from existing societies.”

SUBSTITUTE FOR MERCURY SEED-DUSTING COMPOUNDS

**Mr Neal**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Primary Industries,—

(1) Has his attention been drawn to a report in *The Queensland Grain Grower* of August 23 which states that British scientists have discovered how to eliminate the dangers of one of the worst polluting agents, i.e. mercury, and have developed a safe powder to replace the mercury compounds which are used to protect seed?

(2) As the report states that the powder will be available in England for the next sowing, will his Department make inquiries into the availability of this powder with a view to introducing it for use in Queensland?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) “Yes. The material is reported to be available in Britain under the name ‘Safeguard’. Inquiries made by my officers suggest that the preparation, ‘Safeguard’ contains two products already registered separately for sale in Queensland, one of which could replace mercury for cereal seed treatment. Additionally, steps have been taken for an Australia-wide ban to be imposed on the use of mercury on cereal seed and an additional substitute material (not one of those referred to above) has been cleared for registration for the treatment of wheat.”

INVESTIGATION OF LOAN COMPANIES

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

(1) Have any investigations been made into the lurid prospectuses at present being posted to Queenslanders by Mutual Home Loans Management Co. (Qld.) Ltd., 6th Floor, 40 Queen Street, Brisbane, Federated Housing Fund Management Company Ltd. and Australian Association of Mutual Home Loans Funds, which are all apparently operated by the same group of people? If so, have any of the directors of these companies been involved in scandals concerning company promotion or criminal proceedings resulting from their activities in that regard and who are they?

(2) Will he have the operations of these companies examined with a view to warning the people against investing any money in them if the result of the examination warrants it?

*Answers:—*

(1) “No.”

(2) “Yes. If the Honourable Member gives me details of any complaint.”

GRAHAM-MONTO RAILWAY LINE

**Mr Hanson**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Transport,—

(1) Did the General Manager of the Central Division recently inspect the branch line from Graham to Monto with the intention of closing it?

(2) As the Boyne Valley road services are inadequate and considering the lime deposits at Taragoola, the potential of Many Peaks minerals, the Selene coal deposits, the new Wilson Hart sawmill enterprise at Builyan and the practicability of by-pass usage in times of emergency, what is his Department's intention with regard to the complete Monto-Gladstone line?

(3) If the line closure is effected, what will be done to protect departmental employees who will become redundant?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 3) "All branch line railways are subject to examination when the result of the financial year's working is available and the Graham to Monto section of railway will, as in former years, be included in the examination."

#### CONTROL OF NOISE FROM MOTOR VEHICLE EXHAUSTS

**Mr Hanson**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Transport,—

(1) Has his Department recently received complaints from the public concerning the appalling and excruciating noise emanating from the deliberately-adjusted exhausts of cars and from cars with special built-in exhaust systems?

(2) If so, has this matter been raised at meetings of the Australian Transport Advisory Council and is there any likelihood of uniform regulations being drafted with the view to taking punitive action against this unnecessary intrusion of citizens' rights?

*Answers:—*

(1) "No."

(2) "Member Ministers of the Australian Transport Advisory Council recommended the adoption of design rules in order to limit the contribution by motor traffic to community noise. The design rules provide for upper limits of noise of—  
(a) Eighty-four decibels for all motor cars and their derivatives manufactured on and after January 1, 1974; (b) Between 82 and 86 decibels, depending on engine size, for motor cycles manufactured on and after July 1, 1975; and (c) From 85 to 92 decibels, depending on their gross weight and engine power, for heavy vehicles with petrol engines, manufactured on and after July 1, 1974, and diesel engines manufactured on and after July 1, 1975. Draft uniform standards are also under consideration to regulate the upper noise level of vehicles in use on roads."

#### ALLOCATION OF WATER RIGHTS, EMERALD IRRIGATION SCHEME

**Mr. O'Donnell**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Conservation,—

What is the present stage of development of the Emerald Irrigation Scheme, particularly with reference to the allocation of water rights now and in the future?

*Answer:—*

"Fairbairn Dam has a total of 113,000 acre feet in storage. Final clean-up of works is expected by the end of the year. Channel works to serve the first 11 farms

are approaching completion. Of these 11 farms, eight are allocated as retention areas to existing landholders who have been advised of their water allocations of 1.33 acre feet per acre of irrigable land, including one acre foot water right. Supply will be available to these farms early in October, but use is not expected until November. Opening of the three new farms is expected within two months. All farms in the irrigation area will be allocated 1.33 acre feet of water per irrigable acre per annum. Existing licensees and a limited number of other riparian landholders along the Nogoa River, including a further retention area, have also been advised that water will be allocated for private diversion on the basis of 1.33 acre feet per acre of suitable soil, subject to a maximum of allocation of 670 acre feet to any holding. Charges to all irrigators will be for actual use during 1972-73 but in the following year minimum charges based on a proportion of the water right or licence allocation will apply. Work is well advanced and will continue in 1972-73 on the Selma Main Channel and other works required to serve the next 18 farms."

#### UPGRADING OF PALMERSTON HIGHWAY

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

(1) Are reports compiled by the Main Roads Department on the state of the Palmerston Highway in North Queensland?

(2) Do these reports receive ministerial consideration?

(3) Is he aware of the present shocking state of this very important highway?

(4) What is the Government's intention regarding the widening and realignment of this highway?

(5) In view of its present dangerous state and as the milk for North Queensland and Mount Isa travels across this highway by means of large tankers, what safety measure is the Government considering, as the lives of many local people and tourists are at stake while driving over this great scenic drive which passes through one of the most picturesque national parks?

*Answers:—*

(1) "Yes."

(2) "Yes."

(3) "The Honourable Member's description of the road is grossly exaggerated. Patching of the pavement has only recently been carried out in Eacham Shire and this section is in quite satisfactory condition, while pavement repair work is currently in progress from Pin Gin Hill to Henrietta Creek."

(4) "Survey and planning for reconstruction including widening is at present in hand and Main Roads Department works programming provides for major projects to commence next financial year at both Millaa Millaa and Shaws Corner. The amount that can be programmed for work in subsequent years will depend on funds available to the Department."

(5) "Continuing maintenance is being undertaken to keep the road in a safe condition for traffic but it must be borne in mind that the existing route is essentially a low-speed road on a tortuous alignment."

**Mr. F. P. Moore:** Come up next week and I'll take you over it.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. F. P. Moore:** He's a bloody liar.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member will withdraw that remark, otherwise I will deal with him.

**Mr. F. P. Moore** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I think it is just as well for me to inform all honourable members now that I will not permit anyone to argue with me. Honourable members may disagree with my rulings, but they may not argue with me, particularly while I am on my feet. The honourable member for Mourilyan will withdraw his final remark. I warn him that if he does not do so I will deal with him under the provisions of Standing Order 123A.

**Mr. F. P. Moore:** I withdraw it.

DELAYS IN PAYMENT OF CANE TESTERS' WAGES

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

(1) Is he aware that in some areas cane testers employed by his Department at Queensland's sugar mills do not receive their first pay for the crushing until approximately four weeks after its commencement?

(2) Is he aware that under the present system overtime worked by cane testers is not paid to them until four to six weeks after the pay period during which it was worked?

(3) Are cane testers paid a meal allowance when they are required to work overtime past their normal shift hours?

(4) Will he investigate this matter to ensure that cane testers receive a better deal regarding the payment of their salary, overtime and meal allowance?

**Answers:—**

(1) "The salary of employees of the Central Sugar Cane Prices Board is processed by the Treasury computer. Officers

are placed on the payroll immediately notification of commencement of duty is received from the Central Sugar Cane Prices Board. It is pointed out that advice to the Treasury computer centre is required to be forwarded approximately two weeks prior to any pay day."

(2) "Similar procedure is adopted for the payment of overtime, as this is paid in conjunction with the normal fortnightly salary."

(3) "No. Cane testers are not employed under any specific award. However, enquiries into their entitlement to meal allowances will be made."

(4) "Every endeavour will be made to minimise the delay in making payments to the cane-testing staff."

TENDERS FOR HOUSING COMMISSION HOUSES, MACKAY

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

(1) What were the names of the tenderers for the construction of 30 houses for the Queensland Housing Commission in Mackay earlier this year and what were the amounts of their tenders?

(2) As none of these tenders were accepted, what were the grounds for their rejection and the recall of tenders?

(3) What were the names of those who submitted tenders on the recall which closed on August 29 and what are the amounts of their tenders?

(4) Has a decision been made as to who will be granted the contract and, if not, when will this be done and what will be the anticipated commencement date?

**Answers:—**

(1)—

" Tenderer	Price
	\$
Pettit & Sevitt Pty. Ltd.	244,094 (tenderer's designs)
Pettit & Sevitt Pty. Ltd.	244,919
Driscoll Constructions	292,210 (tenderer's designs)
Driscoll Constructions	298,210
Ryan Brothers and Company .. ..	314,190 (subject to rise and fall)
Atlas Builder ..	315,450 (subject to rise and fall)"

(2) "The lowest tenderer did not have an organisation and necessary workforce in Queensland."

(3)—

" Tenderer	Price
	\$
N. K. Collins ..	285,000
Driscoll Constructions	291,197 (tenderer's designs)
Driscoll Constructions	297,197
Atlas Builder ..	309,450 (subject to rise and fall)"

(4) "A recommendation will be submitted today to the Executive Council and I will then advise the Honourable Member forthwith by letter in the usual manner."

**POLICE BOOKINGS IN TRAFFIC ACCIDENT-PRONE AREAS**

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

(1) Has an instruction been given to police in Queensland, where an area of this State has a fatality, that the local police are required to issue 20 traffic tickets for each fatality? If so, by whom and why was such an instruction given?

(2) Can traffic accidents be localised?

*Answers:—*

(1) "No."

(2) "Accident records are maintained by the Police Department for the purposes of identifying accident-prone areas. Where such records indicate a need for preventive measures such as road construction, provision of road signs or enforcement of traffic regulations, appropriate action is initiated."

**"CAPRICORNIAN" AND "SUNLANDER" RAIL SERVICES; ROCKHAMPTON-YEPPON RAIL-MOTOR SERVICE**

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

(1) Does the Railway Department intend to reduce the number of services per week of (a) the "Capricornian" and (b) the "Sunlander"?

(2) Does the Department intend to eliminate the rail-motor service from Rockhampton to Yeppoon at Christmas 1972 or early in 1973?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) "The train services are continually under review and if it is found that the patronage being afforded makes the operation of a service uneconomical, consideration is given to the matter of the discontinuance of such a service."

**ASSESSMENT OF HANDICAPPED CHILDREN BY CHILDREN'S SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

**Dr. Crawford**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Health,—

(1) What is the current waiting time for assessment by the Children's Services Department of children with learning difficulties or physical or mental incapacity?

(2) What additional staff would be needed to obviate completely the waiting time for these essential services?

(3) What measures are being taken currently to correct these problems and what is the estimated amount of money which would be needed to implement all necessary reforms?

*Answers:—*

(1) "The waiting time for assessment of children by the Division of Youth Welfare and Guidance for the Children's Services Department is as follows:—Wilson Youth Hospital, Brisbane—Inpatients assessed at the time of referral; urgent outpatients assessed at the time of referral; and non-urgent outpatients, two weeks. Warilda Home, Brisbane—Inpatients assessed at the time of referral; urgent outpatients assessed at the time of referral; and non-urgent outpatients, one month. Townsville Child Guidance Clinic—Urgent outpatients assessed at the time of referral; and non-urgent outpatients, four weeks. Westbrook Training Centre, Toowoomba—Urgent cases are seen at the time of the weekly visit by the child guidance specialist; and non-urgent cases, two to three months."

(2 and 3) "The staff of the Division of Youth Welfare and Guidance has been progressively increased over the years as professionally trained staff become available. Early this year, the Child Guidance Specialist, Toowoomba, resigned. The position was advertised, but no suitable application was received for a full-time position; a part-time psychiatrist was appointed and the full-time position will be re-advertised. Provision has been made on the financial estimates of the Department of Health to further increase the numbers of professional staff in 1972-73."

**QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

**SAFETY OF QUEENSLAND COMPETITORS AT OLYMPIC GAMES, MUNICH**

**Mr. AHERN:** I direct a question to the Premier: No doubt his attention has been drawn to the tragic events at Munich during the last 36 hours. I now ask him if he is concerned about the safety of Queenslanders competing in the Olympic Games and whether he has any comments to make about this matter?

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** I have no further information on the tragic happening at Munich. I am quite sure, however, that the sympathy of all Queenslanders will go out to the families and relatives of the victims of this terrible assassination. We have seen very clearly from this incident what can happen when anarchists and political radicals take the law into their own hands. Opposition to law and order and to

the preservation of our democratic freedoms and our way of life is an extremely dangerous development which can easily lead to the next step, that is, political anarchy and terrorism, and ultimately to murders such as happened in Munich this week.

UPGRADING OF HORNIBROOK HIGHWAY

**Mr. HOUGHTON:** I ask the Minister for Mines and Main Roads: Is he fully aware of the existing situation relative to long delays on the Hornibrook Highway, which have made it the worst bottle-neck and traffic-congested area in the City of Brisbane? When will the proposed meeting of all interested parties take place to discuss this matter in an endeavour to overcome the problems?

**Mr. CAMM:** The honourable member has written to me about this matter on several occasions. The franchise agreement governing the operation of the Hornibrook Highway will expire in 1975. In the meantime, the Main Roads Department is collecting information on the whole area of the estuary formed by the Pine River and Hayes Inlet. This information will be used in the construction of a working model at the university to ascertain the tidal influences and the type of structure that should be built. The Main Roads Department has also collaborated with the relevant local authority and the franchise-holder, the aim being to increase the number of lanes leading to the bridge on the toll-collecting end of the highway. We are awaiting the installation of electricity so that the toll-collectors' shelters can be moved further along the road. As soon as this information is collated and the scale model is constructed, consultations will be had with the interested bodies, that is, the Pine Rivers Shire Council, the Redcliffe City Council and others.

PARKING FACILITIES UNDER FREEWAYS,  
BRISBANE

**Mr. DAVIS:** I ask the Minister for Mines and Main Roads: Has the Main Roads Department made provision for public car parking under the projected freeways in the city and Valley districts, and the freeway to be constructed near Parliament House?

**Mr. CAMM:** I did not hear the latter part of the honourable member's question. Which freeway did he refer to?

**Mr. DAVIS:** The one near Parliament House, to start with.

**Mr. CAMM:** The honourable member mentioned the city and Valley districts. The other one he referred to is the Riverside Expressway. Provision has been made there for parking facilities. The parking area will

be sealed, and I presume that students attending the institute of technology and other people will avail themselves of the opportunity to park there.

**An Opposition Member:** Will there be meters?

**Mr. CAMM:** Not as far as I know. Further consideration will be given to protection of the parked vehicles against fire risk.

EFFECT OF DAYLIGHT SAVING ON INTERSTATE  
TRAIN TIME-TABLES

**Mr. R. JONES:** I ask the Minister for Transport: Has any consideration been given to the effect that the introduction of daylight saving will have on interstate train time-tables on and after 28 October this year? If so will interstate trains ex-South Brisbane leave one hour earlier than as presently time-tabled?

**Mr. K. W. HOOPER:** The answer to the first part of the question is "Yes". Very detailed consideration has been given to this matter. Answering the second part of the question, new time-tables are in the process of being distributed at the present time. I cannot give the honourable member details of the time-tables at this stage.

**Mr. R. JONES:** I have a supplementary question. As hundreds of passengers will already have been booked on trains and issued with tickets in advance, with existing train times appearing on the tickets, will passengers, including country and any other passengers who may miss trains because of this noting on their tickets, be compensated? If not, will the anomalous position that presently exists, and the confusion it will cause, be widely advertised, and will some endeavour be made to alleviate the confusion that the present booking and ticketing system is causing?

**Mr. K. W. HOOPER:** The short answer is: Yes; passengers are being advised.

**Mr. R. JONES:** How can interstate and country, or even metropolitan, passengers be advised when no names and addresses are taken at the booking office?

**Mr. K. W. HOOPER:** The answer is clear. They will be advised by means of advertisements in the daily Press.

DEVELOPMENT OF COOMERA ISLAND

**Mr. D'ARCY:** I ask the Minister for Lands: Can he inform the House what his department's recommendations will be on the renewal of leases held by developers on Coomera Island?

**Mr. RAE:** I can inform the honourable member that only this morning I received a deputation from a Gold Coast society seeking the preservation of this island in its natural state. I have examined the file, and I am able to inform the honourable member that

we are awaiting submissions from people interested in the flora and fauna of that part of Queensland.

An inquiry is also taking place within my department. We received a submission from the lessees of the island which included a plan of development. That scheme was unacceptable to us, and we have written to the lessees informing them that it does not measure up to what we are seeking. We are awaiting the result of a complete investigation before making a decision on the future of this island.

#### TENDERS FOR HOUSING COMMISSION HOUSES, MACKAY

**Mr. CASEY:** I ask the Minister for Works and Housing: Further to his answer to my question earlier today concerning the construction of 30 Housing Commission homes in Mackay and the rejection of the original lowest tender on the ground that the tendering company had no operations or organisation in Queensland, is he aware that yesterday, in Brisbane, the same company signed a contract worth more than \$3,000,000 to build the new Greenvale township?

**Mr. HODGES:** Yes. I am fully aware that the contract mentioned has been signed, and I am also aware that the company is advertising in Queensland for gangs of builders and builders' labourers.

At 12 noon,

*In accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 17, the House proceeded with Government business.*

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY

##### RESUMPTION OF DEBATE—THIRD ALLOTTED DAY

Debate resumed from 10 August (see p. 156) on Dr. Scott-Young's motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

**Mr. PORTER (Toowong) (12 noon):** I am happy to associate myself and the electors of Toowong with the traditional responses and expressions that go with participating in the Address-in-Reply debate. I am happy to say that the Toowong electorate remains a rational one, despite the academic leavening which seems to be growing larger.

The honourable member for Clayfield, who secured this adjournment, was generous enough to pass on to me the opportunity to speak first today, because I was the speaker to follow the honourable member for Everton. Unfortunately, not being well at the time, I was not in the Chamber. I did not hear his speech, but I studied it very carefully because I wanted to reply to it in depth. However, it is not physically possible to do other than paddle in shallow water because I found it a very shallow, superficial speech on what should be the

basic and fundamental aspects of problems facing our society today. I am surprised that a younger member of this House—I presume with young children—did not deal more fully with these fundamental issues. I shall speak at another time to make more detailed reference to his statements about the result of the last State election. The plain fact of the matter—and no amount of fiddling around with arithmetic can disguise it—is that the Labor Party did not get majority support in the electorate. It is as simple as that.

The main matter on which I wish to speak is the issue that the honourable member raised called "law and order". I say that he raised it, but he did not speak about it. It was rather reminiscent of the television debate between Mr. Hawke and Senator Greenwood, when Mr. Hawke spoke about everything except the issue of law and order, which should have been the subject of the debate. Instead, there was a descent to abrasive personalities, and there was this same descent in the case of the honourable member for Everton.

I believe that it is a sure sign of bankruptcy in both intellect and conviction when people have to use personal abuse in lieu of reason, and invective to replace argument. I think it is a very sad symptom of our times and of a kind of intellectual decay in certain circles that this issue can be described in the terms of Australian "strine" as "lora norder". The idea is to make it a "fun" word, something that invites derision and contempt, so that it can be laughed out of court. We could go further, of course, and laugh courts out of existence altogether.

As with all name-calling, this is just a way of evading facing up to an issue, and avoiding debate and rational discussion. It is very easy indeed to use emotive and inflammatory terms. This has been the technique of the demagogue and the mob manipulator since time began. I therefore say that it is very important for none of us to be misled by this "lora norder" trick of ridicule. We need to get this issue straight. We need to know what is really on trial and what is the fundamental issue at stake here, because it is an issue that affects every man, woman and child, born and unborn, in this country. It is a grave and serious issue, and never more so than in the light of what happened at Munich yesterday.

I do not want to deal unfairly with the honourable member for Everton; I want to make sure that he did say what he is credited with saying and, what is more to the point, that he meant what he said. I think he said something to the effect that the campaign against him in Everton was despicable and contemptible, and he went on to suggest that the main reason for this was that he dared to display his contempt for the racial policies of the South African Government and its racist intrusion into

the field of sport, where men and women are chosen to represent their country not on ability but on the colour of their skin.

He went on to say, I understand, something to this effect: "The valid fact is that in the State of Queensland under this Government my sin was not with whom I agreed but with whom I disagreed." Have I correctly quoted the honourable member? Am I correct in thinking that the honourable member said something like that, and meant it? I am anxious to know this, because if he really believes what I understand he said, I want to know how he justifies it. I would like him to tell the House what or who has ever stopped him from dissenting or protesting. What shred of evidence can he produce of any animus or any action ever taken against him because he disagreed with the Government's policy? He cannot produce any such evidence.

The plain fact of the matter is that the honourable member has liberty till the cows come home to disagree, to protest, and to dissent, but in acceptable ways inside the law. There is a myriad of proper ways of doing that. He can do it by writing to the newspapers—if they would publish what he says. They probably would, because he seems to have a good entente with them at the present time. He can produce and distribute pamphlets, subject only to the laws of libel. That is, of course, unless he suggests that people with certain political views should be immune from the laws of libel. He could canvass people in their homes. The only drawback to that is that they may not want to listen to him. The point is that there is a myriad of ways in which dissent and objection can be demonstrated. Nothing—overt or covert—was done to the honourable member for Everton or anyone else because they protested, and to say it was, Mr. Speaker, is the specious doubletalk that is the stock-in-trade of manipulators of mobs. I challenge them—and they have ample opportunity in this debate—

**Mr. Houston:** You are always challenging.

**Mr. PORTER:** Well, the honourable gentleman should accept the challenge and prove me wrong. I challenge honourable members opposite to produce one shred of evidence to suggest that any action was taken because the honourable member for Everton objected to anything.

We have in the honourable member for Everton the latest specimen of a hero of the barricades. I have had over a third of a century in politics; I have seen a number of these heroes of the barricades pass through and on while I have been in the game; and I would expect to survive a few more before I finish. But I say, Mr. Speaker, that the honourable member is lying, either to himself

or to this House, if he suggests that any action was taken against him or anyone else because they disagreed—

**Mr. N. F. JONES:** I rise to a point of order. Action was taken against me, and I refer the honourable member—

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I ask the honourable member to state his point of order.

**Mr. N. F. JONES:** The Premier used one of his officers to try to intimidate one of the editors within my electorate to stop him publishing material for me.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! There is no point of order.

**Mr. PORTER:** The honourable member refers in vague terms to some action taken against an editor. If he can prove that the action was taken by the Government, let him do so in the House. I say that action never has been, and never will be, taken against anybody because he disagrees while a Country-Liberal Government holds the Treasury benches. What might happen if a change occurs is another matter.

Let me deal with what riles honourable gentlemen opposite. If they consider that the right to dissent and protest and disagree also means a right to occupy the streets to promote disorder and violence, then I say that not only can they expect trouble from this Government and from properly constituted authority but they will deserve every jot of it that comes their way. Because that is the crux of the matter, the heart of the issue—the assumption by some people that their views are so transcending, so magnificent, that they are entitled to do everything they wish to the rest of us to make us accept their views.

**Mr. Hughes:** We tolerate it by giving them permits to march in Queen Street.

**Mr. PORTER:** The honourable member for Kurilpa has a point there. I think there is a growing tendency for all of us to want to look progressive, liberal—with a small "l", if I may put it that way—and the result is that some of us tend to accept that occupation of the streets, harassment of people and ugly confrontation is quite in order provided it does not go too far. But how can anybody be sure how far it will go? A mob is mindless and volatile, and who knows what it is likely to do, particularly when it is being manipulated by a few hard-eyed professionals, moving around with their walkie-talkies, whipping up support, getting the dissenters and the violent people to the places where they are needed to inflame the mob, as happened, and as I personally saw happen?

Yesterday the honourable member for Everton rose to a point of order and said that he believed in non-violence, and today he made a very odd personal statement along much the same lines. I say to him and to any

other honourable member that if somebody mixes the ingredients, puts them in a pot, puts the pot on the stove, lights the gas full bore, then stands back and the pot boils over, he is in no position to say, "It was not me who did it; it was the pot boiling over that did it." In plain terms, if one contributes one is a participant.

The issue, then, goes far beyond law and order, which is so readily derided by those people who are preoccupied with pulling things down and replacing the rule of law with mob rule. The issue is: who rules?

We see exactly the same issue in the confrontation between great militant trade unions and Governments. Who should govern this country? Those who are elected to Parliament and are subject to constitutional checks and who can be voted out if their opponents can get a majority of votes (which, of course, they have not done)? Or should government be exercised by those who have no mandate from the people, who are not subject to any system of checks and balances and who believe that the ends justify the employment of any means? That is the core of the issue and no amount of Left-wing doubletalk will obscure it. Who should govern—the people who are elected to office or the manipulators of the mobs? Should we have government through elected Parliaments or government from the gutters? This is the dilemma that faces most countries today. We are on the horns of a dilemma that we ourselves have produced.

**Opposition Members** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. PORTER:** I can hear the echo coming from the other side and it is not surprising. We have been so anxious to look respectable that we have leaned too far backwards in giving ground to those people who want to exploit protest in order to obtain chaos. I am now quite convinced that we are wrong in accepting that occupation of the streets is permissible. I believe that we are utterly wrong.

I think this trend started about 10 or 12 years ago with the Aldermaston marchers in Britain, when extremely well-intentioned, sincere and earnest people wished to demonstrate their concern against nuclear development. Of course, there has been a steady progression from those days and we are now in different times. We are now in times when very sophisticated armaments are available, which means that a small armed group can cause enormous disruption and chaos. We only have to look at what is constantly happening in Ireland, at the examples we now have of piracy of international aircraft, and at what happened at Munich yesterday, to realise this.

Of course, honourable gentlemen opposite who have been associated with protests here might say, "But our protesters would not do

that; they are different." As the honourable member for Everton said, "They are non-violent." Well, some of us remember very well what happened when the Springboks visited here last year. Some honourable members opposite should remember it very well, too. There was a steady progression in the displays associated with that tour. They began with annoyance and ended with lethal intent, and there is no question as to what would have happened had the tour gone on a little bit longer and what might have happened here had this Government not taken action which, of course, terminated the problem immediately.

**Mr. Houston:** It was your actions that brought it about, and you know it.

**Mr. PORTER:** The Leader of the Opposition should look at today's issue of "The Australian" which carries an article disclosing that a protest leader overseas is starting a school for violent demonstrations—learn how to do it; learn how to cause trouble!

These people use the very freedoms of our democracy to destroy its freedoms. They are the cancer in our body politic. What right have they to say, "My belief is bigger, better, and holier than yours, and in its name I am entitled to crush you and obliterate your beliefs."? This is equivalent to demanding from us a right in the name of our principles which, of course, they totally refuse to extend to us in the name of their principles—if they have any. It is, of course, the epitome of the philosophy that the end justifies the means. This has been the justification of every tyrant and despot since history began. It has been the excuse for every foul political crime—murder, assassination and massacre—down through the ages and up to Munich yesterday.

It is the credo of "I am right; therefore I am entitled to do anything, to use any means, to achieve my noble ends."

**Mr. Houston** interjected.

**Mr. PORTER:** The Leader of the Opposition does not seem to enjoy this, but, of course, it is the total justification for occupation of the streets, for disrupting traffic, for harassing law-abiding citizens, for menacing visiting sportsmen, and for clashing with the police and calling them "Pigs". And I see no possible justification for it, because, if we accept it as the norm, then where do we stop? There will be an automatic progression up to kidnapping, abduction and the shooting of hostages. If we were to accept violence in the streets in the sacred name of protest as permissible, and even desirable, what would be wrong with the indiscriminate bombing of innocent people and kidnapping, murder, hijacking and arson? It all becomes only a matter of degree, and the degree is becoming greater all the time.

I think all of us were appalled by the Olympic massacre, which, because the victims were there as sportsmen, was truly a massacre

of the innocents. They were joined in one of the few opportunities that are available today to young people of all nations to get together. They were there as athletes, not as political symbols or exemplars of any nationality, colour or dialectic, but as young people joined together by a common bond in their love of sport and their capacity for dedication and self-discipline to bring themselves to the high peak required of world-class standard in their particular fields.

I am aware that in some quarters—and honourable members opposite will know them well—it is easy and fashionable to sneer at the Olympics; but despite all the denigration there is still something in the Olympics that each four years catches the imagination of the whole world. Something enlarges the dimensions of each and every one of us when someone, by supreme endeavour, surpasses himself or herself. I think that enlarges for all of us the limits of human endeavour, both physical and spiritual.

The founder of the modern Olympics stressed their ideals when he said that the important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part; the important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle; the essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well. To spread these precepts is to build up a stronger, more valiant and, above all, a more scrupulous and more generous world community.

I suppose that these ideals would be sneered at by some honourable gentlemen opposite as being bourgeois sentimentality, Marxist-Leninist deviationism, or something else; but the fact is, of course, that they are something meaningful, and are perfectly exemplified by fine, young people who have done their best proudly for their country. I am one who plainly admits to being moved when young people like Shane Gould stand on the dais representing this country and the best in the world in their sphere of the day. I was quite deeply moved when a 17-year-old girl won a gold medal unexpectedly and as well swam seven seconds better than she had done before, and, when asked by the interviewer, "What did you feel when you stood on the dais to receive your medal?" replied very quietly and with deep sincerity, "I was very proud to be an Australian."

**Mr. Davis:** Let us play "God Save the Queen."

**Mr. PORTER:** I hope we do, because these are sentiments that have about them a capacity that will outlast all the hatred and denigration that seem to be the stock in trade of so many members of the Opposition. To those people who can only preach hatred, division, disruption and destruction, I say that the Olympics still are a compelling force that leads towards some form of better international understanding, despite all the pressures and the blackmail that is exerted.

I was fortunate to have a son who took part in the Games of the 16th and 17th Olympiads, so I had an opportunity to visit Melbourne and get close to the competitors at Olympic Village. I know how genuine comradeships develop there and how understanding overrides political and colour barriers. Of course, I admit that no sudden miracle is to be expected from this getting together at the Games and that we will not see any magical overnight transformation, but the Games do provide a bridge for international understanding and for young people who are the hope of the world.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** How did you feel when the Russians won the 100 and 200 metres?

**Mr. PORTER:** I do not quite understand the honourable gentleman's question. However, because the Games provide some bridge over the yawning abyss that seems to separate nations, yesterday's wholesale, senseless and vile murder sent a shock wave of horror and revulsion that was felt by every normal person throughout the world. On balance, far more of us are normal than abnormal; more of us want to observe the decencies of life than the indecencies. But we, the huge mass of ordinary people, are constantly being held to ransom by the bigots, the fanatics and the radicals—the people who are lusting after personal power.

I think it was undoubtedly this that produced the Munich murders—and they were murders. Any talk about political action, or killing in a war, is just doubletalk. It was murder—cold-blooded, premeditated, bestial and political. In my view the slaughter at Munich was the end product of what I have been talking about; the end product of accepting violence in the streets. When it is accepted that this is quite proper in terms of the right of protestation and objection, we will have come to a very sorry stage. It is a sickening transformation when somebody assumes that he has a divine right—perhaps I should say a satanic right—to blot out anyone or everyone opposed to him; to blot out people without thought for the victims, or the personal innocence or guilt; without thought as to whether they are fathers, husbands or sons; without the slightest care for the personal grief or desolation that this type of barbarism leaves in its wake.

I pay the honourable member for Everton the compliment of believing that he is quite sincere in his beliefs. I mentioned that, as a young man, he may have young children. My children are grown up and married and I have nine grandchildren at the current count. I wonder if he has ever thought deeply about the type of jungle world he is cultivating by what he does—cultivating for them to live in. Perhaps "jungle" is the wrong word to use, because life would be safer in a jungle. This is what is proposed—a world where might becomes right, where ruthlessness obliterates reason and every man is a victim because he has been stripped of the essential protection of the rule of law.

Another aspect of this that has always puzzled me—I suppose it should not, but it does—is that those who preach subversion, destruction and contempt of the law, because of certain causes that they pretend to hold dear and cherish, try to suggest to us that they alone are noble, that they alone have hearts that bleed for their fellow man. The inference, of course, is that we who do not follow in their paths of disruption, disorder and violence are ignoble; that we are not concerned with our fellow man; that we are essentially warmongers, Fascists and dirty racists.

**Mr. Houston:** Aren't you? That is a truthful thing you have said today.

**Mr. PORTER:** I am glad to hear the Leader of the Opposition say that, because that is exactly the nub of the trouble. Every time something happens, honourable members on the other side of the House who are totally involved with the Left-wing forces say, "We alone are noble; we alone care, the rest of you do not; you are a dirty lot of Fascist and racist people."

**Mr. Houston** interjected.

**Mr. PORTER:** I ask the Leader of the Opposition to listen for a moment.

We might accept that what they say is the natural exaggeration of very fanatical people if they were consistent in their reaction, and if they reacted with the same high pitch of intensity to displays of racism wherever, whenever and however they occurred. But the honourable gentlemen, and their followers, are curiously selective in their nobility. They always seem to choose where and when their hearts shall bleed. Recently we saw what happened in Uganda, which is a "very black" country. It expelled people who were not white in skin, but of another colour.

Where were all the bleeding hearts then? Where were all the tub-thumpers? Where were all the demonstrators? Where were the university forum meetings with the radicals shrieking and frothing in holy indignation like so many mad mullahs? Where were all the impassioned clerics? Where, indeed, were the honourable gentlemen of the A.L.P. who were so anxious to lend their weight to any demonstration that involved a white person and a coloured person? There was not a sound or a bleat from any of them; there was a deafening silence. So is it any wonder that we ordinary people suspect the sincerity and intentions of people such as the honourable member for Everton who loudly beats the drum of his own nobility, but only in chosen cases.

I have talked of the Games. The Rhodesian team was expelled by a narrow vote of the I.O.C., despite the fact that it was a mixed team—the first mixed Rhodesian team at the Games in recent years—and that the entry of this mixed team was accepted

by the same committee a year ago. However, foul blackmail was used on the eve of the Games. A number of black nations, with a very poor racist record, including Uganda, voted on this issue and eliminated from competing in the Games a team which included black-skinned competitors, one of whom had a chance of winning the 1500-metre race. He trained for eight years and hoped that he would be able to compete at the Games.

But, of course, the manipulators of these issues do not give a fig for anybody else's cares or concerns. They are interested only in exploitation. When the Rhodesian expulsion occurred, we did not hear anything from Opposition members, Left-wing unions, universities and so on, so one is forced to the inevitable conclusion that the honourable member for Everton, who spoke on law and order in this debate, and others in the A.L.P. and the Left-wing forces associated with it, have hearts which bleed only on command. Their whole performance is phoney and contrived. They do not really want to resolve any tragic issues; they only want to exploit them. This, of course, is the old Communist technique.

**Mr. Houston:** It took you 30 minutes to get around to it.

**Mr. PORTER:** Let me repeat: this again is the old, well-tried, time-proven Communist technique, "You fish best in muddy waters." The only thing is that, these days, the word "muddy" should be deleted and replaced by the word "bloody".

The people who exploit these issues are the true jackals of our society. They deliberately want to cause chaos, misery and despair in the hope of getting good pickings out of the tragedy and disaster that will follow. In no sense do they want to build up; they only want to tear down. They do not want to reform; they only want to deform.

I say in conclusion—

**Opposition Members:** Hooray!

**Mr. PORTER:** Honourable members opposite will be glad to see the end of this, and I can well understand why.

The world of decent people has been shaken and chilled by the latest action of those people. Many people here see terror as a proper extension of political activity, and it exists in circles concerned with protest and, as everybody knows, in trade union circles. We are concerned with those people in this country who deliberately use terror, intimidation, threat and violence to achieve their ends. They are practising in its vilest form the trade of a mercenary. Those people who follow, support or connive with them, or even stand passively by and do not actively resist them, must also carry a heavy load of guilt for the chaos that seems to be coming upon us.

**Mr. Houston:** What happened to your conscience when you voted with us on other occasions? Don't you have any conscience about associating with the Labor Party?

**Mr. PORTER:** The honourable member is trying desperately to clutch at a straw.

If we, the great mass of decent people in the community, are not prepared to grasp nettles and say, "Thus far and no farther", indeed we may say, "May the Lord have mercy on us." I am quite certain that the terrorists and mob leaders will have none.

**Mr. TUCKER (Townsville West) (12.30 p.m.):** As is usual in an Address-in-reply debate immediately following a general election, I take this opportunity to thank the electors of Townsville West for their support, and for their confidence in me by returning me to this Assembly. Shortly before the last election, the Townsville area was divided into three electorates. My former electorate of Townsville North disappeared in the redistribution, and I contested the electorate of Townsville West.

**Mr. Lane:** You were nearly defeated, too.

**Mr. TUCKER:** I have already heard that cry on five occasions. The fact of the matter is that I am still here. If I am allowed to live long enough, this term will complete for me 15 years in Parliament and, even if I continue to win by only one vote, that is all right with me. It will not worry me as long as I am returned. I have been successful at the last five elections, and I shall continue to be returned while the people of Townsville West exhibit the kind of thinking that one has come to expect of them. It was my privilege to represent the electorate of Townsville North for 12 years, but, as I say, that electorate disappeared in the redistribution.

At this stage, I should like to say that when it comes to loyalty to the Crown, the people of Townsville, particularly those of my electorate, stand second to none.

The enemies of Labor constantly stress, as we heard only a moment ago, that I might have been defeated. They emphasise that on this occasion I won by only 26 votes, and they use that result to denigrate the A.L.P. in my area. I suppose that is fair enough in its own way, but when these people say that I won by only 26 votes they conveniently neglect to mention that I did not need any Country Party preferences.

**Mr. Houston:** Or D.L.P. preferences.

**Mr. TUCKER:** I did get some of those.

**Mr. Lane:** Were you happy to have D.L.P. preferences?

**Mr. TUCKER:** I am happy to have anything that will allow me to be returned here for the A.L.P.

**Mr. Lane:** You'll take them from anyone.

**Mr. TUCKER:** If the honourable member casts his mind back a few years, he will remember that Mr. Killen once took the preferences of the Communist Party to save Sir Robert Menzies. Was he happy to have Communist Party preferences? Of course he was. I did not see him knocking them back. If people are prepared to give me their preferences, I shall take them. I received about 11 per cent of Country Party preferences, but there was no necessity to count them as I had an absolute majority after the distribution of D.L.P. preferences. There were approximately 300 votes not counted. Perhaps it would have been better if they had been counted, because I might then have been shown in the details of polling as having won by about 400 instead of 26. These are things that some people conveniently overlook when they say, "You just won by your fingertips." I think those remarks of mine are worth placing on record.

**Mr. Lane:** What do you think about preferential voting?

**Mr. TUCKER:** If we were the Government, we would abolish it tomorrow. I think it is a complete negation of democracy.

**Mr. Lane:** You were elected by it on this occasion.

**Mr. TUCKER:** Let us see what would have been the position in Townsville West under "first past the post" voting. I received 5,136 first preference votes, and the candidate with the number nearest to mine received 2,873. That demonstrates that I would have a secure hold on the seat if preferential voting was abolished. I would literally "bolt" in. In fact, I say that I have a secure hold on the seat even with preferential voting.

As I say, I believe that preferential voting is a complete negation of democratic principles. The honourable member for Merthyr asked me what I thought about it, and I said that I would do away with it if I had the opportunity. I know that my party also would do away with it. Preferential voting was introduced in parliamentary elections in this State by a Government fearful that the Australian Labor Party would beat it on the "first past the post" principle, and it was the result of what might be called "horse trading".

**Mr. Lane:** Would the Federal wing of your party do away with preferential voting if it was elected?

**Mr. TUCKER:** It probably would make every endeavour to do so, but the honourable member must understand that it would need to have the consent of the Senate. Therefore, it is not for me to say that it would do away with it. If it had a hostile Senate, I and other thinking persons—of course, that excludes the honourable member—realise that it could not be done.

Having disposed of that point, I wish to speak about some of my colleagues in Townsville. Both Alex Wilson and Mike

Reynolds, members of the Australian Labor Party who were the endorsed candidates for the electorates of Townsville South and Townsville, respectively, polled outstandingly well. I congratulate them on their fine effort, and I have no doubt that they will both be members of this Assembly before many years have passed. They are men of integrity who are prepared to work, and I believe that they will make fine contributions when eventually they are elected.

**Mr. Lane:** What seats do you suggest they will win?

**Mr. TUCKER:** I think that in time they will win the two seats they contested at the recent election. I sense that the honourable member for Merthyr is trying to bring me into conflict with the honourable member for Townsville South. The point is that at the last election the honourable member for Townsville South won with 51.02 per cent. of the vote. Our results were quite closely comparable, and I am not reflecting on him in that regard.

**Mr. AIKENS:** I rise to a point of order. I do not wish to engage in a debate on this point, but I won with an absolute majority whereas the honourable member for Townsville West did not have an absolute majority. I was in the lead right from polling day.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! There is no valid point of order.

**Mr. TUCKER:** If the honourable member for Townsville South wishes to go into the matter a little more deeply, perhaps I should turn to the figures. Taking the first preferences, the honourable member received 5,024 votes, Mr. Wilson 4,075, and Mr. Smith 800. As the honourable member said, he had an absolute majority. He gained 51.02 per cent. of the vote, which is what I said originally—I was not trying to reflect on him in any way—but his absolute majority was very small indeed.

**Mr. Sherrington:** How many votes did the Liberal candidate receive?

**Mr. TUCKER:** It is significant that Liberal Party and Country Party candidates were absent from the Townsville South electorate. Obviously, the votes that would have been cast for them would not go to Mr. Wilson.

Let me turn now to the electorate of Townsville, which also was created in the recent electoral redistribution. To form it, various slices were taken out of Townsville, including the city area and the Army area, and were linked with the Thuringowa Shire. "Blind Freddie" could see that it was designed for only one purpose—to be won by a member of the Government.

**Mr. Lane:** The Army wouldn't vote for you, with some of your party's policies, would they?

**Mr. TUCKER:** The fact is that the Army were in Townsville North in 1969 and I was here in 1969. Whether they voted for me or not I would not know, but they did not knock me out in 1969.

**Mr. Houston:** And you were always welcome there.

**Mr. TUCKER:** I was always welcome at Lavarack Barracks at any time.

**Mr. Lane:** That would be respect for your position as a member, not for your party's policies.

**Mr. TUCKER:** I do not think State policies come into this question at all. I do not know whether they welcome me as a person. I am not here to push my Army record, but I am wondering whether the honourable member who is constantly interjecting has an Army record. I do not know whether he has, but perhaps if he came up to Townsville he might be able to cajole them into voting for him because of his outstanding Army record. However, he might be able to tell the House about that on some other occasion.

The electorate of Townsville takes in various strategic slices of that city and the area of Thuringowa, and it is worth recording that, of the first preference votes, the present incumbent, Dr. Scott-Young, received 3,913 out of 10,709 cast in the election. These figures are taken from "Details of Polling at General Election" for 1972 and are authentic. So, in fact, on first preferences the Liberal Party—if I may put it that way without being more personal—received 27.4 per cent of the vote. That must be an all-time record low, yet the Liberal Party was able to take the seat with that small number of preference votes. They were able to do that only because of the preferential-voting system.

No-one can tell me that a person who obtains only 27.4 per cent of the first preference vote is entitled to win a seat. I do not believe that this is right and, as I have said, I regard preference voting as a negation of democracy.

**Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG:** I rise to a point of order. The honourable member is simply manipulating figures and making a lot of wind.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! There is no valid point of order.

**Mr. TUCKER:** I repeat that I am quoting from "Details of Polling at General Election". It deals with the election held on 27 May 1972, and was ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed on 8 August 1972.

If the honourable member says I am manipulating figures, I shall quote them verbatim. In the first preference votes Dr. Scott-Young, Liberal, received 3,578; Mr. Michael Reynolds, A.L.P., 3,401; Mr. O. K. Griffiths, Country Party, 2,170, and Mr. Higgins, D.L.P., 707.

**Mr. Aikens:** You are not reading the final figures.

**Mr. TUCKER:** This is the first preference vote.

**Mr. R. E. Moore:** He won on a "first past the post" count.

**Mr. TUCKER:** He received 27.4 per cent of the first preference votes.

**Mr. AIKENS:** I rise to a point of order. The honourable member for Townsville West is not quoting the final vote. I finished up with 5,500 votes, not the number he quoted. Let him quote the final figures.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! There is no valid point of order.

**Mr. TUCKER:** It appears that the honourable member for Townsville South is advancing an argument about the Liberal Party. Surely this is not of any concern to him at the present time.

In the allocation of preferences Dr. Scott-Young received 219 from Mr. Higgins, Mr. Reynolds 76, and Mr. Griffiths 488. The allocation of preferences from Mr. Griffiths went as follows: 2,456 to Dr. Scott-Young and 373 to Mr. Reynolds. The final totals were 6,588 for Dr. Scott-Young and 4,121 for Mr. Reynolds. Dr. Scott-Young must be acutely aware that he is dependent to a very large extent on the Country Party and the D.L.P. for his election to Parliament.

To content the honourable member for Townsville South, I shall quote the final figures. He obtained 5,500; Mr. Wilson 4,391; and Mr. Smith 890. Is the honourable member happy now?

**Mr. Aikens:** Now you are right.

**Mr. TUCKER:** This allowed the honourable member for Townsville South to get 51.02 per cent of the valid votes. I hope the honourable member does not think I was trying to misrepresent the situation.

The Liberal Party must be fully aware that it was completely dependent upon the Country Party in winning the seat of Townsville. The Liberal Party got only a small percentage of votes. If the support of the Country Party and the D.L.P. was taken from the Liberal Party, Dr. Scott-Young would be dead politically. If the Country Party's support were to be withdrawn tomorrow there is no way in the world that Dr. Scott-Young would hold his seat.

**Mr. Campbell:** Are you proud of your performance?

**Mr. TUCKER:** I am always proud of my performance. Many staff members in the Minister's department are not proud of his performance. He should take a close look at himself. Don't start talking about me. I have heard about you, and I think you should keep very quiet—even among your own colleagues. Just leave me alone, or I will pick up a bucket and go right over the top of your head.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. TUCKER:** I can play it both ways, just like anyone else.

**Mr. R. E. Moore:** Haven't you got a septic system?

**Mr. TUCKER:** The honourable member for Windsor would be mine if I wanted one.

I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to my campaign director and the loyal members of the Townsville branch of the A.L.P. Over the past 12 years I have been very fortunate in having a loyal band of hard-working members in my electorate, formerly Townsville North and now Townsville West.

**Mr. Lane:** They must do a big job to prop you up.

**Mr. TUCKER:** I do not pretend that I hold my position solely as a result of my own efforts. I am fully aware that I hold it thanks to the efforts of many other people. I do not believe that I am such an outstanding success that I can stand alone. I stand purely because of the efforts of the people around me. They work very hard, they raise money, and they man the booths for me. They do the thousand-and-one things that Australian Labor Party members are pleased to do for their candidates. I would be the first to admit that. They do all those things, as they have done for years, and eventually they help me to celebrate another win. I could not have held the electorate without their help, and I give warm thanks to Arthur Trower, who has been my right-hand man for many years.

**A Government Member:** You can send him a copy of "Hansard" now.

**Mr. TUCKER:** He has received copies of "Hansard" for the last 12 years. He will be able to continue reading it, which will not be in the honourable member's interests.

I am sure no-one would be offended if I were to mention some of the other people who have assisted me greatly. I refer particularly to Tom McClelland, Frank Treacy, "Scotty" Coventon, Bill England, Norm Bowrey and Austin Barker. I could name many others, but the list would be far too long for inclusion in "Hansard". My sincere thanks go to each of them. Of course, I must not forget to mention those dedicated ladies who have worked hard and given me solid support over the years.

On the occasion of the recent election, the electoral rolls were the worst I have ever encountered in a State election. We received them only a few days before the supplementary rolls closed, which meant that virtually no-one had a chance to discover whether he was on a roll or not. There was no time to distribute rolls so that people might examine them to see if they were correctly enrolled. Normally if a person is not on the roll and wants to get on it he can do something about it, but

in the North we received the rolls only a few days before the closing date for the supplementary rolls.

**Mr. Lane:** There was no time for you to enrol any of your—

**Mr. TUCKER:** Don't be so stupid! The honourable member's remark obviously discloses his thoughts on this matter. I do not really understand what he means. I am trying to be responsible.

I emphasise that we were unable to do anything about checking the rolls to determine whether people were properly enrolled. That was caused primarily by the Government's manipulation of the redistribution, and what I might call the abortive redistribution in which the commissioners approved more than 30 changes under the guise of objections. First there was a redistribution that seemed reasonable, but then we had a virtual redistribution within a redistribution. It went on and on, and the position altered drastically from one week to the next. The trouble arose because the Government saw fit to dilly-dally with the redistribution, and to shilly-shally in many other ways. Country Party members engaged in behind-the-scenes deals, back-biting and political chicanery in an attempt to ensure that their party remained supreme. On the other hand, the Liberal Party moving behind the scenes, tried to gain supremacy for itself. As a result of all this, the electors suffered. Many people in my area found that their names had been omitted from the roll.

After the 1971 roll canvass, objections were issued in their hundreds by the various returning officers. Obviously there was no time for those who conducted the canvass to revisit homes to determine whether people lived there or not. They simply marked them as not being there. The returning officer could only send out notices to people saying that he objected to their names being on the roll and asking them to reply. Objections were received by hundreds of people in Townsville who had lived in the same street for scores of years. Many of them did not understand the import of the objections. They had lived in the same place for the past 25 years and had voted in perhaps 40 different elections, so they simply ignored the objections. They did not understand that if they did not send in a reply their names would be removed automatically from the roll. This situation arose only because the canvass had to be done too quickly. Predictably, many people ignored the objections, with the inevitable result that their names were removed from the roll.

**Mr. R. E. Moore:** If their names had not been removed, the result in your electorate may have been different. You might have been defeated if they had voted.

**Mr. TUCKER:** I will deal with that point later.

Because of an error in the computers, or for some other reason, people resident on the boundary of one electorate were incorrectly pushed over into the neighbouring electorate. Scores of people who went to cast a vote were informed that they were not on the roll for that electorate, and they did not know that they were on the roll for the neighbouring electorate.

In many cases, whole streets of residents in the middle of one electorate were incorrectly transferred to the neighbouring electorate. How on earth would people living in the middle of Townsville South know that they had been transferred to the roll for Townsville West? When they attempted to cast a vote, they were told that they were not on the roll for Townsville South. This happened in many areas of Townsville.

**Mr. Aikens:** Whole streets of names were taken off the roll in my electorate.

**Mr. TUCKER:** That is so. I have that point noted here. Many people were disfranchised either by computer or by human error.

**Mr. Sherrington:** The street directories supplied to many returning officers showed streets in wrong electorates.

**Mr. TUCKER:** That would be one of the reasons. Many of these people said that they wanted to record a vote. They were told that they were entitled to vote and queued up for hours at various booths in an effort to record a section 35A vote. This is a lengthy process and, after waiting what seemed to be an interminable time, some people left. This was a negation of democracy. The fact that a certain number of section 35A votes were cast in any electorate does not record the true position.

**Mr. Aikens:** There was a tremendous amount of computer confusion in the Brisbane office.

**Mr. TUCKER:** That is so. I have already said that there was either computer or human error. This position arose because there was insufficient time to make a proper check of the rolls.

The Minister for Justice, in reply to a letter from me, gave me certain figures on section 35A votes in the three Townsville electorates. I shall deal only with Townsville West. In the end result, 443 section 35A votes were cast in my electorate. As I say, that figure does not reflect the true position because hundreds of people were turned away and further hundreds were still at polling places, after the doors were closed, trying to cast votes.

This was a negation of democracy, and I believe it was so designed. This Government has been in power long enough to know that delaying the introduction of redistribution machinery will result in chaos. And chaos did result, not only in my electorate, but throughout Queensland. Of those 443 section

35A votes cast, only 26 were allowed and counted, so that the people who walked away probably demonstrated some sense.

(Sitting suspended from 1 to 2.15 p.m.)

**Mr. TUCKER:** Before the luncheon recess I was speaking about section 35A votes cast in Townsville West. I mentioned that the Minister said that the total was 443 and I said that this did not reflect the real number who wanted to cast section 35A votes because many of them left in sheer frustration before voting. I said that I considered that to be a complete negation of democracy. From the way the rolls were left on this occasion, it would seem that what happened was brought about by design.

In reply to an interjection by the honourable member for Windsor, who unfortunately is not now in the House, of the 26 section 35A votes allowed out of the 443 cast, I received 17. It therefore appears that it was the Labor Party voters who suffered. Even though 26 represents a small percentage of 443, I received 17 of them, and it is reasonable to assume that I would have received a similar percentage of the 443 votes. I appreciate that this is something that is quite intangible and impossible to prove, but it does appear that it is Labor voters who suffer through not being on the roll. They do not understand the whole ramifications of objections to enrolment and, because they do not reply, they are struck off the roll.

On 8 August of this year I directed the following question to the Minister for Justice:—

“How many votes were cast under section 35A of the Elections Act in the 1969 State General Election for the Electorate of Townsville North and of these votes, how many were subsequently allowed by the Returning Officer?”

The Minister answered—

“Two hundred and seventy-two such votes were permitted of which thirteen were allowed and counted.”

I am trying to discover whether this was an abnormal or a normal number of votes. In 1969 there were approximately 18,000 voters in Townsville North. At the time of the last election there were approximately 12,000 voters in Townsville West. There were twice as many section 35A votes cast in 1972 as there were in 1969, although in 1969 the electorate was one-third larger than it was in 1972. Those figures show that the number of section 35A votes cast in 1972 was abnormal, and, in addition, there were many others who wanted to cast such votes but were unable to do so.

To my way of thinking, the whole conduct of the election was a disgrace. Even responsible members of the Liberal Party in Townsville agree that there was something radically wrong with the rolls, which meant that many people were disfranchised. In Townsville, 680 section 35A votes were cast and, in

Townsville South, 673. There were therefore approximately 2,000 section 35A votes cast in the City of Townsville. That is not good enough, and I think I should go on record today as saying so.

In the short time left at my disposal I wish to protest about the time taken to declare the poll, particularly in my electorate. It was into the third week after the election before the result was known. I was not “Robinson Crusoe” in this matter; I think a Minister found himself in the same position. Surely such a situation brings the Government into disrepute, not only here but throughout the world.

It is no fault of the returning officers, other poll officers, and the public servants concerned that it took three weeks for some members to know whether they had won or lost. It is the fault of the horse-and-buggy methods being used in the polls in Queensland today. Can honourable members imagine waiting three weeks to arrive at a decision as to which party should rule in Australia or who should be the Prime Minister of Australia, or, to go further and take another instance, who should be President of the United States of America? It should not take three weeks to decide whether someone has won or lost. Such a situation is completely ludicrous.

Returning officers are forced to wait for votes despatched by post from polling places all over the State. Surely in this computer age returning officers should have a swifter method of advising other returning officers throughout the State of the votes they have on hand. The present methods certainly are not good enough.

Big companies employ swift methods of communication today. This morning the Leader of the Opposition and I were invited to go to the Brisbane Stock Exchange and watch the Exchange working. There are machines there that will show in two seconds, at the touch of a button, the figure at which certain shares stand in Adelaide or Perth. Means of communication such as that are available now, although they may not have been available in earlier years. They should be used in elections in Queensland, where the methods of 50 years ago are still in use.

**Mr. Hartwig:** How is the share market?

**Mr. TUCKER:** I do not understand share marketing, but I am aware of the type of machines used by the Stock Exchange and I realise how swiftly they can produce an answer. If they are available to those people, they are available also to Governments. Machines similar to the one that gave an answer in two seconds should be used in the running of elections throughout the State. Returning officers would not then say, “I am going to count votes tonight”, count 28 votes, and then go home and say two days later, “We will count another parcel tonight.” In my electorate, that went on for about three weeks, and other honourable members have

told me that the position was similar in their electorates. That is not good enough in this day and age.

I call for the setting up of an all-party committee to investigate the voting methods now used in Queensland, especially the means of communication available to returning officers. I ask that that committee go into the question with the principal objective of modernising the present outdated method of conducting a State general election.

**Mr. Hughes:** Wouldn't that situation be overcome if we got public servants to run the election?

**Mr. TUCKER:** The all-party committee possibly could come up with an answer to that question. In my opinion, there is a great need for a committee such as I have suggested to consider the whole question and suggest ways of modernising our polling methods.

The election results demonstrate again the gerrymander under which this State labours. The election was a negation of democracy.

**Mr. Houston:** Did you notice that the same three commissioners have been appointed again?

**Mr. TUCKER:** I have been told in the last hour that the same three commissioners who gerrymandered the State electorates have been appointed to arrange a redistribution in Brisbane. If they are left to their own devices, I wonder what they will do on this occasion.

I think it should be put on record that the A.L.P. received 48 per cent of the votes of the people of Queensland—the highest percentage since 1956—and that it won 33 seats in this House. The Country Party got 20 per cent of the vote and 26 seats, the Liberals 22 per cent and 21 seats, and there are two Independent members, making 82 seats in all.

There is no doubt in my mind that Labor had a moral victory in the election. The majority of Queenslanders endorsed the policy of the Australian Labor Party presented by Jack Houston a few months ago. They showed that they wanted a State Labor Government but, because of the gerrymander that took place in this State, they did not get it. Again I say that if the same three commissioners are used, we will get a similar gerrymander in Brisbane to the one we had in Queensland, the aim being to throw out Lord Mayor Clem Jones and his Labor council.

**Mr. Houston:** This is the second step.

**Mr. TUCKER:** That is so. The same three people will do a similar job in Brisbane to the one they did in Queensland seven or eight months ago. This Government governs on a minority of votes of the people of Queensland. It is unbelievable that the coalition should be dominated by

a party—the Country Party—that enjoys the support of only one person out of every five in Queensland.

(Time expired.)

**Mr. CORY (Warwick) (2.26 p.m.):** Firstly, I thank the Governor for opening this first session of the new Parliament. I congratulate him on his appointment and wish him well in his position in the future.

I congratulate the mover and seconder of this motion, both new members, and welcome them, with the other new members, to this Parliament. I feel sure that, regardless of the side of the House they occupy, they will have much to offer by virtue of their varied experience. The concept of a Parliament is that it is a forum where people from all walks of life may voice their thoughts, ideas and experiences for the benefit of the whole State. This is evident in some of the remarks I have already heard from new members, and I should like to refer to one that I think is very significant and true, particularly in country areas. It came from the new member for Ipswich, Dr. Edwards. He advocated the training of more general practitioners in Queensland. I could not support this more, because this is one of the very real problems being faced in country areas, where it is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain the services of what we term "the family doctor".

I think it is true to say that the average person in the community likes to go not to any doctor, but to his own doctor. Through no fault of the doctors themselves, but simply because of developments in this profession, more and more medical men tend to specialise and fewer and fewer become G.P.'s, with the result that it is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain the services of a G.P. Although much progress has been made in knowledge and skills in this field, the benefits are not available to many people in their own areas, as they used to be. I cite the case of Killarney. The last doctor who was there remained for about four years. When he left, although the opportunity was available to earn an income in excess of \$20,000, a replacement could not be obtained, for three years. At last a new doctor has now commenced practice at Killarney and everything is functioning satisfactorily. I only cite that to illustrate that too few medicos are interested in becoming G.P.'s at the present time. It is the G.P. to whom the public looks not only for assistance in times of sickness but also for all sorts of advice. The tendency to specialise in medicine results in the community being deprived of many of the services which it wishes to enjoy.

I think it is excellent that advocacy on these lines should come from a doctor, because this is certainly a much-felt want in country areas. Admittedly, some doctors are as proficient as they should be, but

the tendency to specialise takes away from the people the concept of the family doctor that we have known for so long.

I now wish to draw to the attention of the Minister for Lands a manner in which the Government can foster decentralisation in my electorate and, at the same time, obtain revenue. I refer to reforestation. It could be implemented in my electorate economically and provide a sound investment for the future. A great number of people would be able to obtain their livelihood from it, and I believe that it could be the nucleus of a wide range of commercial and industrial activity. The area that I have in mind has everything to offer for expansion and development. It possesses, firstly, natural resources; secondly, an adequate manpower supply; thirdly, social resources; and, finally, industrial resources. I shall explain those four headings in greater detail.

As to natural resources, the area is Crown land and has already been shown to be suited to reforestation. It has a high annual rainfall and is also at an altitude that makes it ideally suited to the growth of the pine species. The area has no shortage of manpower, and the implementation of forestation in the area will increase employment opportunities.

As to social resources, these are available in the towns and the district generally, all areas being fully serviced. Finally, the area possesses industrial resources because as long ago as the last century sawmilling was established there and that industry can quite easily cope with any expansion that occurs. In the past the area supplied timber to Brisbane and many other places, and because no replanting has taken place it is ripe for reforestation. If it is not implemented, the real potential of the land will not be realised and it will have to be used for some other purpose such as grazing.

Firstly, it is far too valuable for grazing. It is suitable for much more intensive use, ideally for reforestation. Secondly, the non-development in reforestation of these areas would starve the established sawmills of supplies. Thirdly, if reforestation is not proceeded with, the drift of population from the area will be accentuated, at a time when efforts in many other ways are being taken to counteract it. I emphasise that quite a lot has been done already to arrest the drift of population, and the implementation of a reforestation programme would help markedly in this regard.

I appeal to the Government for assistance to get this project off the ground. The area in question runs along the Great Dividing Range east of Warwick. It is mainly in the Glengallan Shire, but parts of it are in the Shires of Allora, Gatton and Boonah. I believe that the Gambubol area, a privately owned plantation in the Emu Vale district, which is in the centre of this whole area, is available for purchase. It contains approximately 700 acres planted to trees, and could

be used as a launching pad for the progressive expansion of reforestation on Crown land and existing logging areas that, in all, total 11,000 acres.

Much of this region has been cut into different logging areas, which in itself indicates that the timber industry has been working the country for many years. But there has been no replacement of timber and the future of the sawmilling industry is somewhat in jeopardy. It is not for me to say what the purchase price of this privately owned area should be. It is the responsibility of foresters to assess a fair purchase price, but I am sure that they could work it out. The potential earning capacity of this area is well known. Reforestation on the privately owned area started in the early 1950's and planting was carried out mainly between 1954 and 1960. I understand that at least 500,000 superficial feet is available now. The whole of the area—both private and Crown land—is between 2,000 and 4,000 feet above sea level.

If the private area is not purchased and fully maintained, the potential of the whole area could not be realised, because it would be the basis of the development project. Also, there is an increasingly grave risk of disastrous fires. For certain reasons the company owning the area has not maintained it properly. Because of this, fire is a real danger and a grave risk not only to the timber and the plantation but also to the surrounding district.

I appeal to the Minister to give effect to this proposition, which will take advantage of the area's unique potential and guarantee employment. This high area, which has rich, volcanic soil of good depth, high rainfall, good drainage and fast-growing capabilities, is suitable for growing *pinus radiata* and other varieties. Officers of the New South Wales Department of Forestry have shown interest in it and recently visited it to measure growth rates, which they are comparing with the growth rates in areas close to the New South Wales-Queensland border. As they have shown interest in the area, Queensland cannot allow its potential to remain untapped.

The use made of these areas indicates that they are accessible. They could be brought into the one scheme which, without doubt, must be a viable proposition with no risk of loss of any money put into it by the Government. Even if there were a risk, the benefits are such that the scheme should be undertaken. Queensland is crying out for this type of assistance, which would safeguard not only the present employment situation in the sawmilling industry but also our future needs. As we progress, we will need more and more of these materials, and if we do not have them, we will either have to do without or import them. If we do nothing to develop this potential, it will be our fault if problems arise.

This approach should appeal to the Treasurer because Queensland spends a great deal of money importing these materials from both overseas and southern States. This is ridiculous when Queensland has areas such as these which are completely suitable for growing these resources. The social, physical and financial advantages are so great that this is too good an opportunity to miss.

In many parts of Queensland, industries have been successfully built around reforestation projects. In this case, industry is already there and we have a responsibility to look after it as well as to do something for future industrial expansion. Nothing is achieved when a new industry is established if, in the process, others are destroyed. What I suggest is economically sound, and it is an instance of intensive land use. In mountain areas of this type, it is very difficult to put land to intensive and economic use. Here, however, is an opportunity that is ready made.

The Forestry Department has made an assessment that in the period of development of reforestation areas the employment provided is one man to 160 acres. As the area becomes established, and after the first rotation, one man to approximately 40 acres is considered a reasonable level of employment. At the same time, the assessed percentage on import replacement value is in excess of 9.

I appeal to the Minister to move whilst the present opportunities are available. This privately owned area is available for negotiation and sale, and now is the time for the Government to take action to obtain this going concern and use it as a launching pad for expansion into adjoining areas north and south along the range.

I now wish to deal with a matter that is of considerable concern to people living along some of the State's newer highways. I refer to those whose properties have been severed by road construction, and who have to move livestock across the highways fairly regularly, on many occasions as often as twice a day. I believe that the provision of underpasses, where the areas are suitable for them, should become part of road-building policy. I know that these are being provided to some extent at present, but only through negotiations following requests by landholders. I believe that the Main Roads Department should show a little more leadership and insist on the provision of underpasses where they are needed to remove the dangers and problems associated with moving stock across major highways. It can be done, and in many cases it is done, but only on request, and this is no help for those whose properties were cut by highways before the thinking on underpasses was as advanced as it is now.

The department does not want livestock crossing roads; motorists do not want them crossing roads; and, equally, landholders do not want to put their livestock on roads. Anyone who has had experience of crossing highways with livestock knows that it is

a nightmare, something that has to be experienced to be understood. In the public interest, the Main Roads Department should play a greater leading role in providing underpasses for landholders.

I stress that after a highway has been placed through a property there may not be a realignment of the road for the next 100 years. The construction of many roads has required fills of 30, 40 and 50 feet, and these make such situations ideal for the construction of underpasses. The department should look over its activities in the past few years to see if it is possible to give assistance, by the provision of underpasses, to those who have suffered severance. Every landholder who has a new road alignment on his property should insist on access of that type. However, that does not help the person who has a road running through his property that has already been upgraded and re-aligned to meet the needs of the public. In my opinion, he should not have to suffer indefinitely the inconvenience and danger of continually crossing the highway with stock. If it is constructed in the public interest and for the benefit of the public, the public should contribute something towards the cost of removing the risk.

The Main Roads Department should give a lead in this matter, if for no other reason than that problems of a similar type come before it each day of the week and an individual landholder may be faced with the problem only once in a lifetime. If he does not make the most of his opportunity, he has lost it for good. A little bit of leadership from the department in assisting landholders to construct underpasses would be appreciated greatly and would also benefit the travelling public in general.

I turn now to the question of introducing a compensation scheme in cases where cattle that react to T.B. testing are passed by our own health authorities as being T.B.-free and suitable for human consumption but are not accepted for overseas markets. In my opinion, this problem is too big to be left to individual owners and should be considered on a national basis. Queensland and the Northern Territory are the areas principally involved and, because of that, it is very difficult to get the Commonwealth authorities to agree to a scheme. The incidence of T.B. in cattle herds in New South Wales and Victoria is very slight indeed, but there is a reasonably high incidence—not a very high incidence—in North and North-western Queensland and in the Northern Territory.

The views that I put forward are supported by a public statement made on Friday last by the chairman of the Australian Meat Board, Colonel McArthur. The economy depends greatly on the successful eradication of T.B. from cattle herds in Australia. The problem is of such importance that Governments, both State and Federal, and the industry itself must get together to safeguard the industry as such, overseas markets, and Australia's overseas trade balance. If

action is not taken fairly quickly, it will be too late. Whether meat is being produced for the overseas market or for home consumption, the whole price structure of the industry will collapse if even one part of the export market fails. It could fail if it cannot be guaranteed that the meat from Australian herds is coming from T.B.-free cattle. The owner cannot evade the law, and many of the cattle that react when tested are proved later not to have T.B.

No owner of T.B.-affected stock minds if such stock is condemned out of hand and he gets nothing. He does not complain about that, because nobody wants to sell T.B. stock, but, with the process of testing, there is a percentage of reactor cattle which are quite satisfactory for human consumption in the eyes of our health authorities, but which are not acceptable on the export market. In effect, these cattle become valueless because there is no market for them, and no works will slaughter them. The export works will not touch them.

**Mr. Burns:** What about the disease that is passed on?

**Mr. CORY:** But these are not diseased cattle.

**Mr. Burns:** Isn't brucellosis a disease?

**Mr. CORY:** T.B.-reactor cattle have never had brucellosis. That has nothing to do with it. I am dealing with T.B. and in the present financial situation the stock-owner has to provide all the finance and suffer all the loss in this direction. This is slowing down the success of the eradication scheme which this Government approved and which we are trying to get off the ground. The sooner Australia can say that its herds are free, the safer our markets will be. As soon as the American producer can completely guarantee that his herds are free of it, that country will not import meat from areas where there is any suggestion, true or not, of T.B. amongst cattle.

This is important to Queensland. It is the largest cattle State in Australia, with 75 per cent of production going overseas. This represents about 10 per cent of Australia's export balance. If we move too slowly and experience a collapse of our market price structure, obviously the capital already invested in the industry will also collapse. As I said, the chairman of the meat board has mentioned this publicly. He feels that it is extremely important to the industry as a whole. It is no good waiting until it is too late. It is far better to prevent a problem than to rescue the industry from a disaster after the problem has raised its ugly head.

If the Commonwealth will not come into the matter of its own volition, I think Queensland should give some sort of lead and provide a scheme that is acceptable at all levels. Queensland is perhaps more involved than any other State—not that the other States will not suffer if the price

structure collapses. I think Queensland producers should get together and come up with an acceptable scheme so that the whole matter can be cleared up and we can guarantee at all times that the commodity we sell is T.B.-free. It is not a matter of right or wrong; it is a matter of whether the cattle are acceptable to the purchaser. The authorities here consider that these cattle are quite safe, but the people who buy these commodities are the ones who dictate much of the policy.

I should now like to mention the announcement and comments by various Federal Ministers about possible plans for the establishment of a national rural bank. My first point, of course, is that these comments and announcements have to be clarified before we judge their worth and assess exactly where we stand, but without doubt something of this nature must be of enormous value on various counts. It has been quite obvious for quite some time that there is a need for long-term capital at reduced interest rates. At the present time the return on capital invested by a landowner is far less than it was years ago. To obtain the return that could be obtained years ago, a landholder needs to invest an additional 35 per cent of capital, but the additional investment is on items that depreciate very quickly. The only way in which he can meet his commitments is by a more intense utilisation of his land. Of course, he cannot do this unless his land is capable of greater utilisation. In the majority of industries today this is just not possible.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. W. D. Hewitt):** Order! There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber.

**Mr. CORY:** The long-term finance that I have in mind should be made available through existing trading banks. The bank manager is the best person to offer advice and allocate funds. If a completely new set-up were created, many of the persons involved in its administration would be far removed from the problems that confront the landowner who is seeking assistance. The present banking machinery is the best means of distribution of funds.

Since the establishment of the Rural Reconstruction Board, many landholders have been unable to share in the allocation of finance. Some, because of their financial position, are considered not to be in need of assistance, and others are said by the board not to be eligible because they are not viable. Many landholders who deserve assistance have not been able to receive it, and they will not be able to continue their operations unless other avenues of finance are open to them. The Rural Reconstruction Board has done a very good job, but it is limited by its charter and is thereby able to assist only a limited number of persons.

We look to the Federal Government for some clarification on the operations of the proposed national rural bank. The establishment by the Government of the Rural Reconstruction Board proves that the Government realised the need for long-term finance at low-interest rates and because it realised that a certain section of the primary producers require that assistance it should also realise that the remaining primary producers need it.

**Mr. AIKENS** (Townsville South) (3.5 p.m.): Unlike the honourable member for Townsville West, I do not intend to engage in a post mortem or, should I say, a wake of the results of the election held on 27 May. However, I will say that, because the State electoral boundaries were so scarified and emasculated by the Electoral Commission, it is absolutely impossible to draw a comparison between past performances at the polls and those at the recent election. For example, my electorate contains an enrolment of over 17,000, yet, as a result of the redistribution, only 10,781 people voted on 27 May. So how can any comparison be made between those figures and those of past elections?

I remind honourable members that after the 1963 election the honourable member for Townsville West, when making his contribution to the Address-in-Reply debate, vain-gloriously boasted, "We've got Aikens on the run." To show who has whom on the run in the Townsville area, I shall quote some figures. As I have said, only 10,781 voters went to the polls on 27 May. I received a majority of 1,109 over the A.L.P. candidate, and up my sleeve I had 890 D.L.P. votes, which I did not need. In spite of the figures quoted by the honourable member for Townsville West, I gained an absolute majority of 219.

Let me now refer to the over-all picture in that area, which for very many years was the citadel of the A.L.P. Any no-hoper, as long as he got for himself the moth-eaten A.L.P. endorsement to tie around his neck, could win the seat—as we know from bitter memory. Today in the North there are seven seats covered by the TV screen through TV Channel 7, from which, during the election campaign, my mellifluous voice could be heard, and on which my ruggedly handsome face could be seen.

The honourable member for Townsville West spoke at length about the number of people who were struck off the roll. Speaking with all the presumption of a typical A.L.P. member, he implied that all of them would have voted for the A.L.P. How does he know whether they would have voted for the A.L.P., the Liberal Party or the Country Party? No party could claim that it lost because a certain number of people were crossed off the roll, although I agree with the honourable member that it is a tragedy that such a thing should happen.

I will deal now with the seven seats covered by TV Channel 7. I will quote the figures for those seven seats only, because

I have a lot of important information to put before the Assembly. There were 68,205 valid votes polled. Of those 68,205 votes, only 28,051 were for the A.L.P. A total of not less than 40,154 out of the 68,205 voters would not touch the A.L.P. with a 40-foot pole. That over-all picture of the figures shows just how far the Australian Labor Party has slipped in the Townsville area and just how much it has me on the run. Rather is the reverse the case.

In the new Townsville South electorate I was left with only the solid, hard-and-fast A.L.P. section of the former Townsville South electorate. My A.L.P. opponent, despite a terrifically extensive and expensive campaign, polled only 40 per cent of the total vote. If I had told anyone 20 years ago that an anti-Labor candidate such as I am could defeat an A.L.P. candidate in the solid working-class suburbs of South Townsville, Railway Estate, Oonoonba, Wulguru and Stuart, I would have been laughed at. The A.L.P. did beat me in two of the areas, but even if five hard-and-fast Labor booths were all that constituted the Townsville South electorate, I would have won.

I should now like to get on to something that is really worth while and that will interest everyone in the Chamber.

**Mr. Lee:** Did you win by an outright majority?

**Mr. AIKENS:** I had an outright majority from the start. Despite the figure of 89 votes that the honourable member for Townsville South said I received, I finished with 219. The trouble is that he read only half-way down the column and then gave up. He did not get to the bottom of the column.

I shall now comment on a happening at the recent Country Party conference, where certain rugged, rough-hewn, horny-handed sons of the soil moved a motion stating, among other things, that an inquiry should be held into the absolute autonomy granted to the university. They suggested that something should be done about it and that the taxpayers, who pay the money to keep the university going, should have some say in running it.

The Minister for Education, who, of course, has been a toady and a stooge for the university establishment ever since his elevation to Cabinet rank, was reported in the Press as saying, "I warn you to walk warily when you talk of interfering with the complete autonomy of the university." I feel sure that those at the conference were influenced by the Minister's remarks, so they took the issue no further. I hope that someone who was interested in that Country Party conference will send those delegates a copy of my speech.

The university establishment wants everybody to think of the university in terms of student unrest. It is true that there is some student unrest at the university, and some of it is to be deplored. The establishment

actually incites and encourages it because it is a smoke-screen or facade behind which it can hide its own nefarious activities. The rotten core of the apple at the universities is the establishment.

All of this is condoned by the Minister for Education. That was proved conclusively when, instead of appointing a rough-hewn, rugged, horny-handed son of the soil in the Country Party to fill a vacancy on the Senate of the University of Queensland, he appointed to represent the people of Queensland a toady and stooge of the establishment in the person of Mr. Walter Campbell. That is the biggest joke of all. The same situation exists at the James Cook University. The council at that university is a collection of social snobs. Many of them have their sons and daughters at that university and, being on the council, can ensure, no matter what happens to anybody else, that their degrees are safe.

I shall deal now with one of the many scandals that I hope to be able to touch on. I am happy that the Premier is in the House and I hope that he can remain and listen to this because, when all is said and done, it is his over-all responsibility to see that these things are grappled with when they are exposed.

Recently, the Department of Works, through the Co-ordinator-General, let a contract for the construction of the humanities building of the James Cook University at a cost of \$1,080,000. James Birrell and Partners were appointed as architects, as they are for nearly all university work. I understand that a good kickback is received from them.

The Co-ordinator-General thought that he was safeguarding public money by writing into the contract a clause that James Birrell and Partners must have a resident architect in Townsville to supervise construction. They did not do anything of the sort. They put a transient architect there. He lived in a private house in Townsville for a short time and then disappeared into the limbo of forgotten things. Where he is now, we do not know.

The result was that the humanities building is an architectural and structural abortion. You have never seen anything like it in your life. The walls above ground level leak and the rain pours into the upper floors and even through the roof. The underneath rooms, which were supposed to house a lecture theatre and a computer room, are awash after every light shower of rain. I shall deal later with some of the blatant lies and deception which are engaged in to try to fool the Government and the Minister.

To overcome this shocking mistake, it was found necessary to construct a concrete drain around the building at a cost of \$70,000. In the interim, cyclone "Althea" hit Townsville. The Government rushed in generously to assist everybody who had been afflicted or affected by that cyclone, and made \$242,000 available to the James Cook University as a grant to offset any damage done to the

university buildings. Believe it or not, this gang in Townsville tried to pull the beautiful con trick of charging to the cyclone relief fund the \$70,000 for a concrete drain around the new humanities building to stop the water running into the ground floor.

I have here the minutes of the university's buildings committee. It is astonishing what information reaches me. I have a copy of those minutes, and they are available for any honourable member to inspect. These are the minutes of the Buildings and Grounds Committee of the James Cook University, and they deal with this shocking state of affairs. They are full of lies, distortions, dissimulations, and downright dishonesty. Anyone can read them. As a matter of fact, if the Premier would like to see them, they are available to him. This is a photostat copy of the official minutes of the Buildings and Grounds Committee of the James Cook University of North Queensland, and they are full of blatant lies in order to try to justify the claim that the \$70,000 for a concrete drain should be paid from the cyclone relief fund. As soon as these people knew that I was on the job, they decided that they would pay the \$70,000 out of university funds. Where they are going to get that money from, I do not know.

The most astonishing thing is that no tenders were called for the building of this drain. It was let nice and quietly, "under the cushion", to a firm of contractors called North West Constructions, who are associated with the engineers mentioned in the report, and who gave the report to the buildings committee on the need to build the drain. That is one of the things going on at the James Cook University.

I also have here a photostat copy of the official document that gives the Auditor-General the right to enter and to audit and investigate all matters connected with the James Cook University. That will be over-come very shortly, these people hope, if the Premier and his Ministers are not very alert.

The next lovely little racket was the replacement of a building known as Stuart House at Wulguru. I have photostat copies of all the documents dealing with this racket, too. These old buildings originally belonged to the Immigration Department, and they were used as housing for migrants till they could find accommodation elsewhere. When they fell into disrepair, the university took them over. All the buildings together would not be worth \$5,000 of anybody's money. The university people maintained that they were damaged by cyclone "Althea". As a matter of fact, a couple of sheets of iron were blown off and a few sheets of fibrolite were broken. They decided to replace the building at the Stuart House complex at Wulguru—to replace a building that has never existed! If that is not downright lying, I should like to know what is.

In order to work a beautiful racket, these people decided to give this contract to a mate of theirs. The firm concerned is McKenna & Wilson. I have the original letter here, containing details of quotations for the replacement of Stuart House—a building that never existed—and the erection of a demountable building at Stuart House. The quotations are—

“McKenna & Wilson	..	\$16,508
Bailey & Devine	..	\$16,645
E. & J. Petersen	..	\$16,945”

This letter to the Vice-Chancellor is signed by Mr. R. S. Long, Acting Controller of the Building and Grounds Division, and on looking at it one could say that it was correct to give the work to McKenna & Wilson, who submitted the lowest tender.

What is not stated, however, was that all of this was typed in the university office under instructions from Mr. Long and Mr. Ballaam, and that the quote of E. & J. Petersen was an absolute fraud. It was not submitted by Mr. Petersen, who knows nothing about it. His initials were given incorrectly, in any case. That was a fraudulent quotation, and the quotation of McKenna & Wilson was much higher. It then became lower than it.

It will be seen from another letter, of which I also have a photostat copy, that when these people had one genuine tender of Bailey & Devine, for \$16,645, they decided to “tip off” McKenna & Wilson. They got them to knock down their tender to \$16,508, and so they got the job. That is the way things are done. It is now claimed that that building, which was non-existent before “Althea”, was built instead of effecting minor repairs.

These were forgeries, and they were done in the university office under instructions from Long and Ballaam. As a result, McKenna & Wilson won the contract, and as far as I know the building has been erected. I do not know what is going to happen to McKenna, but I know that the police are inquiring into the matter because Petersen, naturally, objected to his signature being forged on the document.

When tenders are called by the James Cook University, no tender box is used. As the letters come in, those with the tenders in them are opened and the tenders are left lying round for anybody to see. Anybody can pick them up and tip their mates off as to what the lowest tender is so that they can tender a little lower. Mr. Speaker, you have never seen—you could not even imagine—things such as those that go on at the James Cook University.

All this was done by Ballaam, Controller of Buildings and Grounds at the university. Naturally, Bailey & Devine, who missed out on the contract, kicked up a bit of a fuss. They realised that the whole thing had been a fraudulent racket to give the job to McKenna & Wilson. So Bailey & Devine

were fobbed off with a job costing \$1,754, allegedly to repair the library wall. That is what will be claimed under the cyclone “Althea” restoration fund, but in fact it was not spent on repairing the library wall. It was used to build two new gardeners’ sheds costing \$1,754. If anyone doubts that assertion, I have here a photostat of a document from the James Cook University for him to read.

In addition to that—and this will also be paid for out of what is called the cyclone suspense account—hundreds of dollars were spent on refreshments for various people who called in at the university. The money was paid out of petty cash, but it will be reimbursed from the cyclone suspense account. Other works charged to the cyclone fund were—I ask honourable members to listen particularly to these—firstly, a bitumen road to Professor Richards’s house. Honourable members will remember hearing about Professor Richards’s house. He gets a free house at the university because he is something to do with Hall of Residence. The house was half built when he came back from holidays, but he did not like it and had it pulled down and reconstructed to suit the idiosyncrasies of himself and his wife. The cost of the house alone—I received this information in answer to questions that I asked the Minister for Education—was \$40,000. The Premier will be happy to know that, out of the cyclone relief fund, a bitumen road has now been built to Professor Richards’s house.

Queensland Oil Refineries did considerable new work for the university, such as the provision of tarred roads, and this also is being paid for out of the cyclone relief fund. Concrete slabs have been placed under the university hall, also with money out of the cyclone relief fund. I have seen dockets and vouchers for miscellaneous amounts, all recorded in the books of the university, totalling about \$3,000, again all coming from the cyclone relief fund.

Electrical installations and lights that were not damaged by the cyclone—some of them were in private homes—were removed and replaced with modern ones merely because the occupant of the particular home or office wanted modern lighting facilities and electrical appliances. All that work has been paid for out of the cyclone relief fund, and the lights and appliances that were removed have disappeared. I shall tell you later, Mr. Speaker, where some of them have gone.

University staff members frequently work on private dwellings owned by academics and senior staff members, and they use university materials. A lot of material ordered by Ballaam and handled by Long never reaches the university. Goodness knows where it goes. The first the university knows of it is when it receives the bill from the person who supplies the materials. Of course, the Vice-Chancellor refuses to act or even to acknowledge any written complaint from reputable staff members, because Ballaam openly boasts

that the Vice-Chancellor is not game to do anything. I know he is not game, and I shall shortly read something to prove it. Ballaam says he has too much on the lot of them—and so he has.

I have here something said by Ballaam that will help honourable members to understand why the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Back, is not game to work on Ballaam. This is a statement made by Ballaam. He says that he had attended to legislator's pool-pumps during working hours; that he had tarred the V-C's (that is, the Vice-Chancellor's) driveway with tar donated by Queensland Oil Refineries, which is the company that is working in with them; that he had built the Vice-Chancellor a boat cradle, using university timber; and that he had installed a university air-conditioner at the Vice-Chancellor's house. Those are only a few of the items. I have a whole bundle of photostats in my room that anyone can have a look at. But, as I say, time marches on and I want to deal with as much of this material as possible.

As I said, Ballaam ordered everything or anything; price was no object to him. Much of what was ordered never reached the university until they received the accounts, and you, Mr. Speaker, will be happy to know that some of these accounts are held for six to nine months before the university bothers to pay them.

There are some reputable people at the university, and they kept coming to me with these things. I said, "Give me documentary evidence." I now have a whole pile of it. I did not want to appear facetious, Mr. Speaker, but before I opened my folder I intended to ask you to allow me to use a gas mask because the stench from these papers is overpowering.

When the university people knew that I was onto this, they panicked. The Premier should know all about this. I do not want to embarrass him, of course, because I have the highest regard for his honesty and probity, but these people panicked and got in touch with the Government, who decided to send an officer of the Auditor-General's Department to the James Cook University to inquire into all these things that have been going on, particularly the blatant and dishonest misuse of the cyclone restoration fund.

Although these people asked for this man to be sent up there, the moment he arrived every staff officer and academic was ordered by the Vice-Chancellor and senior academics, under pain of instant dismissal or suspension, not to be seen talking to the inspector from the Auditor-General's Department and not to supply him with any information at all. So the officer of the Auditor-General's Department had to wander around like a lost soul trying to pick up any information he could in order to prepare what he thought would be a good report to the Government or to the Auditor-General. This poor chap

from the Auditor-General's Department has been up there trying to get, as best he possibly can, information for the Government or the Auditor-General, and he is continually running up against a brick wall.

In order to get around the position, a statute is being prepared—and this is something I want the Premier and other Ministers to keep their eyes on. I say without any reservation that if they are not very careful the Minister for Education will slip it through at an Executive Council meeting, without them knowing it is going through. I have here a list of names of the Legislature Committee of the James Cook University. They are: Chancellor, Sir George Fisher. He, of course, is only titular; he does not go along; Vice-Chancellor, Dr. K. J. C. Back; Professor B. J. Dalton; Mr. A. G. Dean, a solicitor; Mr. Justice J. P. G. Kneipp, a Supreme Court judge; Mrs. M. E. Mayo; and Mr. G. V. Roberts, a solicitor.

This committee is preparing a statute of the James Cook University that will provide that under no circumstances or conditions shall the Auditor-General or any of his officers have the right or authority to inquire into or investigate anything at all in connection with the James Cook University. That would probably be the most monstrous statute ever placed on the statute book of any university. However, it is now in the course of preparation, and I tell the Premier here and now that if he and the other Ministers do not watch out, Fletcher will shoot it through at a meeting with the Governor and recommend that it be approved.

I asked the Premier some questions on this matter when it started to break, and I also asked him a question about an officer of the James Cook University. I did not mention his name but I will do so now. Just as the university lied to the Minister for Education, so has it also lied to the Premier. It lied in the matter of the purchase of the grand piano, and in other matters as well. In fact, lying is second nature to those in charge of the university, as it is to their confreres at all other universities.

Those in charge at the James Cook University had said that an officer had been dismissed. The officer whom they claimed to have dismissed is named Ron Long. He was the Director of Works, and those at the university decided to offer him for sacrifice. In the "front" that they are putting up to the people of Townsville and the Government, they claim that Ron Long was dismissed because he was personally responsible for all this dishonest material that I have just read out, and a great deal more of it that I do not have time to read.

The James Cook University deliberately lied to the Premier. Although Ron Long is no longer working at the university, he certainly was not dismissed. In fact, he is still receiving his full pay pending the final

pay-off to shut his mouth. The university has offered Ron Long \$5,000 in a lump sum to keep quiet and shoot through. However, through his solicitors he is demanding \$25,000, which the university will not pay. In the meantime, as I said, it is paying him his full salary. After I asked the Premier about the matter, "The Townsville Daily Bulletin" spilled it in its columns by publishing both my question and the Premier's answer. Then it was decided to pull a cheap, little political bluff. Through his solicitors Ron Long took out a stopgap writ for—don't laugh—\$100,000. Of course, this is designed to stop any talk outside Parliament, as it will do, but it cannot prevent any discussion inside Parliament.

**Mr. B. Wood:** It depends on who is saying it.

**Mr. AIKENS:** If the honourable member goes as deeply into matters in his electorate as I do in mine, he will know as much about his electorate as I know about mine. However, I have "lost" the university. I think the honourable member for Townsville now has it, and he is very welcome to it.

The policy of the James Cook University is to hush things up until they blow over and then carry on again dishonestly. Not all of the university's staff are dishonest. If all of them were crooks, liars, con men and grafters, I would not have been able to obtain the tremendous amount of material that I possess. I repeat that there is more of it in my office, and it is just as interesting as this.

I am holding up a magnificent publication known as the James Cook University of North Queensland Calendar for 1972. I do not know the cost of it, but I am told that the printing cost alone is approximately \$16 a copy. Thousands were printed, not by a North Queensland printery but, as one would expect, by "The Courier-Mail". As we know, "The Courier-Mail" is bound up with Mr. Bray, who is the man in charge at the Griffith University. He is financially interested in "The Courier-Mail" and is the loving, white-haired boy of the Minister for Education. He is establishing the Griffith University—and what a hell of a mess he is making of it! He has with him on the senate some of the worst of the no-hopers from the Queensland University. However, I shall not go into that.

Thousands of these pamphlets were published, at tremendous cost. They were supposed to be of information to students. It may sound rather strange that students should take me into their confidence, but they do. This is what the students think about this extravagant monstrosity printed by "The Courier-Mail". They call it the "great calendar robbery" or the "dissemination of non-information". I suggest that every member in the House should read the pamphlet issued by the students at the James Cook University in which they scarify and eviscerate this expensive monstrosity, and let

the whole world know what they think of the "great calendar robbery" perpetrated by the James Cook University.

I have here enough material to cover at least three or four speeches, but I do not want one to overlap the other. In view of what I have said and the factual documentary evidence I have produced, I think I have the right to ask the Premier to order a full and public inquiry into the operations of the James Cook University, particularly with regard to the matters I have mentioned and other evidence that I will produce to show that graft, corruption, robbery, dissimulation, lies, malversation—anything one might care to name—is rampant at the top in the James Cook University.

I think I have read enough to show that there is at least something seriously wrong at the James Cook University. I know it will be condoned by the Minister for Education, who will do all he possibly can to stop any investigation into the James Cook University. We all know his attitude towards universities. At the moment, I am not interested in the Minister for Education other than to see him removed from his portfolio. The sooner that is done, the better it will be for everyone in this State, including the Ministry and the Government, because I know of no-one who is bringing more odium on the Government.

I have not indulged in any elaboration or exaggeration today, nor have I been vindictive, venomous or vicious. I have said enough to let honourable members know the impression I have gained, which is that the sooner a public inquiry is held into the operations of the James Cook University the better it will be for everyone concerned.

**Mr. B. WOOD** (Barron River) (3.36 p.m.): At the outset of his speech the honourable member for Townsville South, in his usual misinformed fashion, attacked my colleague the honourable member for Townsville West. In addition, he claimed that the A.L.P. was slipping in the area around Townsville.

**Mr. Aikens:** So it is.

**Mr. B. WOOD:** Let me quote some figures from parliamentary records to indicate how badly the honourable member for Townsville South is slipping. In the 1956 State election he polled 77.87 per cent of the primary votes, which was quite a high percentage. In 1957, he polled 75.09 per cent. In 1960, he polled 66.85 per cent, and in 1963 he polled 60.16 per cent. There was a slight resurgence in 1966 when he polled 63.21 per cent. In 1969 he polled 53.10 per cent and, after a redistribution, in 1972, he polled 51.02 per cent. If we examine those figures we clearly see what his fate will be at the next election.

**Mr. Sherrington:** That's not slipping; it's a landslide.

**Mr. B. WOOD:** It certainly is.

I congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your appointment. As one northerner to another, it is pleasing to see you in your position. I

believe that you will prove to be a successful Speaker and that, in the end, you will lead this Assembly with decorum and dignity.

**Mr. Sherrington:** Despite his enemies on the Government side.

**Mr. B. WOOD:** That is what I intend to elaborate on.

There have been some very rowdy incidents in this Chamber in his short history as Speaker. Some members have been acting in a most unseemly fashion. That has been caused, predominantly, by one factor. You, Mr. Speaker, must agree with me because you have seen it. On one occasion, when my leader was speaking, I saw the Treasurer walking amongst his members—I remember one occasion vividly, shortly after your election—and stirring them up to interject.

**Mr. R. E. MOORE:** I rise to a point of order. There is no truth in the honourable member's statement.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member will withdraw the remark.

**Mr. B. WOOD:** I withdraw the remark.

In no sense was this action taken to embarrass the Leader of the Opposition, who is more than competent to hold his own. It was a deliberate attempt to try to embarrass the newly elected Speaker. The same situation has arisen on several occasions since. I have personally had experience of the Treasurer being unusually loud in his remarks. Indeed, at no time is he a very quiet person. To your commendation, Mr. Speaker, you have chosen to ignore his unseemly manner, and I believe that your example of great dignity will prevail in this Parliament. This week has been interesting for you. You have had some difficult decisions to make, and, when you master the technicalities of your position, I believe that you will prove to be a very commendable Speaker.

The Opening Speech of His Excellency the Governor, which outlines the policy of the Government, was particularly disappointing. I imagine that there is always a lull after an election, but this was certainly a poor indication of what we and the people of Queensland can expect from the Government. The Opening Speech itself was indicative of the poor treatment we receive. And even in the seating arrangements for the Opening ceremony we were shown some sort of contempt by being forced to sit through it on kindergarten chairs. The Government piled in chairs which it had gathered from a school somewhere.

**An Opposition Member:** You are pretty right there.

**Mr. B. WOOD:** Yes, I am. Some of the big men had to use two chairs and still had difficulty squeezing in.

I was pleased to hear the following statement in the Opening Speech—

“Accordingly, in the year ahead, the Department of Primary Industries will expand its marketing and farm economics research over a wide range of industries.”

I checked “Hansard” and found that on 20 November 1970, in debating the Estimates of the Department of Primary Industries, I pointed out that the greatest problem confronting producers was the marketing of their crops. I said that, difficult though it may be, the Department of Primary Industries should expand its interest in the realm of projecting future demands and that the marketing section of the department should be expanded.

It is very little trouble to grow crops and produce cattle. What is difficult is to sell what is produced. Therefore, I was pleased that one of the few encouraging items in the Opening Speech dealt with that matter and that some notice had been taken of what I said two years before. It is encouraging to find that attention is paid, even belatedly, to what honourable members say in this Chamber.

Another item referred to the work to be done in constructing new dams and expanding existing dams throughout Queensland. This is very necessary work. The interest of the Labor Party in this field was demonstrated years ago when it initiated the construction of the Tinaroo Falls Dam. I was disappointed that no mention was made of any expansion of it. There is still much work to be done at the dam. There is still a potential for increased development in the Mareeba-Dimbulah irrigation area, and not only for tobacco production. There is still much that the Government has to do in this area, but at the moment I can see no interest demonstrated.

During the election campaign when the Premier was in Mareeba, I recall his statement that he was going to approach the Commonwealth Government for a sum of money—I think it was \$1,200,000—to carry out further extensions to the scheme. Of course, passing the buck to another Government department or, as in this case, another Government, is a very well-known way of answering a question.

**Mr. Wallis-Smith:** The real trouble is the provision of water for electricity generation rather than for irrigation.

**Mr. B. WOOD:** That has been the trouble, but I think the honourable member will agree that that problem is decreasing.

The Premier sought to pass the buck to the Commonwealth Government. I believe that he was only half-hearted in this matter, and that what he said was a stop-gap answer for some rather angry people to whom he may have been speaking at that time. By all means let him approach the Commonwealth Government and, if he can obtain \$1,200,000 from that source, I shall

be the first to cheer. However, I do not think that that was his intention. I shall be asking him, when a suitable opportunity presents itself during question time, if he has written to the Commonwealth Government and, if he has, what the result has been.

**An Opposition Member:** You are giving him notice.

**Mr. B. WOOD:** Yes, I am giving him notice. He now has a few days in which to write the letter. We have seen in the past that the Premier does much of his lobbying by writing letters. I think we on this side of the House agree that that is not the most effective way of getting what we seek.

It seems strange to me that the Tinaroo Falls Dam scheme should still be incomplete. There is no doubt that it would be much cheaper to bring additional areas under irrigation by constructing new channels rather than new dams. The cost per irrigated acre of this type of extension would be very much less than the cost per irrigated acre in some of the new works that have been proposed.

In the statement of Government policy—"non-policy" might be the better description—I see a reference to the building of a new high school at Mossman. This project has a fairly sad history. An assurance was given at one stage that a new high school was to be built, but the money was allocated elsewhere. There was so much fuss about it that in the end the Government had to do certain work on the high school. However, it is not correct, as is stated in the Opening Speech, that a new high school will be built at Mossman. It would be more correct to say that three-quarters of a school is to be constructed, as no provision has as yet been made for manual training and domestic science rooms, and I am not sure whether provision has been made for a library. Let us be honest and say that in this instance the Government is doing a half-hearted job.

I now refer to another matter that does not please me. It is stated in the Opening Speech that the Queensland Housing Commission will continue house construction for home-ownership and rental.

**Mr. Bromley:** It is very slow about it.

**Mr. B. WOOD:** It certainly is. The honourable member for Cairns will agree with what I am about to say. He and I attended a civic reception in Cairns not long ago when the Minister for Works and Housing was happily welcomed to the city. He made one or two most peculiar statements. Let it be remembered that he is the Minister in charge of housing, and the one to whom we go in the hope of having more houses constructed throughout the State. He told us in Cairns that one of the desirable features of our city was the high cost of land.

He said that we should not worry about that, as it was a sign that local people and those in the South had confidence in the city. What a remarkable statement to make! He supports high prices of land—as high as \$4,000 for a very poor block. He seems to have no sympathy for the young people, and the older ones, who are struggling to build a home and who cannot overcome even the first hurdle of acquiring the land, let alone the later high costs of erecting a home on that land.

I would have expected the Minister, instead of saying what a good thing that is, to put forward some proposals along the lines that I have suggested to him on many occasions for reducing the cost of home-ownership in that area. He went away from Cairns. I hope that some of the messages we gave him after he left caught up with him.

I see very little in the statement of Government policy that the House is now debating that gives me any encouragement. I do not think there is much in it for my electorate, for Cairns, or for North Queensland as a whole. We are certainly dissatisfied with the Government.

In another field, I know of one small group that also is dissatisfied. I refer to the North Queensland Self Government League, centred in Townsville. This is evidence of discontent on the part of a few people—and I emphasise the word "few". I have no doubt that this league, aiming at a new State in North Queensland, is a disappointment to those people in the North who might in some manner be disposed to support its aims. I certainly agree that we could do much better in the North without the present Government, and I share the dissatisfaction of these people; but I have no confidence in their organisation. The activity—or the lack of it—of the league leads me to the conclusion that it would be as centralised in Townsville as the present Government is in Brisbane; that it would be as indifferent to the needs of distant areas as is the present Government. I make that statement in spite of the claims of the league that it will decentralise administration through the various major provincial cities in the North.

This most recent league appears to have learnt nothing from the experience of so many before it over 100 years. If it has any prospects of success, if it wants to face State and Federal Governments with confidence—and it must convince these—it should be a strong popular movement, backed with enthusiasm by North Queensland people. I see no evidence that the league has made any determined effort to achieve that popular support. It has not got it now, and it does not appear to be looking for it. Indeed, the reason why this league will be just another new-State movement if it fails is because what impetus it does have is derived from only a small group. The aim of forming a new State will be successful only if the initiative and enthusiasm for it is based on the popular will. I see nothing but a small

group of people who have undertaken an academic exercise on the need for a new State but who have not yet got away from the desk, or shown any desire to do so. In fact, I see the people in this league as being arrogant and conceited. Without reference to the people, they are deciding what is in our best interests, and we will not tolerate this. What confidence could the Cairns area have in this league—and Cairns is the centre of a more heavily populated area than is Townsville—when it has not made any effort to expound its views to us or, more importantly, to hear what we have to say? Lacking any basis of popular support, it has not even tried to get out and enlist it. Perhaps one person in 100 in Cairns would know of this league and that one person is not really interested in it. If the league has any confidence—if it believes it has good arguments and wants to get anywhere—it had better get out and meet the people it claims to represent.

Some time ago in this Chamber I expressed concern about the proportion of property in Cape York Peninsula that is owned by foreign interests. At that time I said that one-third of the Peninsula was so owned. Since I spoke on that occasion, the percentage has increased. This is a wholly undesirable trend.

**Mr. Bromley:** By American interests?

**Mr. B. WOOD:** By a variety of interests, but predominantly American.

I want to demonstrate my anxiety by citing one example, and whilst I shall mention one person in particular, I have no animosity towards him. In fact, I do not know him. I am citing him as an example of what is happening in other places.

There has been an accumulation of land in one ownership in the area north of Mossman, around Daintree. Additionally, the same owner has acquired larger adjacent pastoral holdings, at the base of Cape York Peninsula. He is a Danish gentleman named Arne Pedersen. So far he has spent in excess of \$4,000,000 acquiring properties, and rumours indicate that he has substantially more money yet to invest in the area. My major concern is that no-one—other than Mr. Pedersen—yet knows where this will all end.

**Mr. Sherrington:** Where is the money coming from?

**Mr. B. WOOD:** It is overseas money. One report has it that an offer has been made on Lakeland Downs. So far Mr. Pedersen has acquired 40 relatively small properties around Daintree, mostly freehold and ranging in size from perhaps 100 acres to 2,000 acres. Generally speaking, he has paid between \$80 and \$130 per acre for this land. It is rich, tropical country, very good for cattle-fattening. When one considers this price, one must also realise that fairly extensive areas of it are still heavily timbered and that it is very rugged terrain. There is no doubt that it is good country and that this man, who is an intelligent person, examined many areas

before purchasing it. The country has a high value, but he has certainly paid very much more for it than was paid in earlier land sales. The situation was such that owners in the area could hardly refuse the offers that were made. This is borne out by the fact that only a few have not sold. I repeat that I do not know this gentleman. I know his agent, who is quite an honourable man.

I do not want to criticise this man's motives, because he is working within the framework allowed by this Government. So I have no direct criticism of him. My criticism is of the Government's policy, and I am worried about the extent of foreign ownership of our land.

I am also concerned at the accumulation of very large holdings. I have, and I believe the Labor Party also has, a basic objection to extensive landholdings by any one person. I believe that for a long time in Australia the principle has been well established that no one person should own extensive areas of land. The leasehold system, which was developed long ago, is an indication of this principle, and although the Government has made some alterations to the policies laid down by previous Labor Governments, it would generally support this principle.

Following the instance that I have quoted—and very many more that have occurred on the Peninsula—the time has come for a review of policy to consider developments over the past decade. Sheer wealth alone should not determine the ownership of land. I ask the Government to give consideration to the formation of a policy as to foreign ownership of land, and also to the determination of limits of ownership by any individual or company. By all means let us have development and larger numbers of cattle on Cape York Peninsula; but let us also consider the manner in which this is to be achieved. To do this, I should expect that it will be necessary to hold an inquiry at departmental level, or higher, to examine foreign ownership and large holdings by companies and individuals in this State. I therefore ask the Government to set up such an inquiry and then come down with its policy. Such an inquiry should be held in public so that all views may be well represented.

I know what the situation is north of Cairns. As the representative of the area, I receive numerous requests from people who are looking for land. I visit the Lands Department regularly, and on every occasion people are at the counter poring over maps in their search for land. The time has gone when Australia was a land of open spaces and land was available to be taken up; therefore, this determination of policy that I seek is a matter of considerable importance.

**Mr. Hughes:** The Government still owns about 80 per cent of the land in Queensland, so what is the problem?

**Mr. B. WOOD:** It is true that the Government owns the land, but it is mainly leasehold land. However, the honourable member for Kurilpa is missing my point.

**Mr. Hughes:** You are speaking about freehold land.

**Mr. B. WOOD:** I certainly was not speaking only about freehold land. The honourable member should keep his ears clean.

In the fairly short time I have been in Parliament, I have found that many people outside Parliament do not properly understand its function. Of course, nor does the Government itself properly understand the function of Parliament. Certainly it chooses not to understand. Parliament does not govern this State, because in Queensland—heaven help us!—this is the responsibility of Cabinet. I do not believe that Cabinet properly understands the definition of the word “govern”. At all times it should realise that the Government is not the master of the State. In fact it is, through Parliament to the people, the servant of the State. The basic misconception that the present Government has will cause trouble for both it and the State.

**Mr. Sherrington:** The thing is that it gets down to eight Country Party gentlemen.

**Mr. B. WOOD:** This is so. The system certainly is not a democratic one. Recent action by the Government indicates that it believes it is not only the master of the State but also its dictator. Democracy depends on equal franchise, but instead of that Queensland has a gerrymander. Democracy depends also on the efficiency of the machinery of government in reflecting public opinion. On both grounds the Government fails. It scorns public opinion.

I recognise this Parliament as being the central forum for discussing public policy and examining the State's administration. I believe that, elsewhere, Parliament has been described as the watchdog of democracy. That is the true essence of Parliament. In this Chamber any matter reflecting on the State is open for debate. It has been said that the strength of Parliament is not always to be gauged by the strength of the governing party but by the strength of the Opposition. Very often the strength of the Government depends on the strength of the Opposition in determining its democratic status, and I believe that position prevails here.

I will say that the Government allows its actions to be criticised, evaluated and, of course, condemned. The system requires that it should do so—and that certainly happens here. But the next steps do not follow. The Government ignores criticism and scorns public opinion. It seems to find itself safe under the redistribution, hence it has no worry.

**Mr. Sherrington:** Would you say it was a Mafia Government using the numbers racket to keep it in office?

**Mr. B. WOOD:** That is certainly so. The Government has the numbers, but not in terms of the popular vote. It has the numbers in this House.

**Mr. Sherrington:** Because of the gerrymander.

**Mr. B. WOOD:** That is so.

It was said today that the Labor Party did not receive a majority vote, but we gained over 48 per cent of the primary vote. If we were to allocate all the preferences—and I suppose that could be done if someone went to the Electoral Office and examined the records—we would certainly gain an additional 2 per cent of the vote.

**Mr. Frawley:** Don't tell us that.

**Mr. B. WOOD:** I have looked into this matter very carefully, and the fact is that, on a conservative estimate, the Labor Party polled 50 per cent of the votes and altogether, after the distribution of preferences, the anti-Labor Parties also polled 50 per cent. One would therefore expect under any sort of democratic system that we would have 50 per cent of the seats.

**Mr. Houston:** The Premier made the Government's attitude very clear when he said, “I am not interested in votes, only in seats.”

**Mr. B. WOOD:** That is correct.

To emphasise the point, I say that the Government is secure in its gerrymander and therefore feels safe in scorning some of the important democratic processes.

The Government treats Parliament, and consequently the people, with disdain. It also refuses to allow Opposition members reasonable facilities to do their job. We certainly want to play a party role—there is no denying that—but as parliamentarians we play a very strong parliamentary role and we have to do our job. I freely admit that the Government allows us to criticise and to evaluate its policies. It does not like to do this, but it cannot avoid it. But it does not give us any facilities that will help us to do that. I believe that we are justly entitled to such facilities, not merely to help us in a party pose but because the role of a member of Parliament and the role of the Opposition entitle us to them. We should have access to information and we should have facilities to help us acquire information. In three areas we are denied this help. I believe that a conscious decision has been made to weaken our position, to weaken the role of Parliament, and to make the job easy for the Government. It is a conscious decision to weaken our position and the role of Parliament, and to make the job easy for the Government—not Government back-benchers, but Cabinet Ministers. Government back-benchers are also denied these facilities.

**Mr. R. E. Moore:** We are in the Government party and you are not.

**Mr. B. WOOD:** The honourable member is a member of the Government party.

**Mr. Sherrington:** He is too stupid to realise that you are trying to help him.

**Mr. B. WOOD:** This is right. He is a member of the Government party but is not in fact a member of the Government, and he should understand the distinction. We should be given secretarial assistance.

**A Government Member:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. B. WOOD:** The honourable member is coming on side now.

I spend the major portion of my time doing secretarial work on constituency matters, and I freely admit that I spend too little time on the very important matters relating to Parliament.

**Mr. Houston:** That move was defeated in caucus.

**Mr. B. WOOD:** I am sorry to hear that. I suppose pressure was applied. Secretarial assistance to individual members is essential for the better functioning of democracy in this State.

Secondly, a committee system should be instituted. Members of the Cabinet know full well that only a portion of the work done by Government back-benchers and Opposition members is done in this Chamber. A good deal of work is done by means of letters, deputations and personal approaches, and it is not all party political. This can be continued and assisted with a committee system, which exists in other Parliaments. The danger to the Government is that it would weaken its position and would take away some of its authority. Therefore, it does not want it.

Thirdly, we are hampered by the lack of library facilities. Anybody who has been in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Library knows what is lacking here. I am reflecting not on the staff of this Parliamentary library but on the amount of money and the facilities made available to them. An improved library service, which I hope will be provided, is essential if Opposition members and Government back-benchers are to have access to more information. The Government has only two years and nine months to do this before we do, and I hope it will be done. It would certainly assist the Opposition.

Our aim, over and above party aims, is to help this Parliament and thereby help this State. It may not be the wish of the Government, but it is certainly my aim and that of the A.L.P. We seek a Government that will be responsible to the people. We seek an active, democratic role in Parliament so that the State may advance under enlightened, sympathetic and effective leadership.

Debate, on motion of Mr. Ahern, adjourned.

The House adjourned at 4.15 p.m.