

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**THURSDAY, 21 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—

Industrial Development Act 1963-1970.  
City of Brisbane Act 1924-1972.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**Mr. BURNS** (Lytton) (11.3 a.m.), by leave: Yesterday, in a personal explanation, the honourable member for Kurilpa accused me of deliberately dealing in falsehoods inside and outside this House when speaking of his association with Brisbane Securities Limited. He said that he was the managing director of Brisbane Securities Limited and that, with the exception of one instance, every application submitted by Brisbane Securities Limited to the Brisbane City Council had been approved. I am advised otherwise. For example, an application to rezone 65 acres at Roghan Road and Lacey Road, Bald Hills, was rejected.

**Government Members** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member for Lytton is quite in order. I am aware of the subject matter of his personal explanation. Yesterday the honourable member for Kurilpa accused the honourable member for Lytton of telling falsehoods inside and outside the Chamber. This statement by the honourable member for Lytton will refute that allegation, and I ask honourable members to hear him.

**Mr. BURNS:** A second application, to rezone five acres of land west of the Brisbane-Sandgate railway line and abutting the south bank of Cabbage Tree Creek from non-urban to residential, was rejected.

In another case, because of poor quality of building the council was forced to write a letter asking why a multiple dwelling, containing 12 units, in Victoria Street, Fairfield, should not be demolished. At the insistence of the council, wide improvements were made. This scheme was commenced by Brisbane Securities Limited and was passed over to the Balmoral Building Company. Managers of the Balmoral Building Company were appointed by the Supreme Court.

Further, an application for a multiple dwelling, containing 30 units, on an area of 2 roods 11 perches in Borva Street, Highgate Hill, resulted in the council seeking further details about the plans. The company advised that, owing to legal problems, it was unable to finalise the matter and asked that the application be left in abeyance.

Lastly, a subdivision of 4 acres in Cambridge Street, Rocklea, is still being processed.

I am sure you will agree, Mr. Speaker, that the honourable member for Kurilpa handled the truth very lightly when he said there had been only one rejection by the council. I stand by my statement outside this Chamber that his attack on the Labor Brisbane City Council was made for personal and profit-making reasons and not because of any genuine desire to assist the citizens of Brisbane.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I feel that the right of members to make personal explanations is being abused by the practice of seeking leave, on frivolous grounds, to make such explanations. I propose to crack down on this practice in the future.

I also have another matter to mention. It is apparent to me that many members do not really know what constitutes a point of order. I hope at a later stage to produce a statement on this matter for the benefit of all members.

**GROUP TITLES BILL****INITIATION**

**Hon. W. E. KNOX** (Nundah—Minister for Justice): I move—

“That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill to facilitate the subdivision of land into lots and the disposition of titles thereto, and for purposes connected therewith.”

Motion agreed to.

**COMMON LAW PRACTICE ACT  
AMENDMENT BILL****INITIATION**

**Hon. W. E. KNOX** (Nundah—Minister for Justice): I move—

“That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill to amend the Common Law Practice Act 1867-1970 in certain particulars.”

Motion agreed to.

**QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE****CLEANING CONTRACTS FOR MAIN ROADS  
DEPARTMENT BUILDINGS, BRISBANE**

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

(1) Which Main Roads Department buildings in Brisbane are cleaned under contract?

(2) When were such contracts renewed and what tenders were received?

(3) Are the ninth and tenth floors of the Main Roads Building, Boundary Street, Spring Hill, included in any contract? If so, who is the contractor?

Answers:—

(1) "The Head Office Building, Boundary Street, Spring Hill and the No. 14 District Office at Cleveland Street, Stones Corner. Arrangements have recently been made for the Materials Laboratory, Herston and Traffic Signals Section at Brookes Street, Bowen Hills to be cleaned by contract cleaners commencing from Monday, September 25, 1972."

(2) "(a) Head Office Building. The current two-year contract with Woods Cleaning Services expires on October 1, 1972. The following tenders were received when tenders were invited for a further period of one year, viz.

Tenderer	Price	Estimated Cleaning Hours
Keir Cleaning (Qld.) Pty. Ltd.	\$ 57,004.00	478
*Gainsborough Cleaning Services .. .. .	58,320.00	648
Mac's Cleaning Service ..	60,420.00	480
Starshine Cleaning Services	61,896.00	300
Crothall and Co. Pty. Limited	68,806.40	600
The Woods Group of Companies .. .. .	69,141.24	672½
Lynch's Cleaning Contractors Pty. Ltd. .. .. .	82,000.00	740

\* Tender subsequently withdrawn.

Executive approval was obtained on September 14, 1972 for the acceptance of the tender of the Woods Group of Companies which was considered the most satisfactory after an examination of the resources and services to be supplied and other relevant factors in relation to the minimum time necessary to achieve an acceptable standard."

(2) "(b) District Office, Stones Corner. The following quotations were received for the cleaning of this office by contract:— Associated Cleaning Contractors, \$669 per annum; Woods Cleaning Services, \$973.44 per annum; and Master Cleaners, \$1,878 per annum. The contract was awarded to Associated Cleaning Contractors for a period of 12 months commencing November 15, 1971."

(3) "No. These floors include the cafeteria, canteen, auditorium and other special areas where cleaning requirements vary from time to time and departmental employees are used."

WOOD-CHIP INDUSTRY, NORTH QUEENSLAND  
**Mr. Sherrington**, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

(1) Has his Government received submissions for the establishment of a wood-chip industry in North Queensland from the following companies and for the respective locations—(a) Comalco, on a site based near Weipa, (b) Australian Wood Mines Pty. Ltd., based within a radius of 75 miles of Cairns, and (c) Australian Continental Resources Ltd., near Shelburne Bay?

(2) If so, on what type of forests would the respective industries be based?

(3) In the case of Comalco, is the land in question an area previously excised from an Aboriginal reserve and does this area contain sacred grounds or any other facet pertinent to Aboriginal culture? If so, have the views of the indigenous people been sought and what has been their reaction?

Answers:—

(1) "The only firm proposal received by the Government for the establishment of a wood-chip industry is from Australian Wood Resources Pty. Ltd. and relates to the area within a 75 mile radius of Cairns. This is understood to be the same company as Australian Wood Mines Pty. Ltd."

(2) "The proposal by Australian Wood Resources Pty. Ltd. relates to the operation of hardwood forest, supplemented by saw-mill waste."

(3) "See Answer to Question (1)."

RURAL RECONSTRUCTION BOARD DECISION  
 ON "ROSSMORE" HOLDING, DALBY  
 DISTRICT

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

With reference to his Answer to my Questions regarding the usefulness of the Rural Reconstruction Board to those graziers who are in greatest need of financial assistance as the result of drought—

(1) Will he have the Board specifically reinvestigate "Rossmore", located 135 miles west of Dalby, which property has a capital value of \$100,000 and a debt of approximately \$30,000 and which, after having been refused Board assistance, is to be auctioned later this month?

(2) Can some bridging finance be arranged to grant temporary relief to the owners and so prevent the auction?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "The board has informed me that it has considered the applicants' situation on eight occasions and is unable

to alter its decision that the application be declined. I am unable to comment on the approximate figures mentioned by the Honourable Member as the board's information is regarded as strictly confidential. However, the fact that the application has been declined on so many occasions suggests to me that the information supplied to the Honourable Member is not complete."

TRAFFIC APPRECIATION SQUAD RECOMMENDATIONS, GYMPIE ROAD INTERSECTION, STRATHPINE

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

With reference to the fatal accident which occurred at Gympie Road, Strathpine, on August 29 and which concerned a seventeen-year-old motor-cyclist, what were the recommendations of the Traffic Appreciation Squad with regard to (a) the speed limit on the section of road concerned, (b) the control of the intersection of Bells Pocket and Samsonvale Roads with Gympie Road and (c) pedestrian-crossing facilities?

Answer:—

"Investigations into the accident in question have not yet been finalised."

SCHOOL EQUIPMENT FOR METRIC MEASURE

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

(1) Will schools be provided with all necessary equipment for the change-over to metric measure and, if not, what equipment will be provided?

(2) Will equipment not provided by the Government attract a subsidy?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes. Necessary measuring equipment has already been purchased and will be supplied to schools prior to the commencement of the 1973 school year which has been set down as the date for the changeover in schools. Seminars to prepare teachers for the changeover have already been held in many parts of the State."

(2) "My Department has no knowledge of any additional supplementary equipment which schools might wish to purchase. Should it be demonstrated that there is any necessary equipment not being supplied its supply will be considered."

MAN-DAY LOSSES, INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

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

How many man-days were lost as a result of industrial accidents in each of the last three financial years?

Answer:—

"The bulletin on Industrial Accident Statistics, issued by the Bureau of Census and Statistics gives the following detail:—

—	Injuries	Days Lost
1968-69 ..	38,255	701,396
1969-70 ..	43,550	786,894
1970-71 ..	41,349	755,936

No detail is yet available for 1971-72. Over the same period the number of persons in civilian employment in Queensland increased from 527,300 to 573,100. When the numbers of both injuries and days lost is considered in conjunction with that increase, the success of the campaign on Occupational Safety promoted by the Division of Occupational Safety of my Department and the National Safety Council becomes obvious. As a result of that campaign and with the co-operation of industry, both the number of injuries and the days lost are being reduced while the number of persons employed increases."

PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY CLASSROOMS, STATE SCHOOLS

Mr. D'Arcy, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Education,—

How many classrooms are currently in use in Queensland State schools and how many of these are temporary?

Answer:—

"Advice was sought from the Department of Works on the Honourable Member's Question but I am informed that the figure sought on the total number of classrooms is not readily available. However, the Works Department has advised that there are 356 demountable buildings, housing 712 classrooms currently in use. No exact figure is available on the number of temporary classrooms under school buildings but the Honourable Member will be aware, I am sure, that we are working as rapidly as funds will allow, to replace these temporary enclosures. The figure of 712 classes in demountable buildings should be considered in context. The last school census showed that there were some 10,200 classes in Queensland State primary, secondary and special schools. All Australian authorities have found it necessary because of the developing nature of the country and mobility of school populations to use temporary classrooms."

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON TOURIST PROMOTION; AMENITIES SUPPLIED TO GOLD COAST CITY

Mr. D'Arcy, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Tourism,—

(1) How much money was spent by his Department on tourist promotion in the last financial year?

(2) What were the specific promotions undertaken and how much was spent on each?

(3) What tourist amenities has his Department supplied to Gold Coast City?

Answers:—

(1) "The publicity vote of the Queensland Government Tourist Bureau for the last financial year was \$241,000."

(2) "Provision was made for expenditure within this vote on:—Publications; Special promotions; Branch office advertising; Window and general display; Photography; Public relations; Films; Subsidies for brochures and festivals; Planned advertising (Australia); Planned Advertising (New Zealand); and Carnivals, processions and floats. Research into expenditure on particular items would involve time and labour that could not be justified."

(3) "It is not the responsibility of my Department to provide tourist amenities but I must point out that the Government established offices of the Queensland Government Tourist Bureau at Surfers Paradise and Coolangatta several years ago."

#### SOUTHPORT HOSPITAL EXTENSIONS

**Mr. D'Arcy**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Health,—

When is it planned to construct extensions to the 169-bed Southport Hospital which now serves a permanent population of 80,000 and a huge tourist population?

Answer:—

"Departmental approval for the future extension and development of Southport Hospital was conveyed to the Gold Coast Hospitals Board in August, 1971. The Honourable Member will appreciate that there are many factors to be taken into consideration in any large scale building programme, particularly a major hospital development, before final plans can be prepared. Population trends, the impact of other hospital facilities provided in or proposed for the area, and the extent of patient accommodation and facilities to be incorporated in a new Ward Block have to be carefully assessed. Schematic plans covering the proposed development of Southport Hospital have recently been received from the Gold Coast Hospitals Board and are presently being reviewed by officers of my Department."

#### DIRECTORS, BRISBANE SECURITIES LTD. AND BALMORAL BUILDING SOCIETY

**Mr. K. J. Hooper**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Justice,—

What are the names, addresses and occupations of the directors of Brisbane Securities and the Balmoral Building Society?

Answer:—

"According to records filed in the Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs, the directors of the company, Brisbane Securities Ltd., are—Ronald Charles Wonson, 36 Excelsior Avenue, Castle Hill, N.S.W.; Barry Anthony Homann, 6 Malvern Crescent, Strathfield, N.S.W.; Dennis James Allgood, 5/36 Hillside Crescent, Hamilton, Qld.; Clive Melwyn Hughes, 11 Avoca Street, Yeronga; and John Wherry (Alternate for D. J. Allgood), 640B Military Road, Mossman, N.S.W. There is no record of a business name or company, Balmoral Building Society registered but the Question might relate to Balmoral Building Co. Pty. Ltd. According to records filed in the office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs, the directors of Balmoral Building Co. Pty. Ltd. are—Johannes Brekelmans, 16 Taylor Street, Balmoral; and Hank Brekelmans, 16 Taylor Street, Balmoral."

#### JUVENILES HELD IN ADULT PENAL INSTITUTIONS

**Mr. K. J. Hooper**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Tourism,—

How many juveniles who are within the age group dealt with by the Children's Court are being held in adult penal institutions in Queensland, in which penal institutions are they being held, on what convictions are they being held, what convictions or charges are involved and why are they so imprisoned rather than being held in juvenile institutions?

Answer:—

"Five. All are detained in Her Majesty's Prison, Brisbane. Two were found guilty of rape and are detained at Her Majesty's pleasure. They are held at Her Majesty's Prison because it was considered that their conduct was such that they should not be held in an institution under the Children's Services Act. Two of the remaining three were found guilty of breaking, entering and stealing, and the other of unlawful assault and unlawful wounding. Two of these were ordered to be imprisoned by a magistrate of Children's Courts and the other youth by the District Court, Brisbane."

#### SITE ALLOCATIONS, MAROOCHY INDUS- TRIAL ESTATE

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

How many industrial sites have been allocated on the Maroochy Industrial Estate and when is it proposed to make more available?

Answer:—

"Five sites have been allocated for industry establishment on the Maroochy Industrial Estate. A Government-owned

factory building on one of these sites is leased to Rosdon Engineering & Manufacturing Pty. Ltd. Approval has been given for construction of a further two factories subject to the satisfactory conclusion of current negotiations with the organisations concerned. Tenders are in the process of being called for the construction of roads and associated works to service an additional 11 sites. Subsequent development of the estate will of course be dependent upon the interest evinced by industrialists in locating projects in the area."

#### ADMINISTRATION OF BUILDERS' REGISTRATION ACT BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to reports of a recent meeting of the North Coast Local Government Association calling for the Government to remit a portion of the fees collected under the Builders' Registration Act to cover the costs of administration of the Act by local authorities, and to the comments by one alderman that some councils will be required to employ more expert staff to administer the Act efficiently?

(2) What are the Government's intentions in relation to this Question and to what extent will local authorities be involved with new duties and expense?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) "Under the provisions of the Builders' Registration Act and Regulations attaching thereto, extra duties to be undertaken by a local authority relate only to the issue of building permits, which is presently a local authority function. It is considered that the extra duties involved are minimal, will quickly become routine and should not require expert or additional staff."

#### POLICE STRENGTH, MAROOCHYDORE

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

In view of public concern regarding the staffing position at the Maroochydore Police Station, is it planned to increase the staff in the near future or at least meet the present shortage due to illness?

*Answer:—*

"An additional constable will be allocated to this station when the availability of personnel permits. A constable has been detailed for relieving duty at Maroochydore as from September 21, 1972, until the officer in charge resumes duty."

#### SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES FOR VEHICLES OF CONVICTED DRINK-DRIVERS

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

(1) Is he aware of the issue on September 13, by Magistrate Wright in Tasmania, of the first "S" registration plate for affixing to the motor vehicle of a driver who refused to take a breathalyser test?

(2) As this type of plate will also be issued for drink-driving offences, will consideration be given to the use of similar plates in Queensland?

*Answers:—*

(1) "Yes."

(2) "The general question of discouraging the convicted drink driver from committing further offences, whether by special plates or otherwise, is continually being examined. Since 1968 the law has provided that a person who fails to provide a specimen of his breath for analysis shall be guilty of an offence and liable to prescribed penalties as well as being disqualified from holding a driver's license for a prescribed period. As the Honourable Member will recall the law was further amended only last year to provide for the cancellation of a driving license where a court orders any person to be disqualified absolutely or for a specified period from holding a driving license. In addition, when the period of disqualification has expired, if the person concerned applies for a license, he is again given a driving test and any new license issued must be a provisional license."

#### MAGISTRATE'S COMMENTS CONCERNING CONVICTED ACTOR IN QUEENSLAND THEATRE COMPANY PLAY

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to the item in *The Courier-Mail* of September 20 headed "Actor 'disgraced Charlie Brown' says magistrate", wherein Mr. Joice said that he hoped the people of the Central West would show their disapproval of the actor's action by staying away from the play in which he was appearing?

(2) In view of the great cost of staging this play, was the magistrate acting within his jurisdiction in advocating the boycotting of the whole company because one member disgraced himself and, if not, will he request the magistrate to give a statement to the other members of the company qualifying his apparent unfair charge against the law-abiding members of the company?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "It would appear that the magistrate, while obviously concerned about the growing drug problem was voicing his own personal views in expressing the hope that people of the central west would show their disapproval of the actor's conduct. The Queensland Theatre Company has been extremely successful in bringing plays and actors to this State and has accepted as part of its responsibilities that provincial centres see the best productions there is to offer. This they do at considerable financial risk to themselves. It would be a pity if the actions of an individual actor or the words of an individual magistrate would prejudice the thinking of people and motivate them into not attending the performance. This would seriously inhibit the showing of high quality productions in country areas. I do hope that members of the public will attend the production, give it their full support and in so doing minimize whatever harmful effects the actions of the actor or the words of the magistrate may have had."

FACULTY QUOTAS, QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY

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

Has the Queensland University imposed harsh quotas on second-year or any other year students, as have been imposed on medical students and, if so, what faculties and students are covered by those quotas and what number of students will be affected?

Answer:—

"The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Queensland advises that admission to a second-year course is restricted by a quota only in medicine and social work. 65 students are admitted to the second year of the social work course; however, none has been refused admission under this quota in 1971 or 1972. A quota of 50 into first year architecture has never been applied. To enable all matriculated Queensland students to be admitted to the University of Queensland, few interstate or overseas students are accepted but statistics are not available on the number of such students refused admission."

RENT AND RATE RELIEF FOR DROUGHT-STRICKEN AREAS, SOUTH-WEST QUEENSLAND

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

(1) Is he aware of the catastrophe of escalating drought conditions exceeding already the severity of the 1965 drought,

with mulga dying and total lambing losses in the South-west and particularly the Cunnamulla area?

(2) Because of the paradoxical situation of threatened bankruptcy occasioned by drought while wool prices continue to rise and because hopes of a wool-industry recovery hinge on seasonal changes, will he give every consideration to a speedy application to the Commonwealth Government for alleviation in rents and rates for all persons in the affected areas?

Answers:—

(1) "I am aware of the drought situation in the South-west of the State and propose to visit this area shortly."

(2) "An approach has already been made to the Commonwealth Government for relief assistance."

ROBBERY AND VANDALISM, CUNNAMULLA DISTRICT

Mr. Sherrington for Mr. Aiken, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Works,—

(1) Has his attention been drawn to the high incidence of robbery and vandalism, with business houses and private property being violated, in the Cunnamulla district?

(2) Because the lawless operations have spread to the country areas surrounding Cunnamulla, with stock and fences being most affected and the understaffed police personnel unable to handle the situation, will he, in the urgency of the situation, have a top-ranking Brisbane officer travel to Cunnamulla to assess the great need for public protection?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "Assistant Commissioner Barlow and Dr. Colston, officer in charge, planning and research section of the Police Department are proceeding to Cunnamulla to investigate the matters referred to."

MEAT EXPORTS

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

(1) Is world beef demand increasing at a greater rate than production and is Queensland being encouraged at Government level, with finance and advice to growers, to meet this demand?

(2) Has the Government considered beef rationing to assist export quotas and any increased demand, with public enquiry being turned towards other meat channels, particularly mutton?

(3) Has the recent spate of cross-breeding resulted in a quality and grading inconsistency in Queensland beef and are there signs of "mongrelisation" and a tendency to more low-grade meat?

(4) Has flavour and tenderness as well as uniformity been sacrificed in Queensland beef and, if so, has the Government moved to advise producers?

(5) Has the Government canvassed overseas markets and local exporters for advice as to the desirable meats required and indicated future tendencies to producers?

*Answers:—*

(1) "The F.A.O. has recently forecast an increasing world demand for beef and expects a significant shortage in supply by 1980. Queensland beef producers are well aware of the situation and are equipped to meet the demand."

(2) "No. It is not my Government's policy to dictate to people what they should eat."

(3) "Crossbreeding does not result in quality and grading inconsistency, but is more likely to improve quality as the animal is turned off at an earlier age."

(4) "No."

(5) "The requirements of overseas markets are already well known to and continually assessed by the Australian Meat Board, which keeps producers fully informed."

#### LAND FOR PENSIONER UNITS, NEW FARM

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

Has the Queensland Housing Commission acquired land at Kent Street, New Farm, for the purpose of constructing age-pensioner units? If so, how many units will be built on this land, when will building commence and when is it anticipated that the building will be completed and available to tenants?

*Answer:—*

"Land has been acquired recently at Kent Street, New Farm, for aged persons units. The project is now in the design stage following which working drawings and specifications will be prepared and tenders called. The completion date will depend on the terms of the contract arranged with the accepted tenderer."

#### GROUP PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY INSURANCE, S.G.I.O.

**Mr. Hanson**, pursuant to notice, asked The Treasurer,—

(1) Is he aware that the Australian Society of Accountants is currently engaged in launching one of the largest group-insurance schemes yet undertaken in this

country, such scheme being applicable to the placing of professional indemnity cover?

(2) As many other institutions, such as the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, are participants in similar schemes, has the S.G.I.O. at any time been involved in this class of insurance and, if so, what are the names of the institutes or associations together with any permissible relevant details?

*Answers:—*

(1) "No."

(2) "The State Government Insurance Office has not underwritten group insurance for institutes of the type referred to by the Honourable Member. The office has, however, issued cover to individual professional persons in various callings."

#### STATE QUOTA AND RATIONALISATION, WHEAT INDUSTRY

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

(1) Is he aware that the domestic wheat market in the U.S.A. has passed the \$2 per bushel mark and that, with Russia becoming prominent in world markets, prices should have a tendency to rise?

(2) Is he aware that there is strong pressure throughout the grain-growing industry for the price of stock feed to be reduced to \$1.20 per bushel?

(3) As there is confrontation in the grain industry between those who believe that a reduced stock-feed price could lead to a total reduced domestic price and so affect first advance payments and those who believe that such a move could lead to increased wheat usage, has he proposed or encouraged, at meetings of the Agriculture Council, any scheme which could lead to satisfactory rationalisation in the industry, bearing in mind that many of the State's primary producers and lot-feeders are facing a drought situation?

(4) Has the State's wheat quota of 38 million bushels ever been approached and what is the expected amount of the harvest this year?

*Answers:—*

(1) "Yes. Wheat prices have shown a tendency to rise following the large Russian purchase. However, the outlook is short-term, as a good Russian harvest next year would reduce her import requirements and have an opposite effect on world prices."

(2) "No. The pressure for a reduction in the price for stock feed wheat comes primarily from producers and provender millers in the southern States. Queensland graingrowers generally are opposed to a reduction in price."

(3) "I am aware that there is a difference of opinion among wheat growers in Australia as to the price at which wheat should be sold for stock feed. Queensland is a major producer of coarse grains and one must not overlook the effect which a reduced price for wheat could have on the suppliers of these grains. The problem of drought is one of supply rather than of price."

(4) "Since wheat quotas were introduced three years ago, the State quota of 38 million bushels has not been met. The best yield since then was 25 million bushels in 1971-72. This year's harvest is now estimated at 16 million bushels, but could be even lower if the severe dry conditions continue."

AUSTRALIAN COMMITTEE ON ROAD DEVICES

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

(1) Does Queensland have a representative on the Australian Committee on Road Devices and, if so, who is he?

(2) How often and where does this committee meet?

(3) Has it made any recent recommendations to the Standards Association of Australia regarding new specifications for flashing lamps and reflective materials?

(4) Have any recommendations been made to the Main Roads Department regarding the adoption of these specifications and, if so, does our present legislation prevent their adoption?

(5) Is the Department carrying out any research of its own in the fields of lamp and road-sign colours and reflective materials?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes. Mr. R. D. Chalk of Main Roads is the chairman."

(2) "Twice a year at various capital cities."

(3) "This committee has prepared Part I of a Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices—Description and Use of Elemental Traffic Control Devices. The Australian Transport Advisory Council referred it to the Standards Association of Australia who have published it as a draft—for public comment. It contains no specifications for traffic lamps or reflective materials."

(4) "The Answer to both Questions is no."

(5) "No, not directly but the Australian Road Research Board, of which the Commissioner of Main Roads is a member, has carried out work in this field."

CONVERSION OF LIQUID MOLASSES INTO POWDER

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

(1) Is he aware that a process has recently been developed in South Africa to convert liquid molasses into a free-flowing powder?

(2) Has such a process been developed in Australia or is any research being undertaken into such a project?

(3) Is the South African-manufactured powder being imported into Australia and, if so, in what quantity?

(4) Will he take the necessary action to establish such an industry in Queensland and curtail the import into this State of molasses in this form?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "Processes for converting liquid molasses into powdered molasses have been developed by Australian companies and local molasses is currently being converted into a powder by these companies. One such company in Brisbane produces powdered molasses, using a process it developed itself."

(3) "I understand some powdered molasses may have been imported into Australia from South Africa, but statistics are not available."

(4) "See Answer to Question (2)."

ASSESSMENT OF PRE-SCHOOL NEEDS, FRENCHVILLE AREA, NORTH ROCKHAMPTON

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

(1) Did his Department take out a proper assessment of the pre-school needs in the Frenchville area in North Rockhampton before deciding to establish the Government pre-school centre at the Frenchville State School? If so, what are the details of the investigation of such needs at Frenchville and throughout North Rockhampton?

(2) Did his advisers suggest any other alternative sites in North Rockhampton?

Answers:—

(1) "No final decision has yet been made to establish one of the pilot pre-school centres at Frenchville. However, an inspection of the site has been made by officers of the Departments of Education and of Works. Inspections of other sites in Rockhampton have also been made, as they have in several other areas. Local residents are well advised not to attribute too much significance to such inspections

as they do not guarantee early provision of State pre-school facilities. These inspections clearly constitute a necessary step in preliminary planning for the implementation of the scheme. An assessment of the needs of all areas of the State is at present being undertaken. Some of the relevant factual information concerning the larger schools in North Rockhampton is as follows:—

Type of Information	Berserker Street Infants	Frenchville	Lakes Creek	Park Avenue
Present Grade 1 enrolment ..	155	121	33	89
Numbers without kindergarten experience ..	125	80	33	40
Likely pattern of increasing enrolment over next five years	up to 5 per cent.	up to 5 per cent.	more than 5 per cent.	up to 5 per cent.
No. of available vacant classrooms ..	1	..	4	..
Area of site ..	7½ acres	9 acres	2½ acres	4¾ acres

It will be noted that at Lakes Creek there are four available vacant classrooms. However, a new housing development is occurring within half a mile of the school and consequently the vacant rooms will be required in the immediate future for primary school purposes.”

(2) “My advisers are conscious of the needs of all schools. They are working unsparingly in co-operation with officers of other appropriate Government Departments to give effect as quickly as possible to the Government’s policy of establishing where possible, pre-school centres within each State primary school. The details which I have provided on this occasion are meant to indicate the care which is being taken in selecting areas for early provision of pre-school centres.”

**RAILWAY REVENUE, ROCKHAMPTON-  
YEPPON LINE AND CENTRAL  
DIVISION**

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

(1) What was the total revenue obtained by the Railway Department on the Rockhampton-Yeppoon line for the past three financial years?

(2) What specific amount was derived from the carriage of pineapples?

(3) What was (a) the total revenue obtained and (b) the overall profit made in the Central Division in the last three financial years?

*Answers:—*

(1) “Year ended June 30, 1970, total revenue \$1,418,221; Year ended June 30, 1971, total revenue \$1,198,328; and Year ended June 30, 1972, total revenue \$1,252,761.”

(2) “Year ended June 30, 1970, total revenue \$299,665; Year ended June 30, 1971, total revenue \$262,685; and Year ended June 30, 1972, total revenue \$316,982.”

(3) “(a) and (b). The total revenue for goods railed outwards from stations in the Central Division to destinations within and without that division for the years in question was—Year ended June 30, 1970, revenue \$26,474,385; Year ended June 30, 1971, revenue \$30,334,002; and Year ended June 30, 1972, revenue \$41,189,674. The true financial result of the year’s operations is that for the Queensland Railways as a whole; any figures shown in tables 5 and 10 of the Commissioner’s annual report are arbitrary only as the note at the foot of those tables indicates.”

**HOUSING COMMISSION LAND, NORTH  
ROCKHAMPTON**

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

(1) How many building allotments are at present available to the Housing Commission in North Rockhampton and, of these, how many are available to allow home construction to commence?

(2) What are the future prospects of additional land for home building in North Rockhampton?

*Answers:—*

(1) “Contracts let in July and September, 1972 have absorbed the last nine developed sites held by the commission.”

(2) “A further 130 sites will be obtained from a commission estate for which the Rockhampton City Council is preparing engineering designs and estimates. The commission would be interested in acquiring further suitable land at reasonable prices. I would point out to the Honourable Member that persons obtaining workers dwelling loans from the commission or loans from Housing Societies which receive direct allocations from the Government provide their own building sites and do not require land owned by the commission.”

**GYMNASIUMS IN STATE SCHOOLS**

**Dr. Scott-Young**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Education,—

In reference to the recent articles in the Press concerning the poor physical standard of the Australian youth—

(1) Which schools have a gymnasium attached to them, are the annexes supervised by persons trained in remedial exercises and are they also supervised by the school health service?

(2) Does his Department intend to have gymnasiums established in all State secondary schools?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) "There are 17 secondary schools in Queensland equipped with multi-purpose buildings which cater for a comprehensive range of other activities as well as physical activities. The schools with these buildings and the number of physical education teachers permanently attached to these schools are:—Salisbury, four; Brisbane, five; Corinda, four; Ingham, one; Kedron, three; Yeronga, four; Sandgate, three; Cavendish Road, four; Wynnum, three; Harristown, two; Kingaroy, one; Toowoomba, two; Trinity Bay, one; Bundaberg, four; Cairns, two; Gympie, two; and Balmoral, two. Approval for the construction of these buildings at Coorparoo, Southport, Miami, Kelvin Grove and Lockyer District has been given. In addition, specially equipped gymnasia are to be found at Narbethong and the School for the Deaf where extensive remedial work is included in the program of the physical education teachers. Children may be excused from participation in these classes on medical advice. The policy on the design of all buildings for secondary schools is at present under review."

**CRASH BARS ON MOTOR VEHICLES**

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

(1) Is he aware of the increasing practice of the fitting of additional crash bars to motor vehicles to supplement the standard bumper bar?

(2) In view of the alarming trend of drivers of cars so fitted to treat other road users with utter disregard, are these devices legal and what action can be taken to prevent modifications of this nature?

(3) In the interests of road safety and because of the psychological effect this fitting has on the owner and its real menace to other vehicles, will he have the matter investigated with a view to having the practice discontinued?

*Answers:—*

(1) "Yes, I have become aware of this practice."

(2 and 3) "The traffic regulations provide in respect to any vehicle that 'everything in its construction, form, equipment, working and general condition must be such that it will not contravene any provision of any Act, Regulation or Ordinance and will not cause danger or unreasonable annoyance to any person'. Where it can be established that the fitting of crash bars constitutes a danger or unreasonable annoyance to any person appropriate action could be taken under the traffic regulations."

**CONVEYANCE OF SCHOOL CHILDREN FROM YARRABAH TO CAIRNS**

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

In view of the Answer by the Minister for Conservation on September 20 to my Question concerning alternative arrangements for school children at Yarrabah following transport difficulty, have secondary school children who were prevented from attending high school been left in charge of a primary teacher and, if so, is this an acceptable practice in any other situation?

*Answer:—*

"The grade 8 students at Yarrabah are in the charge of a primary teacher. Ever since 1964 primary schools have retained grade 8 students in those places where the numbers are insufficient to justify the establishment of a secondary department and it is not practicable to provide a daily transport service to a secondary school. Such students are given oral instruction. In the case of Yarrabah this procedure was used as a means to cope with an emergency. At the present time there are some 45 Primary Schools where grade 8 students are retained, while the average from year to year is generally in the neighbourhood of 50."

**COVERED WAY, TRINITY BAY HIGH SCHOOL, CAIRNS**

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

Further to his Answer to my Question on October 19, 1971, concerning the covered way to be constructed between the school proper and the "F" block at the Trinity Bay High School, Cairns, what progress has been made in the provision of this necessary addition before the next wet season?

*Answer:—*

"Funds are still not available for this work and no indication can be given as to when it will be undertaken. Although the need for covered ways in tropical areas is

appreciated, available finance must be allocated to works such as additional classrooms which have a higher priority."

**COMPULSORY BLOOD-ALCOHOL TESTS  
FOR ROAD ACCIDENT VICTIMS**

**Dr. Edwards**, pursuant to notice, asked  
The Minister for Transport,—

(1) Is he aware of recent reports from various sources, including the Royal Australian College of Surgeons, which suggest a definite link between road accidents and elevated blood-alcohol levels?

(2) Is he aware of suggestions that all road accident victims should have blood-alcohol estimations performed compulsorily?

(3) Has the Road Safety Council or any other recognised authority made any recommendations to him regarding legislation along these lines?

(4) Would such estimations and associated legislation reduce the high road toll?

*Answers:—*

(1) "Yes."

(2) "Yes."

(3 and 4) "This question is under examination by the traffic advisory committee, but it is not possible to forecast with any accuracy the outcome as far as the road toll is concerned if proposals in this regard are implemented."

**NORMANTON—GEORGETOWN ROAD;  
NORMAN RIVER BRIDGE, GLENORE**

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

(1) How many miles remain to be sealed on the Normanton—Georgetown section of the highway?

(2) Is there any provision for further sealing on this road during the current year and, if so, to what extent?

(3) When will the bridge at Glenore, on the Norman River, be completed?

*Answers:—*

(1) "131 miles."

(2) "Further sealing is proposed in the current year for 10.4 miles."

(3) "January, 1973."

**ELECTRICITY SUPPLY, CROYDON**

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

As electricity would greatly assist in the present tourist and transport expansion in the Croydon area, what has been planned and what is the approximate date when supply will be available?

*Answer:—*

"There has been no change in the position as previously outlined to the Honourable Member. The Cairns Regional Electricity Board has carried out preliminary investigations and to date is unable to undertake the proposed project because of financial difficulties involved."

**HOUSING FOR PENSIONERS, ABORIGINAL  
AND ISLANDER RESERVES**

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

Has any survey been made among Aborigines and Islanders living on reserves as to the need for better housing of pensioners? If so, what was the result and, if not, will he consider making such a survey and providing suitable homes to those in need of accommodation?

*Answer:—*

"The housing needs of all Aborigines and Islanders living on reserves are continually subject to oversight and positive remedial action. It is considered, consistent, of course, with the choice of the individual, that pensioners should not be isolated and separately identified but rather included in the overall re-housing programme and encouraged to accept and utilise the highest possible standards of accommodation, having due regard particularly to the future and well-being of their children which is being done and is in keeping with present policy. As a positive indication of a realistic approach I can inform the Honourable Member that in recent years the following works have been implemented:—New aged persons complex, Palm Island, \$195,294; Modern single and double unit complex at Yarrabah, \$95,872; Additional homes, Kowanyama, \$27,306; Additional homes, Edward River, \$25,079; and Additional homes, Lockhart River, \$50,158. In addition all pensioners receive due consideration and appropriate allocation for re-housing from within the Department's housing programme which last year involved \$2,885,880 and is estimated to cost \$3,798,911 this financial year. I mention further for the Honourable Member's information that amongst Aboriginal and Islander families there is quite a strong feeling against isolating pensioners particularly the aged from the warmth and comfort of their own family environment, they preferring to care and provide for their own senior citizens rather than have them catered for under institutional environments and this is to be highly commended."

RECOMMENDED SCALE OF SOLICITORS' FEES, QUEENSLAND LAW SOCIETY

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

In view of the difficulty faced in obtaining information regarding fees charged by solicitors, will he table in this House the Queensland Law Society's recommended scale of fees?

*Answer:—*

"The scale of fees referred to is neither a Parliamentary paper nor a Departmental document."

PROSECUTIONS FOR MISUSE OF TRUST FUNDS

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

Further to his Answer to my Question on August 30 relative to trust accounts that trust moneys are invariably paid by a trustee into a cheque account at a bank and in view of the recent incident where a Brisbane solicitor, Stephen Kehoe, was able to open an account with the Metropolitan Permanent Building Society under a fictitious name using money from his firm's trust funds and thus misuse the funds totalling more than \$41,000 of which only \$6,274 has been repaid—

(1) What protection against defalcations is available to clients whose funds are held in trust by solicitors?

(2) When misuse of trust funds takes place, what provision is there for compensating those persons on behalf of whom the funds were held?

(3) How many solicitors in Queensland, over the last five years, have been (a) investigated under the Trust Accounts Act and Regulations and (b) found guilty of professional misconduct regarding trust funds?

(4) What was the total amount of money involved in those cases where the solicitor was found guilty and how much has been repaid to the clients concerned?

(5) As instances of professional misconduct by solicitors shake the public confidence in the legal fraternity and are seriously marring the image of this profession, will he initiate a system of random checking of trust accounts and more stringent control over moneys held in trust?

*Answers:—*

(1) "The provisions of the Trust Account Acts and Regulations and the *Criminal Code*."

(2) "Part III of the Queensland Law Society Act."

(3) "(a) On one occasion an accountant was appointed under the Trust Account Regulations to audit the trust account of a solicitor. (b) Four."

(4) "The total amount of money involved is not readily available. I understand from the Queensland Law Society Incorporated that all claims on the Legal Practitioners Fidelity Guarantee Fund which are satisfactorily substantiated will be paid in full."

(5) "I have discussed this matter with the Council of the Queensland Law Society Incorporated on several occasions and they are presently considering my proposals in this regard."

SCRATCHING OF EMERGENCIES, GREY-HOUND RACING, WOOLLOONGABBA

**Mr. Tucker**, pursuant to notice, asked The Treasurer,—

(1) With regard to greyhound racing at Woolloongabba on Thursday evenings and the early closing of the T.A.B. on such racing, is he aware that many country persons betting on an apparently full field of eight ultimately find that the field has been drastically reduced at the time of starting, often to their detriment?

(2) Why is it necessary to force dogs classified as "emergencies" to be scratched at the time of final acceptance?

(3) Would it not be preferable to allow them to attend the track and to start them in place of late scratchings due to weight problems, etc. and, if not, has he any other information on the way this anomaly might be overcome?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 3) "The present rules of the Gabba Greyhound Racing Club in regard to withdrawn greyhounds, as laid down by the Greyhound Racing Control Board of Queensland, have been made in the interests of off-course investors. The board considers it would not be equitable to those who had already invested on a race to substitute a reserve greyhound for a late scratching. In these circumstances, a reduction in the field is the only reasonable alternative."

TENDERERS FOR COAL SUPPLY, NEW POWER STATION

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

What are the names and addresses of the tenderers for the supply of coal to the proposed new power-house?

*Answer:—*

"The names and addresses of the tenderers are as follows:—Mines Administration Pty. Ltd., 31 Charlotte Street,

Brisbane, Q., 4000; Rylance Collieries and Brickworks Pty. Ltd., Maritime Building, Petrie Bight, Brisbane, Q., 4000; Thiess Peabody Mitsui Coal Pty. Ltd., T & G Building, Queen and Albert Streets, Brisbane, Q., 4000; Southern Cross Collieries, P.O. Box 22, Ipswich, Q., 4305; Wm. McQueen & Co. Pty. Ltd., Box Flat Extended Colliery, Queensland; Exoil N.L. & Transoil N.L., 127 Eagle Street, Brisbane, Q., 4000; Rhonvale Pty. Ltd., 109 Brisbane Street, Ipswich, Q., 4305; Thiess Bros. Pty. Ltd., Private Mail Bag Service, Moorvale, Q., 4105; Mines Administration Pty. Ltd., 31 Charlotte Street, Brisbane, Q., 4000; Blair Athol Coal Pty. Ltd., P.O. Box 384D, Melbourne, Vic., 3001; Griffin Queensland Exploration N.L., 21st Floor, T & G Building, Brisbane, Q., 4000; Millmerran Coal Pty. Ltd., M.M.I. Building, 344 Queen Street, Brisbane, Q., 4000; Westfalen Colliery Pty. Ltd., care of Post Office, Dinmore, Q., 4303; New Hope Collieries Pty. Ltd., 109 Albert Street, Brisbane, Q., 4000; Brigalow Mines Pty. Ltd., 146 Kerry Road, Archerfield, Q., 4108; Tivoli Collieries Pty. Ltd., care of J. Yeoward & Son, 293 Queen Street, Brisbane, Q., 4000; Thiess Bros., Private Mail Bag Service, Moorvale, Q., 4105; and C.R.A. Exploration Pty. Ltd., P.O. Box 384D, Melbourne, Vic., 3001."

#### CONSIGNMENT OF PROTECTED BIRDS TO VICTORIA

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

With reference to his Answer to my Question on September 12 wherein he stated that a consignment of approximately 2,000 protected Queensland birds on a light plane which landed in Victoria was intercepted by Customs officials—

(1) Have enquiries established any point of departure of the plane from Queensland and/or any offence against Queensland laws and, if so, what action has been taken or is pending?

(2) Why were Customs officials involved?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) "A decision as to future action awaits the complete finalisation of investigations. In this circumstance the Honourable Member will readily appreciate the obvious undesirability of publishing further details at this stage."

#### MARYBOROUGH TECHNICAL COLLEGE

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

Is a section of the Maryborough Technical College, which services my electorate, presently being painted, although the college is scheduled for demolition in the

near future in connection with new works and, if so, will he have the funds so allocated redirected for a purpose more beneficial to the area?

*Answer:—*

"A request recently received from the client department for an amendment to the site of a new block proposed for construction at this college at some future date will result in the eventual demolition of a building included in a contract let last May for the painting of several buildings on the high school and technical college site. Negotiations are proceeding with the contractor, however, for a variation to the contract by substituting other necessary painting work in the school complex in lieu of completing work on the building which will have to be demolished."

#### QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

##### DATES FOR NIGHT TROTTING AND COURSING

**Mr. HOUSTON:** I ask the Treasurer: As the Racing and Betting Act prescribes Monday as one of the days for night coursing, is it his intention to take one night from coursing, or is he prepared for a clash between coursing and trotting interests, particularly as it is obvious that in the near future the Ipswich club will be seeking an allotted night for coursing?

**Sir GORDON CHALK:** I am aware that Monday nights have been allocated for coursing if so desired. So far as trotting on Monday nights is concerned, I believe that the locations of the trotting and coursing tracks are not such as to cause a clash.

In my view, both types of meeting could be held in various parts of Queensland on Monday nights.

##### ALLEGED EXISTENCE OF BROTHELS IN TOWNSVILLE

**Dr. SCOTT-YOUNG:** I ask the Minister for Works and Housing: Has his attention been drawn to an article in "The Courier-Mail" of 21 September 1972 in which Senator Keeffe claimed that young Aboriginal girls are being forced to staff brothels in Townsville? If so, can he inform the House if the police have any knowledge of these alleged brothels? If they have, where are they operating? If they have not, will the police inquire from Senator Keeffe as to their location and how he became aware of their existence?

**Mr. HODGES:** I saw the report of Senator Keeffe's statement, and I made inquiries of the Commissioner of Police this morning. The police in Townsville have no knowledge whatever of the existence of any brothels, as was suggested by the senator from North Queensland. I was very surprised that such a statement should have

been made by the senator. It could reflect upon the City of Townsville and its general administration, and also harm tourism in that area.

However, I am prepared to have the police ascertain from Senator Keefe the number of these houses that he says are operating, their locations, and their activities. No doubt the senator could supply this information because he has apparently made a close personal investigation into the matter.

#### REGISTRATION OF FIREARMS

**Mr. NEWTON:** I ask the Minister for Works and Housing: Is he aware that the New South Wales Government is to legislate for stricter control over the use and possession of firearms in that State, covering the need for people carrying or using firearms outside their premises to obtain a licence, the age of restriction on people using firearms to be 18 years, all firearms dealers to be licensed, and that existing controls relating to pistols be extended to cover all firearms? Has he given consideration to these very important matters affecting stricter control of firearms in this State? If so, what action does he intend taking to overcome these problems?

**Mr. HODGES:** This matter is at present under review and is one of Government policy. A national conference of all Ministers concerned is to be held in the near future, and the handling of firearms will be discussed at that conference. Following the conference, the Government will formulate its policy on this matter.

#### ALLEGED EXISTENCE OF USTASHI TRAINING CAMPS, NORTH QUEENSLAND

**Mr. ROW:** I ask the Minister for Works and Housing: Is he aware of the statements made by the honourable member for Everton last night during an A.B.C. television interview, when he alleged that Ustashi training camps existed in the Mareeba-Dimbulah area of North Queensland? As the honourable member's allegations cast aspersions on the integrity of many loyal migrants and other citizens of this State, what action does he intend to take in the matter?

**Mr. HODGES:** I heard the statement made by the honourable member for Everton on television last night; I also heard the charges made by him in the House yesterday. The honourable gentleman said that he had been in possession of the information for some considerable time, so I inquired from the Police Department whether it had been supplied to them. I was amazed to find, after the honourable gentleman's statement that he had been in possession of it for some time, that he had not communicated with the proper authorities and given any information he possessed concerning the activities of these people. However, having

regard to his attitude to law and order, I can understand the reasons why he has not done so.

For the information of the House, I inform honourable members that I made further inquiries and ascertained that, because of the initiative of the Queensland Police Force, because of its knowledge of certain activities within the State, and because of its sense of responsibility and alertness, its investigations reveal that there are certain people in North Queensland who are carrying on in a very suspicious manner. Being fully aware of these activities, they reported the matter to the Commonwealth police, and I inform the House that A.S.I.O., Commonwealth police and other security officers have been in the area concerned for the past six or seven weeks investigating the activities of these people. There is no need for me to mention to the honourable member for Everton the efficiency of the Commonwealth police. He would be fully aware of that from his own experience, which he has described.

#### REGIONAL PLANNING, BUNDABERG-BURNETT AREA

**Mr. WHARTON:** I ask the Premier: Following the Federal Government's announced intention to assist the State in regional planning and decentralised development, would he give full consideration to submitting to the Federal authorities the vast Bundaberg-Burnett region as an area offering a significant growth trend and potential for decentralisation?

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** I appreciate the great potential of the South Burnett and Burnett area generally, and I also greatly appreciate the fact that, as announced in the Press during the last few days, the Commonwealth Government has taken the initiative in this very important issue. The guide-lines that ultimately will be laid down have still to be discussed. However, I can assure the honourable member that the area he mentions—together with other areas, of course—will be given very careful consideration in any developments under this scheme.

#### PROTEST MARCH, SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

**Mr. HOUGHTON:** I ask the Minister for Works and Housing: Has he seen the photograph in today's "Courier-Mail" showing the front rank of a procession that took place in Brisbane yesterday? If so, can he inform the House if the demonstrator wearing the "digger" hat is the honourable member for Everton and, if so, did he contravene any Act or law in so participating in this demonstration?

**Mr. HODGES:** I have not been requested to inquire as to the identity of anyone who took part in the procession referred to.

ALLEGED CONNECTION BETWEEN LIBERAL PARTY OFFICIALS AND CROATIAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT

**Mr. F. P. MOORE:** I ask the Minister for Works and Housing: In view of his acknowledgement this morning that he saw last night's television programme that was referred to, was his attention drawn to the fact that a Mr. Fabian Lovokovic, of Melbourne, stated that he was a committeeman of the Croatian Liberation Movement in Australia and that that movement supported the Croatian Ustashi? Is he also aware that, on the same television programme, this man said that he was for several years a member of the Liberal Party's Migration Advisory Council? Will he now make inquiries to determine if the Liberal Party in Queensland has a Migration Advisory Council and, if so, ascertain if any of its committeemen are members of this Croatian organisation?

**Mr. HODGES:** This is a long and wandering type of question. I inform the honourable member that the subversive activities of any person, irrespective of his politics, are handled by the Commonwealth Police.

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—SEVENTH ALLOTTED DAY

Debate resumed from 19 September (see p. 631) on Dr. Scott-Young's motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

**Mr. BROMLEY** (South Brisbane) (12 noon): On 1 August, which was the first day this year on which the Queensland Parliament sat, His Excellency opened this the Fortieth Parliament, a Parliament that is as undemocratic as any since the minority Country-Liberal coalition first occupied the Treasury benches.

On that day I took the oath of allegiance, and today, as the member for South Brisbane, I convey to the House the loyalty of my constituents, and I place on record my appreciation to the electors who so strongly supported me in their desire to see honesty, sincerity and hard work, as well as genuine care and concern for the people, rewarded.

**Mr. Blake:** And ability.

**Mr. BROMLEY:** And ability. I also place on record my gratitude to my loyal A.L.P. branch supporters, my branch members, personal friends and relatives. As well, I express thanks to the many members of the various branches of the Young Labor Association who so ably, tirelessly and willingly assisted me during the election campaign.

**Mr. Lane:** How many went over to Col. Bennett?

**Mr. BROMLEY:** I shall deal with the honourable member for Merthyr in a moment if he is patient.

**Mr. Lane:** Answer the question.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. BROMLEY:** While I am on the subject of the electorate of South Brisbane, which, by the way, should not have been given that name, especially on the present boundaries, I shall quote from a letter that I wrote to the Electoral Commission on 7 January 1972. Before doing so, I claim that the name "South Brisbane" was given to the electorate mischievously in a desire to create confusion and dissension.

In my letter I said—

"Dear Sirs,

"Re: Electoral Districts Act 1971

"I thank you for forwarding electoral maps and other material appertaining to the redistribution of electoral boundaries.

"With due respect, I desire to lodge an objection in relation to the re-naming of the electorate referred to in your report and designated on the new electoral redistribution maps as South Brisbane, and would request that the name of the electorate revert to Norman. I personally am most surprised and upset at the Commission's decision."

**Mr. Lane:** Shouldn't it have been called "Fred"?

**Mr. BROMLEY:** That may have been a good name for the electorate. My letter continues—

"My reasons for so doing are as follows, and it will be noted that these are of great historical significance as well as practical:—

(1) The name Norman is connected vitally with the district, stemming as it does from one of our most illustrious past Governors of this State of Queensland, His Excellency the late Sir Henry Wylie Norman, and in support of this statement I attach photo copies relating to the life and career of this great gentleman. On the contrary the name South Brisbane itself as an electoral district name has no great historical significance, and it would appear to me that to deny the name of Norman in this case would be unjust, unfair and a possible insult to the memory of a distinguished personage as well as perhaps to his descendants."

**Mr. R. E. Moore:** Don't you believe in knighthoods?

**Mr. BROMLEY:** I have just said it would be an insult to Sir Henry Wylie Norman. If the honourable member for Windsor moved around in the right places he would possibly know that Sir Henry's name is of great significance in Brisbane. The Minister for Transport would also know that.

My letter continues—

"(3) There is a suburb on the south side of the Brisbane River clearly defined on all electoral and other maps as South Brisbane. The whole of this area is now contained in the electorate of Brisbane, and if the new electorate name of South Brisbane remains, I believe confusion could result, particularly when taking into consideration the fact that upon proceeding from the City area across the William Jolly Bridge which is situated on the South Brisbane reach of the River, one immediately enters into this suburb of South Brisbane."

**Mr. R. E. Moore:** You thought you were going to be "done"; that was your problem.

**Mr. BROMLEY:** I had no worries whatsoever about that.

**Mr. Lane:** You were terrified of Col Bennett.

**Mr. BROMLEY:** I am not even terrified of a fellow who continually rolls drunks.

**Mr. LANE:** I rise to a point of order. I think there is a strong inference that the honourable member was referring to me. I find his remarks objectionable and I ask that he withdraw them without equivocation.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): The honourable member has taken the remark as an inference against him and has asked for its withdrawal.

**Mr. BROMLEY:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know to whom I was referring.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** If the honourable member was referring to the honourable member by implication, I ask him to withdraw the remark.

**Mr. BROMLEY:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, are you asking me whether I was or was not? I know to whom I was referring.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I am giving the honourable member an opportunity to clarify the point.

**Mr. BROMLEY:** I merely said that I am not frightened of any person who rolls drunks. That is quite plain.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The honourable gentleman may proceed.

**Mr. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

In its letter of acknowledgment the commission said that the submissions would be taken into consideration. They probably were considered, but they were ignored. In this context, I should now like to refer to an article that appeared in "The Courier-Mail" of 9 September where it was reported that the commissioners who are to determine the new council wards had said, "Suggestions on wards welcomed." The same commissioners

may welcome suggestions, but I venture to say that they will not take notice of them unless they suit not only themselves but also the Government. I intend to deal with that matter later, but at the moment I have many other things to refer to. It would be a complete waste of time to make suggestions that would be completely ignored by the commission.

The first redistribution of State electorates in Queensland was reasonable, as I pointed out to the commission by letter. I congratulated the commissioners on the way in which they had carried out a difficult job.

**Mr. R. E. Moore:** What changes did they make in your electorate?

**Mr. BROMLEY:** I will come to that in a moment. I am glad that the Minister for Transport, the member for Greenslopes, is in the House. I intend to tell honourable members what happened.

I repeat that I conveyed to the commissioners my conclusion that the first redistribution was reasonable. However, it is quite obvious to me that the majority decision of the commission on the second redistribution was made by Mr. Bjelke-Petersen, a self-styled Christian, who will stop at nothing to remain a minority Premier. He admitted in his statement which appeared in "The Courier-Mail" that he was not interested in votes, but only in seats. Clearly, he stood over the commissioners appointed by the Government, and they conveniently forgot that they were supposed to be independent. This is just the sort of thing we could expect when the chairman of such a commission is not a Supreme Court judge who, naturally, would not be looking for future favours from the Premier and the Government.

I now wish to analyse the South Brisbane electorate and emphasise what I said in my letter of objection to the commission. No-one in his right mind, with any sense of responsibility, real courage or "guts," would name an electorate "South Brisbane" when it adjoins a suburb with the same name. The commissioners put this suburb into the electorate of Brisbane, which is, of course, adequately and well represented by the honourable member for Brisbane, Mr. Brian Davis.

These so-called commissioners, lacking in courage, insulted a former Governor of Queensland by dropping the name "Norman". Many people, including Liberals and me, objected to this and suggested that, even if the Norman electorate was incorporated in other electorates, the name "Norman" could still be preserved. Several people, including Liberal members of Parliament in both the State and Federal Houses, suggested names such as "Gabba" and "Buranda" for my electorate. However, the commissioners and the Government had two bites at the "Norman" cherry.

I shall reply now to the interjection of the honourable member for Windsor, who has left the Chamber. Events before and after 7 February, which was the date for lodging objections, proved to me that dictatorship had reared its ugly head and that the commissioners had been forced to bow to it. Their later decision took the Coorparoo State High School out of my electorate. I worked very hard to have that school established and I do not consider that that was the action of unbiased or independent commissioners, particularly as the high school was erected during the time of my representation of the area. I was president of its parents and citizens' association for many years. I worked with other members of the p. and c. association at week-ends and at night-time on fairs, fetes and other fund-raising schemes. The Minister for Transport nods his head in agreement. To give the House some idea of the work done by that association, the ladies' committee and the two principals, John Guy and Col Butcher, I point out that its assembly hall costing \$133,000 is almost complete.

**Mr. Hooper:** It is completed.

**Mr. BROMLEY:** I appreciate the Minister's interjection. I realise now that it is. He was at the school last Saturday afternoon. The hall will soon be officially opened, although more money still has to be spent on it. I do not deny that the association received a Government subsidy, and, in addition, other amenities have been provided. Of course, when a p. and c. association supplies such amenities, it saves the Government thousands of dollars. The Minister for Transport knows this as well as I do, because he, too, is vitally interested in these matters and does work for the various schools in his electorate.

Actually, the Coorparoo State High School has not been officially opened, and, unless the Minister for Education is generous and decent, I will not get a jersey when it is opened. By that I mean, for the benefit of honourable members who are not sport or community minded, that my name will not appear on the commemorative plaque.

**Mr. Marginson:** It should.

**Mr. Davis:** I reckon it should.

**Mr. BROMLEY:** I am glad that my colleagues—on both sides of the House—agree with me.

**Mr. K. W. Hooper:** As far as I am concerned, as it is in my electorate, I shall endeavour to get your name mentioned.

**Mr. BROMLEY:** I appreciate that. I believe that the Minister will assist in this direction.

**Mr. Kaus:** I could say the same about the technical college at Seven Hills.

**Mr. BROMLEY:** We will look into that matter and see if we can help the honourable member.

I shall be nice about it, but I propose to tell the House how this school came to be taken from my area. As honourable members realise, when the first redistribution was made known and the A.L.P., in what was perhaps a slight technical error, announced that its candidate for Yeronga would be Clem Jones, the honourable member for Yeronga panicked. He rushed to the Treasurer and said, "I'm gone a million unless something is done about this." The Treasurer said, "We'll see the commissioners. We'll get rid of portion of the Rocklea area and put it into Archerfield." The A.L.P. did not need it, because the honourable member for Archerfield received a majority of 7,000, if I remember correctly.

The honourable member for Yeronga then had to have the number increased in his electorate. He said, "I don't care where they come from as long as it is not an A.L.P. area." Then, much to the chagrin of the honourable member for Greenslopes, now the Minister for Transport, he said, "We will get them from Greenslopes—"

**Mr. K. W. HOOPER:** I rise to a point of order. No part of the old Greenslopes electorate is in the electorate of Yeronga. My colleague knows that quite well.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order! I ask the honourable member to accept the Minister's assurance.

**Mr. BROMLEY:** I do. The Minister, of course, is speaking of the new boundaries.

That meant that Greenslopes, and adjoining areas, had to be made up in numbers. What happened? The commissioners had a second bite of the "Norman" cherry and took the Coorparoo State High School from my electorate and put it into Greenslopes. I believe that the school will have a good representative in the Minister for Transport, but I want to point out the unfairness of the commission and the way in which it bowed to dictatorship and gave in where there was no need for it to do so. I think that this was a shocking denial of justice not only to me—

**Mr. K. W. Hooper:** I hope you are not implying that I had anything to do with it.

**Mr. BROMLEY:** No. I do not believe that the Minister wanted that area, either. I know the voting strength there, and I was not too happy at losing my friends in that area. I was particularly perturbed at losing the school, and that is my gripe today.

In summing up this portion of my speech dealing with the redistribution, I might mention that at least two of the commissioners have already received some slight pay-off by their appointment to the new boundaries commission. Under the infamous amendment to the City of Brisbane Act recently passed in this House, they can now wreck the wards of the City of Brisbane.

**Mr. Davis:** My information is that they are already drawn.

**Mr. BROMLEY:** That may be so. The honourable member is probably right, because he gets some good "drum" occasionally.

According to "The Sunday Mail" of 6 August 1972, the Liberal Party convention delegates called for a new redistribution. After Parliament had met, they could see that State-wide it was an unjust redistribution, and they called even at that stage for a redistribution.

**Mr. K. W. Hooper:** You know that that was a resolution, not necessarily a decision of the convention.

**Mr. Lee:** He wouldn't understand.

**Mr. BROMLEY:** Fancy the honourable member for Yeronga talking! He would not have even the first clue. I am quoting from "The Sunday Mail" which states, "Libs Call for New State Boundaries". I know what motions and resolutions are. A resolution is a motion that is passed by a majority.

**Mr. K. W. Hooper:** You know that that is not right.

**Mr. BROMLEY:** It is usual in the Address-in-Reply debate to compliment the mover and the seconder of the motion. But how could one, in all honesty and sincerity, congratulate the honourable member for Surfers Paradise on his contribution to the debate? It was a tirade of abuse and uncomplimentary remarks, attacking under privilege the Gold Coast City Council, of which he is Mayor, the staff and his fellow aldermen, and generally attempting to ruin the future of officials employed by the Gold Coast City Council.

**Mr. Davis:** And he has not spoken since.

**Mr. BROMLEY:** As the honourable member for Brisbane said, he has not spoken since making that speech.

The Opposition has received a letter from Mr. J. Hamilton, the Acting Town Clerk of the Gold Coast City Council, which shows that the council analysed the speech of the Mayor of the Gold Coast and were very upset by it, and I do not blame them. Unfortunately, I have not time to quote from that letter or from my reply to it, but I believe it is shocking that the honourable member for Surfers Paradise—who, by the way, is an accidental politician, elected under a corrupt and undemocratic system—should attack under parliamentary privilege his own fellow aldermen. He did not say a word during the debate on the City of Brisbane Act Amendment Bill. However I do not think that he will be here very long, which probably is just as well.

As a matter of fact, I have here some photographs that appeared in the "Gold Coast Sun" of 2 April showing the honourable member for Surfers Paradise in one of the health studios and massage parlours about which we have heard so much. The photographs do not show all of the honourable member; nevertheless, he is shown lying

in a sauna box in the French Health Studios and then, again, lying on his stomach. The person who sent these photographs to me wrote under the one showing the honourable member being massaged by a young lady, "Definitely joining the Country Party! Candidate for new seat."

Let me now turn to the Journals of the Legislative Assembly of 1 August in the first session of this, the 40th, Parliament. I quote from page 2—

"Honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly,—

. . . And it being necessary that a Speaker be first chosen, it is His Excellency's pleasure that you proceed to the election of one of your number to be your Speaker . . ."

All honourable members know what happened in the election of the Speaker.

I sometimes wonder why it is that, simply because a person is elected to this August Assembly, he should constantly be referred to as an "honourable member", bearing in mind some of the disclosures that have been made in this Chamber over the years, particularly the one made this morning by the honourable member for Lytton in his personal explanation.

**Mr. Hughes:** That certainly was not true.

**Mr. BROMLEY:** The honourable member for Kurilpa says that it certainly was not true. Let him get up, either in the House or outside, and deny it.

I quote now part of the Commission read to the House by the Clerk of the Parliament, which appears at page 3 of the Votes and Proceedings—

"To Our Trusty and Well-beloved The Honourable Johannes Bjelke-Petersen, The Honourable Sir Gordon William Wesley Chalk, K.B.E., and The Honourable Ronald Ernest Camm, Members of the Legislative Assembly of the State of Queensland."

I wish to know who said that the first person to whom I referred was "Our Trusty and Well-beloved . . . Johannes Bjelke-Petersen." All honourable members on this side of the House disclaim ever having said that. The Premier might have said it; he certainly signed the document. Over his signature, Mr. Keith Spann, Under Secretary of the Premier's Department, stated—

"Entered on Record by me in the Register of Patents, No. 31, page 15, this twentieth day of July, A.D., one thousand nine hundred and seventy-two."

Half of the Premier's colleagues have proved that they do not love him. It makes one wonder. Let me draw attention to these newspaper headlines—

"Policy Rift Widens";

"Premier asked to Resign";

"Liberal Warns Premier, 'Remember it's a coalition'";

"Premier Amazes Me" (says Sir Gordon Chalk);

"'Sell Oil Shares', Ministers to urge Premier";

How can the Premier be loved by all? I know there is a song entitled "Everybody loves somebody some time", but it would be a hard job to find someone who loves the Premier.

Here are some more headlines—

"Premier Fights to Survive";

"Premier Wins House Vote of Confidence, 2 C.P. 'rebels' were absent".

I do not want to go into the details of the voting on the confidence motion, Mr. Speaker, other than to remind the House of who used the proxy votes that the Premier held.

I wish to deal briefly at this stage with the Queensland Government Gazette which contained the Opening Speech of His Excellency the Governor, Sir Colin Hannah. I sent a copy of this Opening Speech to a friend of mine who is connected with a big pastoral company in Queensland. He said, "I will show this to the manager and the directors. They will find it most interesting to read about the reconstruction of the rural section of the State." That portion of the Governor's Opening Speech reads—

"Reconstruction of the rural section of the State is operating at full capacity and Government assistance will be continued during the current financial year to farmers, graziers and other primary producers considered to have the capacity to regain commercial viability with help."

Later my friend came to me and said, "I should like you to ask a question in the House of the Minister for Lands, if you wouldn't mind, particularly as Mr. Rae has slammed the drought help lack." Incidentally, he asked that on Monday, 7 August 1972, and I asked a question in the House on 10 August. I referred to the tragic position facing drought-stricken farmers, and the question was worded as outlined to me by the pastoral companies, the people who are genuinely concerned, as we on this side are genuinely concerned, about the farmers' plight. What was the answer to my question as to how many people on the land were or had been affected adversely by the drought and how many were getting help?

**Mr. Lee:** You mean it was your friend's question. He wrote it for you.

**Mr. BROMLEY:** I wrote the question—on the advice I received. I am glad the honourable member interjected. This will show what happens to Country Party people. When I got the dirty, filthy, snide answer from the Minister for Lands—it was a rotten answer, similar to some of his other answers but far worse than the one he recently gave to the honourable member for Wavell—I sent it along to my friend, who incidentally is—

**Mr. Frawley:** Your only friend.

**Mr. BROMLEY:** At one time he was a friend of the Country Party, but he told me to inform the House that the filthy answer of the Minister for Lands has cost the Country Party a donation of \$500 towards its Federal election campaign. That might teach Ministers a lesson and cause them to give courteous answers. My question genuinely sought information on behalf of people who are experiencing a tough time on the land.

**Mr. MURRAY:** I rise to a point of order. I suggest that for the honourable member to say that the Minister's answer was dirty, filthy and snide is unwarranted.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. W. D. Hewitt):** Order! I regard the honourable member's comment as unparliamentary, and I ask him to withdraw it.

**Mr. BROMLEY:** I will not withdraw it, Mr. Deputy Speaker. You yourself ruled only the other day that the Minister or member concerned can himself take exception to a remark, but not any other member.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The Chair can rule on what language is parliamentary or unparliamentary. I have ruled that the honourable member's language was unparliamentary, and I ask him to withdraw it.

**Mr. BROMLEY:** I cannot see how it was unparliamentary. Nevertheless, I withdraw it because I wish to continue my speech.

**Mr. HOUGHTON:** I rise to a point of order. The honourable member has not withdrawn.

**Mr. BROMLEY:** Yes, I have. Don't keep interrupting me.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member did withdraw.

**Government Members interjected.**

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I have said that the honourable member did withdraw.

**Mr. BROMLEY:** You are a gentleman, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I agree with you. I did withdraw.

To continue my speech, I want to say finally, in relation to the snide answer given by the Minister, that the Minister himself is reported in the "Telegraph" of 7 August under the headline, "Rae slams drought help lack". The Minister slams the lack of drought help, but because I ask a genuine question I receive an answer that I have already described as one that I was not pleased with.

**Mr. Wallis-Smith:** Who said this?

**Mr. BROMLEY:** The Minister for Lands.

**Mr. F. P. Moore:** And he was nearly defeated in his own electorate.

**Mr. BROMLEY:** Yes, he was.

**Mr. Frawley:** You need someone to give you the answers now.

**Mr. BROMLEY:** I dealt with the honourable member while he was away. I suggest that the Minister was almost defeated because they had run out of seats out there, not votes.

One of the very interesting items in the Governor's Opening Speech was the proposed remodelling of sections of the Brisbane Dental Hospital to provide better dental treatment facilities. I suggest to the Minister for Health and honourable members generally that consideration should be given to a plan for the implementation of mobile dental clinics.

**Mr. Lee:** If you got a new set of teeth we would probably be able to understand you.

**Mr. BROMLEY:** This is something sensible, which the honourable member would not know much about.

I suggest that mobile clinics be established to provide dental treatment of all kinds, particularly to patients in convalescent homes and elderly people in their own homes who may be incapacitated and cannot present themselves at the dental hospital in Brisbane or elsewhere and cannot visit their own private dentists for treatment.

A scheme such as this operates effectively for patients who require treatment at "Eventide" and in public hospitals, and I am sure that this scheme could be extended to cover the other types of patient I have mentioned.

The Minister for Health is not present, but no doubt he will hear about this suggestion. He has probably visited many convalescent homes—as I have—where dental treatment is completely non-existent, either privately or by Government dentists. I think my suggestion has some merit and could be initiated with very little organisation and cost. I know it would be most welcome. Like most honourable members, I visit convalescent homes and I know of many elderly patients who cannot get about in order to receive dental treatment. These people would appreciate some type of scheme whereby dentists, accompanied, if necessary, by dental attendants and technicians, could visit these places and give them the dental treatment they require. I look forward to the implementation of the schemes outlined by His Excellency.

As usual, the Government is strangely silent on its lack of progress in the acquisition of land for a new art gallery and the commencement of its construction. The Minister for Works and Housing, who is now in the Chamber, is probably the person responsible for the procrastination that has gone on in the purchase of land.

**Mr. Hodges:** Where is the procrastination?

**Mr. BROMLEY:** The Minister is aware of it. After all, I have asked a number of questions about it.

**Mr. Hodges:** How much land has been resumed?

**Mr. BROMLEY:** I do not know what area of land has been resumed. Recently the Minister made a Press statement, but he has taken too long to do anything about the matter. Although he was offered co-operation, he did not accept the offer. I shall deal further with this matter during the Budget debate, but for the moment I shall refer to my continual requests to have certain items of art jewellery and associated craft work included in the exempted list for after-hours sales by galleries.

Last Tuesday I asked the Minister for Education a carefully worded question on this subject, and it was rather strange that in his reply he said that he supports such exemptions. Later that day I spoke to him, and as a result he consulted his fellow Ministers, including the Minister for Development and Industrial Affairs, who yesterday released a Press statement mainly to protect the Minister for Education, who at 6 o'clock last night opened a craft exhibition at the Design Arts Centre. Although for years I had been requesting that certain items be included in the exempted list, the Minister's Press statement said that on Monday of this week Cabinet had agreed to granting such exemptions. For many years the Minister said that the Government could not grant any exemptions, and I have said repeatedly that it could be done at any time by Order in Council.

**Mr. Campbell:** Are you—

**Mr. BROMLEY:** I suppose the Minister is about to rise to a point of order.

**Mr. Campbell:** Are you dissatisfied with the action that has been taken?

**Mr. BROMLEY:** No; I am very happy about it. For a long time I have been trying to have such action taken. As the Minister has occupied his present portfolio for only a relatively short time, he may not be aware of the fact. The granting of these exemptions will assist art galleries and will also promote tourism.

**Mr. Campbell:** Do you applaud the action?

**Mr. BROMLEY:** Of course I do. I have personally thanked the Minister for Education for the steps that he took. He said to me, "I had better have a yarn to Fred Campbell and get something done, because the exhibition will be opened at 6 o'clock tomorrow night." The Minister for Education and I had a friendly chat about the matter.

I am sure that those who conduct art galleries and wish to sell craft work in a small way will also be pleased with the exemptions that have been granted, because certain items can now be sold at times when a large number of customers will be in attendance. I give credit where it is due; however, I regret the fact that I did not receive a copy of the Minister's Press statement.

(Time expired.)

Mr. BIRD (Burdekin) (12.40 p.m.): I rise to support the motion moved by the honourable member for Townsville (Dr. Scott-Young) and seconded by the honourable member for Surfers Paradise (Mr. Small). In doing so, I congratulate both of them on being elected to this Parliament. I also congratulate other new members on their success in the election. I congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your elevation to your high office. I know that, in carrying out your duties, you will uphold the decorum usually associated with your position, and that you will do nothing but bring high honour to the people of North Queensland.

I extend my congratulations and best wishes to Sir Colin Hannah on his appointment to the high and distinguished position of Governor of this wonderful State. His selection was a very wise choice and I have no doubt that he will discharge his duties with distinction. I have known him for many years. He was a member of the R.A.A.F., and I was associated with him for a very brief period during one of my terms of service with the Air Force. I admired him at the time and my admiration for him has continued to grow. In the short time that he has been Governor of Queensland he has gained general admiration wherever he has travelled. People in the Burdekin area were very pleased that he was able to visit the towns of Ayr and Home Hill. Unfortunately the weather was a little unkind on that day and, to an extent, the proceedings were spoilt. Nevertheless, the people were very impressed by his bearing, sincerity and genuineness. I pledge my continued allegiance, and that of the people of the Burdekin electorate, to Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

I thank the electors of Burdekin for displaying continued faith in me by returning me at the last election. Unlike some honourable members who have spent a great deal of time in this House trying to prove that some system was almost responsible for their not being returned to Parliament, I point out that the people in my electorate returned me with an absolute majority by giving me 54.66 per cent of the vote. It certainly appears that I have their confidence.

Under the redistribution I gained the area of Home Hill, which is a cane-farming area and has always been regarded as part of the Lower Burdekin, but I regret that I lost the area of Giru, which has one of the four Lower Burdekin sugar mills. I believe that Giru, being part of the Lower Burdekin area, should have remained in the electorate of Burdekin. However, I am sure it will be very well served by the member for Townsville. I have told many of the people of Giru that they will benefit because they now have two Government members representing them in this Assembly.

I am indeed pleased that the Home Hill district is now included in my electorate. Home Hill is a cane-growing area, and I do know quite a deal about the sugar industry, having spent 8½ years as an employee of the Ayr District Cane-growers Executive. It was pleasing and heart-warming that, in the recent election, I gained an absolute majority at every one of the polling booths in Home Hill. This has given me great confidence that I shall be able to do valuable work for the people of the area.

I thank the Minister for Education and the Minister for Works and Housing for the provision, in the Lower Burdekin area, of a magnificent new opportunity school, of which the people there can be justly proud. It was opened later than expected because of delays, shortly before Christmas, caused by cyclone damage during construction. The Minister for Education was wise in selecting Mr. Bruce Lane, the school's principal, and the other members of the staff, whom I welcome to the area. I trust that their stay will be long, happy and rewarding.

I thank the Government for establishing the third rural training school in the Lower Burdekin area. As I have said before in this Chamber, its teachings will be based on irrigated agriculture. The future of the agricultural industry, not only in Queensland but in the rest of the world, depends on irrigation, which guarantees a stability of production that cannot be achieved with rainfall only. This area has a well-established sugar industry and has, year in and year out, regardless of seasons, supplied its peak to the Sugar Board. This in itself indicates the value of irrigation. Many irrigation schemes are planned, constructed or completed as a result of the complete awareness in the powers that be of the advantage of irrigated agriculture.

I thank the members of my campaign committee, my electorate council and, particularly, Mr. Ian Freshwater, my campaign director, for the work they have done, which resulted in my re-election. My electorate council, one of the most solid in Queensland, comprises many dedicated and hard-working people. I wish them well and trust that they will assist me again in three years' time.

I thank the Main Roads Department for the speedy reconstruction of the Clare-Millaroo road, which was washed away during the flooding of the Burdekin River earlier this year. The Minister visited the scene of the disaster while the river was still in flood. He made the decision that the construction of a new road round a difficult hill near Deep Creek, linking with the original road near Landers Creek, should be undertaken as expeditiously as possible.

I wish to pay a special tribute to the men who worked initially on the construction of the temporary road over the hill near Deep

Creek, and later on the construction of the road round the hill and across the upper reaches of Deep Creek through to Lander's Creek. Throughout the entire operation they toiled untiringly under very difficult conditions, and worked considerable overtime to ensure that the road would be completed for the beginning of the 1972 sugar harvesting. I also wish to pay a tribute to the committee that was formed in that area to ensure that the road was completed.

I was disappointed that the Governor was not able to announce in his Opening Speech that a start would be made on a major water conservation scheme on the Burdekin River. Over the years, my predecessor, Mr. Arthur Coburn, spoke many times on the need for such a scheme, and since I have been in this House I have made considerable mention of the need for it. In fact, I dealt with it in my maiden speech. Some members may therefore say, "Oh, not again!"

I have always maintained that a water conservation scheme on the Burdekin River was needed. I believe now that it is absolutely imperative, and that the Government can delay no longer in proceeding with the next scheme for the conservation of water in this river system. In the House on 10 August of this year I asked the Minister for Conservation, among other things, this question concerning the Eungella Dam—

"What is the present daily off-take from the dam and what quantity of water from this dam has not yet been allocated for irrigation and other uses?"

In his reply the Minister said that, although the supply was not yet firmly allocated, some was being reserved for proposals under investigation for additional areas for smaller farms in the irrigation area and a number of farms in the Mona Park area, where underground supplies are inadequate. It is obvious from that answer that water from the Eungella Dam is fully committed.

A fairly new industry has become established in the Lower Burdekin. It has great promise, but is quite unable to supply an additional large quantity of its products because of insufficient water, and there is great concern that, for the same reason, it will not be possible to increase production to any great extent in the near future.

**Mr. Wallis-Smith:** Are you happy about the cost of the water?

**Mr. BIRD:** I will never be happy about the cost of water. I should like to see all water supplied free. However, we must be honest with ourselves and appreciate that, if these schemes are to be implemented, somewhere along the line they must be paid for.

**Mr. Jensen:** Is this the growing of rice to feed the Japs?

**Mr. BIRD:** It could be rice, and it could be beef. Markets are available for many products, but water is not available to increase their production.

In speeches that I have made in the House in the past, I have said that I have little faith in the Ross River Dam as a major water-supply source for Townsville and that, in spite of reports to the contrary that have been published, I could not see how Townsville could possibly go beyond 1985 without resorting to the Burdekin River as a major source of water. I reiterate those remarks today. I still believe that Townsville must go to the Burdekin River for its water—and well before 1985.

As a matter of fact, it is very interesting to note this report in "The Townsville Daily Bulletin" of 16 August 1972, under the heading "Move to expedite dam construction"—

"Mounting pressure has prompted a Townsville City Council move to have the multi-million dollar Ross River Dam completed much sooner than was originally planned.

"A delegation from the City Council will travel to Brisbane and Canberra during the next fortnight to support an application for a Commonwealth flood mitigation grant to help finance remaining work on the dam project."

Without reading any further, I should say that that confirms what I have said for a long time—that the Ross River Dam is a flood-mitigation scheme, not a water-conservation scheme.

In last Monday's edition of "The Townsville Daily Bulletin" a notice inserted by the Townsville City Council advised people that water restrictions are again to apply in Townsville. The Townsville area has had water-supply problems ever since it was first settled, and it will continue to have those problems until it goes to the Burdekin River for its supply. I believe that both this Government and the Commonwealth Government must do everything they possibly can to ensure that stage II of the Ross River Dam is built as early as possible, thus giving Townsville as much water as possible until a decision is made to go to the Burdekin River for a new source of supply.

One thing that really worries me about the water supply in the Townsville area is that it was stated originally that the Greenvale nickel project would need 5,000,000 gallons of water a day. The company said that it would get the water from underground resources in the vicinity of Black River and Bluewater Creek. I could not see that that quantity of water would be available in the area; I still cannot. It is interesting to note, therefore, that in the report in "The Townsville Daily Bulletin" of 16 August to which

I referred earlier, it is stated that the Greenvale nickel refinery at Yabulu will need 7,000,000 gallons of water a day. So a total of 12,000,000 gallons a day will be required, of which only 5,000,000 gallons will be recirculated. This means that the Greenvale nickel project will require 7,000,000 gallons a day, and I should say that the only place from which that water can come is the Ross River Dam. That will impose a very heavy burden on both the river and the dam, and I say again that Townsville must go to the Burdekin River to meet its future needs.

In my opinion, the Townsville City Council has hesitated to go to the Burdekin River because it fears it will be required to contribute very heavily to any water conservation scheme that might be implemented there. But I believe that the time has come when the Townsville City Council, the Ayr Shire Council, the Townsville Harbour Board, the Thuringowa Shire Council, and any other organisation that is interested in water conservation in the area, must get together and decide to press as one body for a major conservation scheme on the Burdekin River, to which all will contribute, with the cost being shared in proportion to their usage.

*[Sitting suspended from 1 to 2.15 p.m.]*

**Mr. BIRD:** Before moving on to my next subject, I should like to sum up the water position in the Townsville-Giru-Burdekin region. It is disheartening to think that Queensland's second city—Townsville—had to class the Ross River Dam as a water conservation scheme when, in actual fact, it is a flood mitigation scheme. The councillors and everybody else concerned knew that there was no Commonwealth subsidy available on a flood mitigation scheme. I believe that as a result, although Townsville will gain a flood mitigation scheme, it will in fact be just so much further behind with a water conservation scheme.

I further believe that the Burdekin irrigation area and Townsville cannot hope to expand their primary and secondary industries without a major water conservation scheme on the Burdekin. This Government must press the Commonwealth Government for immediate finance for such a scheme. It is imperative that an immediate start be made on a water conservation scheme on the Burdekin if a disaster is to be avoided.

At this juncture I welcome the Greenvale nickel works to North Queensland, mainly because of the vast employment opportunities that will be created by the establishment of these treatment works in the Townsville region. I can envisage a tremendous amount of engineering work being required to supply the requirements of this plant. Excellent opportunities exist for engineering works in many small areas outside Townsville—if one problem can be overcome. I

refer to road permit fees. Exemption from road permit fees should be extended to a distance of not less than 100 miles. If such an exemption were granted it would permit such centres as Ingham, Charters Towers, Ayr and Home Hill to compete favourably with Townsville for the carrying out of many engineering projects. Anybody who knows the areas I have mentioned is aware that they have first-class engineering firms as well as first-class engineers. One only has to look at what has been done by them in the development of cane harvesters to realise that they are capable of providing all the necessary engineering facilities.

I wish to deal now with the railway system. In his Address-in-Reply speech last week the honourable member for Albert mentioned the pulling up of the railway line to Southport. When he said he was very disappointed that this had occurred, he must have been speaking with tongue in cheek. It is my opinion that with the present outmoded railway system in Queensland we would be far better off without some of the existing small branch railway lines.

Eventually we hope to see a very modern railway system operating throughout the State. I believe that the Commonwealth Government must come to our assistance and enable us to modernise our railway system and get it out of the doldrums it is in at the present time. Today's Press discloses that the railway department in Queensland has lost some \$26,500,000 over the last 12 months. I believe that most of this loss resulted from the outmoded system under which our railways operate, and the major problem in that system is our narrow rail gauge. Until rail gauges are standardised throughout the Commonwealth, we in Queensland will continue to face this problem.

I should like to see the Commonwealth Government come to our assistance immediately and provide a standard gauge line from Coolangatta, which is adjacent to the electorate of the honourable member for Aibert, right through to Cairns and out to Mt. Isa. I should also like to see this Government and the Commonwealth Government eventually decide to press on with a rail link between Mt. Isa and Darwin. In my view, this is absolutely essential not only for the growth of Queensland, and to bring our railway system back into the category it should occupy, but also for the benefit of the whole of the Commonwealth, especially in the movement of goods in war-time.

Our present rail gauge does not allow of the speeds necessary for the fast and efficient service demanded by industry today. To support this view, I cite the times taken to travel from Brisbane to some of the northern centres. Even the "Sunlander", which is supposed to be a modern, efficient

train providing a very efficient service, travels at a very modest average speed of 28.4 miles an hour over the journey of 832 miles from Brisbane to Townsville, taking 29 hours to complete the journey. It takes 37 hours to travel from Brisbane to Cairns. Honourable members will therefore see that with our narrow-gauge railway we cannot expect to give the efficient service that not only industry but also the public generally demand.

I know that tourists like to see the countryside, but I very much doubt whether many of them want to see it at the "grand" speed of 28.4 miles an hour. After all, the scenery is basically similar right through from Brisbane to Cairns. It is all coastal country and does not vary greatly, and I can assure everyone in the House that by the time one has completed the journey from Brisbane to Cairns at a speed of 28.4 miles an hour, the scenery becomes rather monotonous.

As I say, I believe that our railway system should be completely updated. If this were done, I think people would flock back to using it. One example of this is the experience with the "Indian-Pacific". Anybody who has travelled on the "Indian-Pacific" from Sydney to Perth since its inaugural run will appreciate that railway travel can be very comfortable and pleasing. I suggest, therefore, that at the earliest possible moment we press the Commonwealth Government to extend the standard rail gauge throughout Queensland.

**Mr. Bousen:** Your Government is opposed to this, isn't it?

**Mr. BIRD:** I am making this speech. The honourable member will have an opportunity to make one if he so desires.

I also suggest that we have a look at our outmoded railway stations. I know of nothing less pleasing to tourists than to have to sit in some of our railway waiting rooms that were built many years ago to the standards that then operated. The time has long past when some of the old railway stations should be demolished and new ones with comfortable passenger lounges erected in their place.

I have been referring to tourists, and the same remarks apply to the transportation of goods. I ask the Minister for Transport to replace the antiquated railway goods sheds that exist throughout the State. They have changed very little over the years, and they certainly do not offer any inducement to people to send their goods by rail. Although trains can travel from Brisbane to Townsville in 30 hours, because of the outmoded goods sheds it takes almost as long as that for a consignee to collect his goods after they have arrived at their destination. Railway goods sheds must be the worst-looking buildings in many of our towns.

As for working conditions—the Minister for Transport will doubtless be aware that I raised this matter with his predecessor—at both Home Hill and Ayr, railway employees were working in poorly lit offices that have remained unpainted for years. As well, they are using packing cases for filing cabinets. No inducement at all is offered by the Railway Department to a young fellow in search of a career. In spite of the fact that I have made repeated representations in this Chamber for the internal painting of the goods office at the Ayr Railway Station, the work has not been carried out. I admit that fans have been provided and that some new cupboards and filing cabinets have been installed, but there is still a long way to go.

Living quarters provided for railway workers are generally substandard, and it is high time that new quarters were built. I do not intend to castigate the Minister for having sold some railway residences, because I know that it is no longer essential to staff stations in many of the smaller sidings. In those places where the living quarters were in such poor condition as not to warrant painting or renovating, the best thing that could have been done was to get rid of them at the best price offering.

**Mr. Bousen:** Why not burn them down and collect the insurance?

**Mr. BIRD:** If we can sell them and get a few "bob", why burn them down?

New quarters containing all the necessary amenities should be provided for railway workers.

Some time ago I raised the need to provide petrol-driven pumps to navvies who live in the Outback. For a long time they have been using the old semi-rotary pumps, and they spend literally hours at a time pumping water into the tanks supplied for domestic use. A few engine-driven pumps have been provided to employees, but they are supplied only at those places requested by a member of Parliament. The department does not say, "We have installed these pumps at a couple of small sidings, so let us install them everywhere." They should be provided automatically and progressively. I am sure that they would not be very costly and would not take long to install.

If a railway employee wants internal painting carried out in a Railway Department residence he is told that he will be supplied with the paint if he does the painting himself. When I asked the former Minister if an employee who was injured while doing this painting would be compensated, he said, "He would be doing it in his own time and therefore would not be paid compensation if he fell and broke an arm or a leg." I have fought continuously to have the present practice changed, and as a result several of these houses have been painted internally by Railway Department painters.

I hope that we may rapidly get away from the present old-fashioned policy, and that the Railway Department will accept full responsibility for internal and external painting without delay.

This morning's Press discloses that the Railway Department has lost \$26,500,000 in the last 12 months. I hasten to suggest that losses well in excess of that figure would have been incurred in the Southern Division. For many years the Central and Northern Divisions of the Railway Department have been the only ones to show a profit. The people of North Queensland are fed up with paying the excessively high freight rates that they have been forced to meet for many years to help carry the Southern Division. The Minister may rest assured that I will continue to fight for more equitable freight rates in North Queensland.

The Health Department must accept responsibility for providing free rail passes for people in North Queensland who have to travel to Brisbane for medical attention.

**Mr. Bousen:** What about those in other remote areas?

**Mr. BIRD:** It must accept responsibility for those in all remote areas.

Before anyone can get a rail pass from the Health Department to bring himself or a child to Brisbane for medical treatment, he must submit to a scrutiny of his financial position. If he has more than the necessary rail fare in his bank account, it seems he is told he is not eligible for a pass. Most of those who apply for a rail pass in these circumstances are working-class people. A person who has plenty of money does not worry about travelling by rail. He boards an aircraft, flies to Brisbane for medical treatment, and then flies home again. But those in the lower-income bracket are forced to travel by rail, and they often find it extremely difficult to raise the money for the rail fare.

If a very ill person has to come to Brisbane for treatment he must be accompanied by a parent, a husband or a wife, and the fares of both people have to be met. I ask the Minister for Health to give serious consideration to increasing the minimum sum that a person can have in the bank and still be eligible for a free rail pass.

I congratulate the Minister for Education on the proposed introduction of pre-school education. For many years, people throughout the State have set up a hue and cry and have sincerely sought this facility.

(Time expired.)

**Mrs. JORDAN** (Ipswich West) (2.35 p.m.): I again associate myself and the people of Ipswich West in an expression of loyalty to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

I extend to the Governor, Sir Colin Hannah, and Lady Hannah, my best wishes for a successful and happy term of office. Both of them are well known in the Ipswich area, as Sir Colin was commanding officer at Amberley for a number of years. During that time, Lady Hannah associated herself with many organisations in Ipswich, and both she and Sir Colin are happily remembered. Indeed, one street in the newly developed R.A.A.F. housing area is named Hannah Street. They were unaware of this, and I was very pleased to be able to point this out to them recently.

I express by deep appreciation to Mr. Bill St. John, my campaign director, who did an excellent job, Mr. Merv. Battersby, his secretary, and the wonderful team of A.L.P. members and supporters who assisted me. I have been very fortunate, since entering public life, first as an alderman on the Ipswich City Council, and later as a member of this Assembly, in having such a wonderful group of people to assist and support me. The value of their work was reflected in my increased absolute majority in the last election even though I had, opposing me, an independent candidate—a supposedly independent candidate, who was really a member of the Liberal Party—and my usual Liberal Party opponent. The independent candidate waged a very intensive campaign during the election. The idea behind his standing was to split the vote and beat me on preferences. Three years ago, another intensive campaign was waged against me. It was well financed and a great deal of propaganda was used. However, it was unsuccessful. On this occasion, different tactics were employed.

**Mr. Davis:** They tried the same snide trick on me.

**Mrs. JORDAN:** It is a trick they come at, but it is not successful.

However, the end result was that they split the Liberal Party vote. The so-called independent even lost his deposit and the figures for the Liberal Party candidate were halved.

**A Government Member** interjected.

**Mrs. JORDAN:** The honourable member should check with his party. He would find that this person was and still is a member of the Liberal Party. Some years ago, he tried to join the Australian Labor Party, as the other candidate did, but neither was accepted. As I said, he lost his deposit. This indicated what the people of Ipswich West thought of him and his endeavours.

I appreciate that the people of Ipswich West showed so much confidence in me. I shall continue to do all I can for my native city, whose many people have problems, even though it is a stable city with a sound economy and with unemployment figures among the lowest in Queensland.

Ipswich has a continuing growth rate. This is evidenced in the housing figures for the 1971-72 financial year which show that 778 new houses costing \$7,600,000, and also new flats and alterations to a total value of \$11,200,000, were built. In the 1969-70 year, there was also the very good building record of 919 houses constructed at a cost of \$7,600,000-odd. In the light of those figures, Ipswich is continuing to progress in spite of the policies of a Liberal Government, and in spite of the fact that the Liberal Party is trying to alter the tone of Ipswich by not encouraging industry to go there. In spite of all those things, Ipswich progresses, and still remains a stable city.

**Mr. R. E. Moore:** Didn't you claim on television that Ipswich was a dying city?

**Mrs. JORDAN:** The honourable member for Windsor should go back to his "dream time." He has not a clue on what he is talking about. Never at any time have A.L.P. members claimed that Ipswich is a dying city. I have continued to say on every available opportunity that I have had in this House that Ipswich is a stable city, and that it will continue to progress. It is now the second provincial city in Queensland, and I venture to forecast, with no apologies to Townsville, that it is well on the way to becoming the first provincial city.

**Mr. R. E. Moore:** Under Lew Edwards.

**Mrs. JORDAN:** I shall have more to say about that later.

In spite of all this progress in house construction, Ipswich still has a housing shortage. I shall deal with that in more detail later.

Because of a glaring gerrymander, the A.L.P. did not become the Government, but we have the satisfaction of knowing that we received 48 per cent of the vote compared with the Government's 42 per cent. We also have the satisfaction of knowing that we were "first past the post" in 48 seats, and that the Government had to depend on preferential voting to win 15 seats. It was only preferential voting that lost the election for the A.L.P., and many, many people believe it is grossly unfair and should be abolished. The Government, very naturally, will not do that, because it is preferential voting that keeps it in power with a minority vote.

I also want to make some reference to the shocking state of the rolls at the last State election. I have heard many members complain of this in their electorates, and Ipswich West was no exception. There were instances of wives being on the Ipswich West roll and their husbands on the Ipswich roll. There were even instances of families being divided, with some members on the Ipswich West roll and some on the roll

for Wolston, which is miles away from Ipswich West. Considerable confusion was caused among voters in the area.

In addition, many people were left off the rolls. They tried to vote under Section 35A of the Act. Some were given such votes, but very few of those votes were allowed, even though some who claimed and cast them had lived in the area for 45 years. I think it is shocking when rolls are in such a state that people who have been pioneers in an area, and have lived there for many years, are disfranchised.

The Electoral Commission did a good job for the Government in drawing the boundaries according to known voting patterns, and making it difficult for Labor to win. This was the position in the seat of Ipswich which, but for preferential voting, the Labor Party would have won. Although Labor was well ahead on the primary vote, the seat was lost to Labor by a small margin. The whole of the Liberal Party campaign in the Ipswich seat was based on selling the candidate, Dr. Edwards, as a nice fellow and building up his family background, and, admittedly, he has a very nice family. The Liberal Party label and Liberal Party policy was kept way out of sight—pushed under the carpet, as it were—and no mention was made of it in the election advertising.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** Wasn't he game to admit to being a Liberal?

**Mrs. JORDAN:** It seems that the honourable member was not, because I repeat that at no time did Liberal Party policy or the name "Liberal Party" come into election campaigning. The headlines were, "Popular Doctor Goes Campaigning", etc., and this psychologically-based, nice-fellow campaign, allied with preferential voting, won the seat for the Liberal Party. It was only afterwards, when the election result was finally known, that quite a number of people realised the trap in which they had been caught.

However, this is not the first time, as has been claimed, that Ipswich has elected a Liberal. In 1929-32—the height of the depression—Mr. J. E. Walker represented Ipswich in the State Parliament for the Liberal Party, but Labor won the seat back in 1932, after only one term of Liberal representation. Dave Gledson, the Labor candidate, won the seat and later became Attorney-General, and Labor has been undefeated there ever since. One term of Liberal representation was enough for the people of Ipswich, and I prophesy that history will repeat itself.

Dr. Cameron held the Federal seat of Oxley, which covers Ipswich, from 1949 till he was defeated by the A.L.P. candidate, Mr. Bill Hayden, in 1961, and Bill Hayden has held that seat ever since. So, although

Ipswich has very occasionally voted Liberal, it has always returned to the pattern of voting Labor.

The new member for Ipswich will really need to get results, not merely window-dressing publicity fed to the media by Government public relations men. Even in his absence from the seat, statements purporting to be made by him appear in the local press as if he had been present. People soon see through that sort of thing and begin to ask questions, as they are already doing in Ipswich.

**Mr. Miller:** He must be a real thorn in your side.

**Mrs. JORDAN:** He is not a thorn in my side, nor is he a thorn in the side of the honourable member for Wolston. We have no worries about our seats. Nothing that the honourable member for Ipswich can do will cause us to lose them. However, I will admit that I am concerned because Labor lost the seat of Ipswich.

The honourable member for Ipswich has been advised by Ministers of work being done in my electorate of Ipswich West and reports of that work have appeared in the local newspaper "The Queensland Times". One such report related to the painting of the West Ipswich State School, and there could be no confusion as to which electorate a school of that name was in.

It seems that this is how the Government and the honourable member for Ipswich are going to play it, and "The Queensland Times" falls over backwards to give the honourable member credit for all sorts of things. During the recent election campaign, for example, there were newspaper headlines giving the honourable member credit for getting an additional \$6,000 subsidy for a swimming pool at the Ipswich East State School, which comes within the Ipswich electorate. The truth was that the increased subsidy was an across-the-board election increase to \$26,000 for primary schools and \$32,000 for State high schools that were building pools at that time. The Ipswich State High School, which is in my electorate, received the increased amount of \$32,000, and, with the additional work being done there, I should like to see it receive an even bigger subsidy to assist it with the pool.

Recently the honourable member for Ipswich was given headlines in the newspaper for having obtained a railway wagon contract valued at about \$2,580 for Scotts of Ipswich.

**Dr. EDWARDS:** I rise to a point of order. On no occasion have I claimed that I obtained a contract for Scotts. That was a release by the Minister for Transport. I did not claim credit for it on any occasion, and I ask the honourable member to withdraw the statement.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I ask the honourable member for Ipswich West to accept the denial of the honourable member for Ipswich.

**Mrs. JORDAN:** I accept his denial, but by implication the local newspaper gave him the credit.

**Dr. EDWARDS:** I again rise to a point of order. I would request that the honourable member withdraw the inference.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! Will the honourable member please withdraw the inference that the honourable member claimed credit for that?

**Mrs. JORDAN:** I do not think that I said he claimed credit for it. I said he was given credit for it by the local Press, which is an entirely different thing.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! It is offensive to the honourable member and I ask that the statement be withdrawn.

**Mrs. JORDAN:** Very well, Mr. Speaker. If that is offensive to him we will find that he is a lot more thin-skinned before I am finished.

Before the honourable member took his point of order I was going to say that I am sure he must have been embarrassed by the newspaper report which gave him the credit, because it was a statement by the Minister for Transport that was published in the Press. I repeat that the local newspaper is endeavouring to give him credit for all sorts of things and, I repeat, I am sure that at times it must be an embarrassment to him when he knows he has not been responsible for getting the contract or some of the jobs that have been done in Ipswich.

On Tuesday this week we had the piece de resistance when the local newspaper reported a \$200,000 Government grant for the Box Flat miners, as a result of the representations, according to "The Queensland Times", of the honourable member for Ipswich. The announcement received headlines in that newspaper. We are very pleased to get extra money to alleviate suffering and distress caused by the Box Flat disaster, but what did we see in "The Courier-Mail" of the same day? It published a list of the State unemployment-relief grants to local authorities throughout Queensland. The Ipswich and Moreton Shires were listed among the local authorities to receive such grants, but there was no mention of the Box Flat disaster. Admittedly, the grants to the Ipswich and Moreton Shires are much bigger than the others, and I would assume that that is because of the Box Flat disaster. I point out that the honourable member for Wolston, on the very day of the tragedy, was first in the field to make

representations to the Minister for Mines and Main Roads for extra money to provide employment for the displaced miners.

**Mr. R. E. Moore:** Absolute rot.

**Mrs. JORDAN:** I would refer the honourable member to the Minister for Mines and Main Roads, who, I think, would be honest enough to tell the truth in that regard. He would confirm that the representations were made to him on that day by the honourable member for Wolston. I do not think it is a matter for debate in this Chamber. The fact that State-wide unemployment-relief grants were made shows that it was not only the Box Flat disaster that was taken into consideration when the money was allocated. So that "The Queensland Times" could give the honourable member for Ipswich full credit, telephone calls were made all around Ipswich on Monday night to try to locate him and get a statement from him, but he could not be found until very late in the evening. It was only by good luck that the honourable member for Wolston got in on the act, and the newspaper printed something he had to say about the matter. Although I was at home that evening my telephone did not ring; "The Queensland Times" did not seek any comment from me.

**Mr. R. E. Moore:** They were not worried about you.

**Mrs. JORDAN:** I am not concerned about what the honourable member and his colleagues think about me; I will continue to do my job. The people of Ipswich West showed what they think of me by the big, absolute majority they gave me in the last election. And I did not require any preferences, either!

It would seem that only the honourable member for Ipswich is to get any credit for anything that is done for the Ipswich area. I want to say, however, that I am pleased that the honourable member for Ipswich has been able to entice Ministers to visit Ipswich in recent weeks, although he will have to do more than just entice them there; he will have to get results.

We in Ipswich have had Ministers visit us before. They have looked at things and made speeches, but we have not got any results. The Ipswich Railway Station has been a well-discussed theme for many years. I have spoken about it many times in this House. I even threatened to burn it down at one time if its "grease on grime" would allow it to burn. It gets a coat of paint nearly every year. Indeed, we had one memorable visit from Mr. Knox when he was Minister for Transport and the whole station and its surroundings got a good cleaning. The so-called subway of the new station, which was started over 30 years ago and has had nothing more done about it, was really cleaned up, and the poor unemployed

who had made a home in the subway were temporarily tipped out to make a good impression during his visit. However after all the publicity we got no action.

But all political parties in the last State election—I repeat "all political parties"—promised electrification of railways in Brisbane and surrounding suburban areas and this, of course, includes Ipswich, so perhaps we can hope for better results this time, and perhaps this will be something for which the honourable member for Ipswich can do some pressurising. In spite of this promise, let us look at what the Commissioner for Railways, Mr. Lee, had to say on the subject in June last year, as reported in "The Queensland Times" under the large caption, "No plans for new railway station"—

"Mr. Lee said, 'Railway projects were a matter of priority and a new railway station for Ipswich was not classified as a high priority but,' he added, 'he would look into the matter and perhaps give the existing station a coat of paint.'"

My comment was that the station will be having so many coats of paint that soon we will not need electrification from Brisbane to Ipswich because the paint itself will reach Brisbane and the station will become part of Brisbane.

On the occasion of the visit to which I have referred, Mr. Lee said that he felt the time would come when the line to Ipswich would be electrified, but that nothing more could be said until a Government decision was made. What words of wisdom! It was very true, but we have long awaited that decision. When Labor was in Government prior to 1957, some preliminary work on electrification was started, and had Labor continued in office electrification would have been a fact of life many years ago. Now, 14 years later, this Government is still talking about it and having a look into it.

As I have said, in the last election campaign all parties promised electrification, and the honourable member for Ipswich will be expected to get results. Perhaps the setting-up of a metropolitan transport authority, as promised by the Government, will hurry the implementation of more efficient rail transport as well as public transport.

I now wish to deal with some other publicity given to the new member for Ipswich. I refer to the opening of the welfare services office in Ipswich within a week or two of his election to Parliament. By implication the local newspaper gave him the credit for the opening of that office. He was reported as saying, "This is the first project to take place in my electorate since I was elected." What he forgot to say was that the office had been planned many months previously and that the necessary alteration and renovation work had been completed before his election—in fact, almost

before the Treasurer talked him into nominating for Parliament. By the time he entered this House all that remained to be done was the opening of the office.

Both the honourable member for Wolston and I had found a great need in Ipswich for children's services. Over recent years the need has steadily increased, and to help meet that need the department had moved to open the office. I welcome the office, because it provides a much needed service. However, unlike the honourable member for Ipswich, I have never been officially advised of the opening of the office. By contrast, the Commonwealth Social Services Department advised me of the appointment of a new Commonwealth officer in Ipswich, and asked me if I would invite her to my home to discuss the social problems that confront many people in the area. If I want to know anything about the State office or its social worker, I am required to call at the office. And on many occasions when I do call I find that the information I am seeking can only be given in Brisbane. I repeat: what a contrast with the Commonwealth's attitude!

**Mr. R. E. Moore:** You will be voting for Billy McMahon after that.

**Mrs. JORDAN:** That'll be the day!

I wish to turn now to the urgent need for additional Housing Commission rental homes in Ipswich. Although my electorate contains a large number of such homes, they are occupied mainly by R.A.A.F. personnel under the Commonwealth-States Housing Agreement. Over recent years the R.A.A.F. has embarked upon a crash building programme and has erected high-standard homes of brick veneer containing a large quantity of built-in furniture. However, no similar programme has been commenced for civilians. In Ipswich there is a great need to provide rental homes for persons on low incomes and with large families, for widows with families, and for deserted wives.

The Minister for Works and Housing is aware of this need, so I hope that this year the Housing Commission's building programme will be stepped up to meet it. The shortage of rental houses is one of the most pressing problems that confront me in my electorate, and many of the applicants for such houses present heart-breaking cases. The situation appears in even worse light when it is realised that for almost two years 53 Housing Commission homes have remained empty. Previously they were occupied by R.A.A.F. personnel, and the Department of Air is still paying rental on them. In many instances weeds and grass grow as high as the window sills, and the homes are sadly neglected. Although the houses have received some publicity, they remain vacant. People are constantly coming to me and telling me how many houses are empty, and what streets they are in. They cannot understand why they are not available for civilian rental.

I have frequently raised this shocking situation with the Housing Commissioner, but apparently he, too, is helpless. He has told me that he would very much like to see them revert to the Housing Commission for civilian rental. I have even had discussions with the commanding officer at Amberley. He has been helpful, and is concerned that what is happening is perhaps giving the R.A.A.F. an unsavoury name. He took the matter up with Canberra some time ago. I also brought the matter to the notice of the Federal member for Oxley, Mr. Bill Hayden, but until recently without success. After a period of two years, the houses still remain empty.

The Department of Air said that it did not require these houses, and indicated that they would be released to the Queensland Housing Commission earlier this year. However, time went by and nothing was done. I received a letter dated 31 May from the Minister for Air (Senator Drake-Brockman) through Mr. Hayden saying that he was looking into the matter. I received a further letter from the same Minister, through the same channels, dated 4 October, in which he again said that he was looking into the matter. He said also that the houses fell short of the scale of accommodation standards laid down for the armed services, and that the matter was currently being investigated.

**Mr. Hinze:** He reported that he was looking into it.

**Mrs. JORDAN:** It is always being looked into.

**Mr. Hodges:** That is why the Housing Agreement had to be held up. I held it up deliberately, trying to get a decision that these houses would come back to us.

**Mrs. JORDAN:** I thank the Minister. I am pleased to hear him say that.

I do not blame the Housing Commission one iota for this; I know it has been trying to get the houses. I have spoken to the departmental officers on this matter, and our talks have always been quite amicable. It is shocking that these houses should be allowed to stand empty for so long.

Because we could not get satisfaction from the Department of Air, the matter was taken up with the Prime Minister (Mr. McMahon), who on 7 September wrote a letter, which I received only last week, to Mr. Hayden in these terms—

"While earlier there was some possibility that the houses might become surplus to RAAF requirements this is no longer the case, and I am advised that it was recently decided to retain the houses with the exception of three, which have since been returned to the State Housing Commission.

"I understand that currently some 30 houses are not occupied by RAAF personnel."

He was misinformed, the number is 53.

The letter continues—

"However, arrangements are in hand for these to be occupied as soon as practicable, having regard to essential maintenance requirements. In this regard, the Department of Housing will be approaching the Queensland Housing Commission as a matter of urgency."

I do not know what is meant by "a matter of urgency", having in mind the months that have elapsed.

That accounts for 33 of the houses. Three houses in Mihi Street, Brassall, have been returned to the Housing Commission for civilian rental, and 30 are required by the R.A.A.F. for use by personnel. However, there are still 20 houses about which I have received no word. I hope they will be returned to the Housing Commission for civilian rental.

**Mr. R. E. Moore:** They are for F-111 staff.

**Mrs. JORDAN:** When the F-111 gets here. It has been talked about for so many years we will all get a shock if it arrives.

I am sure that the Commissioner of Housing must be just as fed up over this matter as I am with the lack of action by the Federal Government.

I am not opposed to R.A.A.F. personnel being housed or, indeed, well housed, but I am concerned that a situation should be allowed to continue in which the Commonwealth Government is paying rent on at least 53 houses that have been empty for so long. It should be a matter of concern that taxpayers' money is being spent in such a way with no benefit, particularly when people need homes so desperately.

No wonder so many people have become fed up with the Federal Government when such examples of inefficiency and negligence are so obvious in this as well as other spheres. Even the recently introduced "Santa Claus" Budget will not overcome the adverse feeling against the Federal Government, which will need to give a much bigger hand-out to the States in some areas.

More money for housing is not the least of Queensland's needs. Many areas in Queensland need Housing Commission rental homes just as much as Ipswich does. The Federal Government should allocate more money to the State for this purpose. After all, the Housing Commission does make a profit.

I have been told that R.A.A.F. personnel who live in homes in Ipswich—outside the R.A.A.F. housing area at Leichhardt—were told that they had to move into these 30 houses that I have mentioned. They refused to do so, apparently because the houses were not up to the required standard. The request

of the Department of Air met with no success. Now that the 30 houses are being updated, perhaps these people will be forced to move into them.

The renting of private houses in Ipswich by R.A.A.F. personnel has helped to force rentals to a high level, and has also reduced the number of houses available to civilians. Indeed, there is a sharply decreasing number of private rental houses and flats in Ipswich. Because of the housing shortage, people are buying these private rental homes, so the rental-house shortage is becoming worse. There still remain the people who, through various circumstances, either cannot afford to buy homes of their own or, because of the nature of their jobs, have to move from place to place.

As I said, Ipswich has one of the lowest unemployment figures in the State and, at the same time, has a high building rate—second only to that at the Gold Coast. The population growth in Ipswich is high. Consequently, housing is a major problem; more so because it is an industrial city with many people on low or middle incomes. Some private rental homes are in a shocking condition and have shockingly high rentals. Competition for homes has caused rentals to rise.

The R.A.A.F. base at Amberley is still expanding and, with a further \$4,200,000 to be spent, the position will become even worse. The base is very important to Ipswich and brings great benefit to the city in many ways. Ipswich people are proud of it. But the Amberley base is not the problem. Although the commanding officer and other officers at the base have been very co-operative, the problem is that the Federal Government and the Department of Air have been very unco-operative—I would go so far as to say disinterested—in this regard.

Concern exists in Ipswich over the Amberley State School. Because of its proximity to the R.A.A.F. base, the noise of planes warming up on the tarmac and taking off and landing makes teaching impossible. This is a matter of continuing negotiation with the Department of Air, but with no result. At one time it was claimed by the Department of Air that the school would be moved to another site. However, that decision was altered and nothing was done about shifting the school.

(Time expired.)

**Mr. AHERN** (Landsborough) (3.15 p.m.): In the first place, I should like to express my loyalty, and that of my electors, to Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. I also congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your election to the high office of Speaker of this House. It is my hope that you will bring some worth-while reforms to Parliament.

It was my pleasure recently to welcome His Excellency the Governor, Sir Colin Hannah, and Lady Hannah, to my electorate.

I offer my congratulations to Sir Colin on his appointment, and I wish him success in his governorship.

As this is the first opportunity that I have had to do so, I extend thanks to the electors of Landsborough for returning me at the last election. The campaign was quite a difficult one, caused primarily by the decision of the Liberal Party to endorse a candidate in Landsborough. This was the ultimate act of futility, and I hope that we on this side of the House, as realists, come to learn from this in the future. I never cease to be amazed by the efforts that can be mustered by a coalition party to oppose sitting members of Parliament. Thousands of dollars can be spent, and many people can be mustered to help. But when there is an open situation, often only half that amount of money can be raised, and very little effort, if any, is put into the campaign.

What is happening in the Federal seat of Fisher is a case in point, and it illustrates what I am saying. It would be agreed that it is an open situation in Fisher, and some little time ago a Liberal candidate was endorsed. But since that time there has been a tremendous row among local Liberal members. Votes of no confidence have been cast back and forth within the organisation. The situation is that a Federal election is being faced in this seat with no candidate, and no campaign. This can only be described as an amazing contradiction. Anybody who honestly believes that it is possible for a coalition partner to campaign against a sitting member, with no criticism of the Government, still believes in fairy tales.

The recent election has brought with it the inevitable discussion of the validity of the result, the percentages gained by the various parties, and so on. There was a redistribution of electoral boundaries prior to the election, and I well remember the honourable member for Lytton, at that time Federal president and State secretary of the A.L.P., saying how happy he was with the redistribution, and, as well, how happy his party was with it. He said that the Government had made some mistakes in the redistribution, and that his party expected to do well. The election was held—and now it is another story.

There has also been considerable debate about percentages of votes. We have seen many of the inevitable percentage analyses. We have heard it claimed in this Chamber that the percentage gained by a certain party has decreased. Those who quote such statistics are not statisticians, for they ignore the fact that the Country Party did not contest Maryborough at the last election. They also forget that the Liberal Party contested Landsborough, that the Country Party did not contest Bundaberg, and that there were many changed situations in other electorates.

The position is that we of the Country Party chose to contest only those electorates in which we felt we had a reasonable chance of success. We were pursuing a campaign to win the election, and to do this we had to win a certain number of seats. This we did, in the realisation that the percentage situation would not look good. But this was not what the real campaign was all about.

We have heard in this House several diatribes against the Government in respect of preferential voting. It has been said that if there had not been preferential voting the situation would have been very different in 15 seats. The fact is that there was preferential voting, and when the Government parties approached the election they knew that this was so and they endorsed their candidates with that fact in mind. If there was no preferential voting, there would be a very different arrangement of candidates between the anti-Labor parties in this State. I have no doubt that the situation would be just the same as it is now, because 53 per cent of the people of Queensland decided to vote against the Labor Party, which produced the situation that exists today.

I note very well the entry of the honourable member for Lytton into this Chamber. It has been obvious since he came here that there have been moves within his party for him to take over leadership of the Parliamentary Labor Party. The only question in people's minds is when that will occur. It will occur when there is complete surrender to trade-union leadership and the Left of the trade-union movement in this State. The Caseys, the Bennetts and the Thackerays have fought their last fight in the Labor movement against the Left-wing influence, represented by the honourable member for Lytton. The honourable members for Baroona, Belyando, Port Curtis, Bundaberg and Mourilyan have been left to fight on against huge odds in a hopeless situation in the Parliamentary Labor Party in this House. It will be a sad day for Queensland when that surrender actually occurs, but it has a certain inevitability about it and is almost bound to happen. That is the situation as it now stands.

**Opposition Members interjected.**

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. B. Wood:** You have more friends over here than you have over there.

**Mr. AHERN:** I have friends all over the House, as you, Mr. Speaker, and all other honourable members know.

It has been my pleasure to visit the Torres Strait islands, including Thursday Island, on several occasions, and I have again been appointed to the committee of the Minister for Conservation, Marine and Aboriginal Affairs. This committee has recently been making a particular study of the situation in the Torres Strait Islands and of the island people and their future development. It has

also been looking at the situation of the Aboriginal people of Queensland generally. This has been the subject of bitter discussion in recent times amongst extremists, and so on, and the finger has often been pointed at the Government of Queensland and its performance in this respect. That is why the committee that I refer to has been making this particular study.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, you can appreciate my concern when I read in "The Courier-Mail" of Wednesday, 20 September, an article headed "Whitlam pledge to support Islanders", which said—

"Thursday Island—The Federal Opposition Leader (Mr. Whitlam) yesterday denied that a Labor Government would give Torres Strait Islands to New Guinea.

"He did this in a long telegram to a leading Thursday Island resident, Mr. Ettie Pau, who is a committeeman for a Torres Strait fishing co-operative."

When that item in the news media hit Thursday Island, it virtually created a furore. There has been a tremendous amount of discussion about it in the Torres Strait islands, and a series of meetings has been held on Thursday Island. It is clear that the present situation is that the telegram received from the Leader of the Opposition in the House of Representatives did not contain the undertakings that the Press interpreted it as containing, and I wish to place on record in "Hansard" the wording of the telegram, which was displayed in the window of Mr. C. Laifoo on Thursday Island. It was addressed, "Mr. Rowley Cantley, C/o Post Office, Thursday Island", and it said—

"Have learned with anger and disgust that efforts to create Torres Strait Islanders Co-operative are being sabotaged by completely false stories about the intentions of a Labor Government. Under Labor Torres Strait Islanders will be given their full rights as Australian citizens including land rights now denied to them. We will help Torres Strait Islanders on their feet as real citizens of Australia.

"All Islanders will be guaranteed full rights to Australian social services for themselves and their dependents for all times. This is my pledge. Ignore the lies being put around by men who want to keep the Islanders down. Best wishes in your efforts. A Labor Government will back plans for a co-operative in every possible way.

Regards,  
Gough Whitlam, Leader of the  
Australian Labor Party."

When that telegram was received on Thursday Island it created a virtual furore throughout the islands of the Torres Strait, because it confirmed in the minds of the Islanders their fears that a Federal Labor Government would realign the boundary between Australia and Papua New Guinea. In an attempt to allay fears in the area, Mr.

Whitlam sent a long telegram which completely clouded the situation. Those who read that telegram would notice that nowhere did it contain any undertaking that a Labor Government would not renegotiate the boundary and give several of the Torres Strait islands to Papua New Guinea.

At a meeting at Thursday Island on Thursday night, called by the Torres Strait Islands Boundary Action Committee and attended by 200 Islanders, two basic resolutions were carried. First of all, these people said, "This fellow Ettie Pau does not speak on behalf of our organisation." He is the father-in-law of Tony Nicholson, who is a prominent Labor man on the island.

The second resolution was to the effect that the Islanders were so concerned about the attitude of the Leader of the Federal Opposition that they wanted to have a deputation to him to try to convince him that he should commit himself by saying unequivocally where he stood. They might well ask him to do that. It seems to them—and this has been said before—that Whitlam wants the New Guinea border changed. This appeared in "The Courier-Mail" of Wednesday, 31 December 1969. They all had bitter memories of that occasion. At the same time, this was reported—

"The Federal Opposition Leader (Mr. Whitlam) said yesterday that he supported moves for relocation of the border between Australia and Papua."

When I was on the island of Boigu I asked the Islanders, "How would you feel if this were to come about?" They said, "We will leave these islands. Don't do this to us." "The Courier-Mail" of Wednesday, 16 August, reported as follows:—

"Islanders 'would fight' to stay with Queensland.

"We are Australians—we will never be Papuans", Mr. George Mye declared last night.

"He was one of three elected Torres Strait islands representatives at the recent inaugural Aboriginal and Islands Advisory Council conference in Canberra.

"Mr. Mye said the only support voiced for the Islanders so far had come from the Queensland Government.

"He said yesterday Torres Strait Islanders would fight a war against Papua if the Queensland-Papua border was moved 10 degrees south latitude."

That had been suggested by the Federal Leader of the Opposition.

A lot of concern is being expressed in the Torres Strait area at the present time because it seems that this is to be the attitude of a Federal Labor Government. It seems that these people are to be deported to Bamaga, where they will be given land rights and everything else contained in the pious promises of the Leader of the Federal Opposition in his telegram.

So that there can be no mistake about the attitude of the Queensland Government, let me refer to "The Courier-Mail" of Monday, 1 May 1972, wherein it was reported—

"Premier Opposed to Island Loss

"The Premier Mr. Bjelke-Petersen said yesterday he would oppose any move by the Commonwealth Government to transfer Torres Strait islands to Papua New Guinea.

"I strongly support Torres Strait Islanders' desire to remain part of Queensland", he said."

**Mr. P. Wood:** Tell us the Prime Minister's attitude.

**Mr. AHERN:** The Prime Minister's attitude is that he is to hold conferences on this matter.

**Mr. P. Wood:** That is stuck in your way, isn't it?

**Mr. AHERN:** Through you, Mr. Speaker, let me make it patently clear to the honourable member for Toowoomba South just what the situation is. As the Prime Minister knows, there are constitutional problems in this matter. The necessary power would appear to lie solely in the hands of the Queensland Government. The Prime Minister knows this, but a Federal Labor Government would endeavour to change the situation, which is what worries the people of the Torres Strait islands—as indeed it will might.

**Mr. B. Wood:** Since you say that the power lies solely in Queensland's hands, will you now state the policy of the Queensland branch of the A.L.P.?

**Mr. AHERN:** The policy of the Queensland branch of the A.L.P. will be the policy of the Trades Hall, as will be the policy of the Leader of the Federal Opposition, who has frequently said that he wants to do away with State Governments in this country. He wants a two-tier system, with all power resting with his own party in Canberra. I challenge the Leader of the State Opposition to differ from his Federal leader on this question and to make a clear and unequivocal statement on the matter. The situation is not clear to these Islanders, who feel that they would be sold down the drain by a Federal Labor Government.

**Mr. B. Wood:** Tell us what moneys your Government is spending on the islands?

**Mr. AHERN:** I am about to.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. AHERN:** Mr. Speaker, the honourable member has asked me a question. If he has the time to stay, I will be making some reference to that matter later in my speech. However, as I have indicated, there is a tremendous amount of concern throughout the Torres Strait islands over this matter.

**Mr. Davis:** How would you know?

**Mr. AHERN:** What other issue would draw 200 people to a meeting on Thursday Island so that they could express their extreme concern? It appears to them that they are being sold down the drain—and that is how it appears to me, too. Is it any wonder, seeing that they have received a letter from the Federal member for Wills (Mr. Gordon Bryant) asking them to state their attitude on this matter? Presumably, this means that the Federal Labor Party is at least considering the question. I have a copy of the letter here. It is addressed to "Dear Friend". Several people on the islands in the Torres Strait received it, and it at least indicated to them that the Federal Labor Party is thinking about the question.

**Mr. Davis:** Who wrote that?

**Mr. AHERN:** I think the honourable member is being facetious. I have said that it is over the signature of Mr. Gordon Bryant, M.H.R. for Wills. If the honourable member wants me to table it, I will.

From the point of view of Federal Labor, there appears to be good reason why the public-opinion polls have not shown any swing to Labor in Queensland. There appears to be every reason to believe that Federal Labor, from a defence point of view, would sell Queensland and Queenslanders down the drain. They intend to reduce this nation's Army. They seem to want to throw into jeopardy all the agreements that this nation has entered into for its own security, and now it would seem that they want to shift our borders even further south and sell out Queensland citizens who have served this country well in war-time. It seems that they would wrap Australia up, tie it with a red ribbon and give it to our enemies. Is it any wonder that public-opinion polls are strongly against Labor in Queensland?

I propose to say a little more on this question, because it seemed to me, when listening to the honourable member for Cook the other day, that the suggestion was that this Government had neglected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people and was doing nothing in this area. He was extremely critical of this Government and its attitude towards the people of Thursday Island and the Torres Strait generally. He stressed the fact that the area was a growing one and that the Government's programmes were not geared to the tremendous growth that was going on. I draw attention to the fact that Thursday Island's population has not grown at the rate claimed by the honourable member. Statistics reveal the island's population to be as follows:—

Year	Population
1947	944
1954	2,062
1961	2,218
1966	2,511
1971	2,357

The new high school at Bamaga has been constructed not to accommodate increases in population but to provide adequate and acceptable standards of secondary education to the existing population, which it is expected will remain reasonably stable.

The increase in commercial air traffic to which the honourable member has referred has emerged coincidentally with this Government's construction of new landing facilities in the area and not as a result of any significant increase in tourist traffic. Recently airstrips were constructed at Badu and Yorke Islands, and will be welcomed by all honourable members who visit the islands. The arteries of communication between Thursday Island and the outlying islands have been greatly improved, with particular emphasis on the rapid transport of emergency medical and surgical cases. The Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs is planning further air links between Thursday Island and other islands in Torres Strait as funds become available.

At considerable expense to the Government the existing wharf facilities are to be enlarged. The honourable member for Cook referred to this in his speech. I am led to understand that the new jetty will be 150 feet shorter than the existing one, which is 800 feet in length. The honourable member made some reference to a length of 400 yards. I point out to him that the new jetty will be 634 feet long. He must appreciate that the length of the jetty will be determined by the depth of water required to accommodate the vessels that are likely to berth at it. The engineers who are involved in the planning of the new jetty have studied all aspects of its construction, and I am sure they have done a very good job.

Contrary to the honourable member's assumption, the wharf storage facilities that are to be erected on Thursday Island will have a greater capacity than those to be demolished. New covered storage facilities on reclaimed land in front of the Customs House will measure 80 feet by 50 feet with a height of 27 feet. In addition, open compound-type storage space will be available. The honourable member certainly has not done his homework on these matters.

His description of skimpy and inadequate facilities illustrates his general failure to develop realistic opinions and assumptions. Any comparison between the wharf requirements at Thursday Island and those at Weipa and Gladstone is completely ridiculous. The truth is that the Government is very familiar with the needs of Thursday Island and has been closely examining its requirements. In recent years considerable sums of money have been spent on improving the island's health, education and communication facilities. Anyone who has made a detailed inspection of these facilities would be envious of them. I certainly wish that some of the schools that have been erected were established in my electorate.

Last year the capacity of the local water-storage facilities was increased by 180 per cent at a cost of approximately \$300,000. In addition to the planned new wharf facilities, improvements have been undertaken to the island's network of roads. These developments are hardly consistent with the honourable member's description of a neglected Thursday Island.

I noted the honourable member's continual reference to our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as "second-class citizens". To my great chagrin he used that term frequently in the House the other day, confirming my concept that he and his colleagues opposite remain orientated to the status quo of the years prior to 1957, when the term "second-class citizen" may have been appropriate. In other words, the honourable member's degree of perception is not consistent with the contemporary situation of Aboriginal people and he remains ignorant of the over-all changes which have been made in the last decade, and which are continuing to emerge at the present time.

The average citizen viewing these developments cannot, I am sure, fail to recognise the progress made, particularly in the spheres of housing and education of Aborigines and Islanders throughout Queensland. The task is by no means complete, but nevertheless it has gained in impetus each year, as funds permit. This Government most certainly does not view these people as second-class citizens, and that is being amply demonstrated. The element of paramount significance is not one of racial ancestry but rather one of social growth or, more specifically, the provision of encouragement and assistance necessary to the elevation of certain residents of this State and fulfilment of their desire to achieve the levels of social growth basically common to all other citizens. This is being achieved, and in many cases has been achieved without qualification.

Today, we have Aborigines and Islanders living and working alongside their fellow citizens in many areas and spheres. We see nurses, nursing sisters, shop assistants, social welfare workers, college students, high-school graduates, public servants, technical workers and others of Aboriginal or Island ancestry in numbers never deemed possible 10 or 15 years ago. We are seeing, through substantial increases in educational assistance benefits, Aboriginal and Islander students in increasing numbers achieving full secondary and tertiary education qualifications and entering the industrial and commercial world adequately equipped for many spheres of employment. Today, we see an Aboriginal Queensland sitting as a Senator in Canberra and, this year, of course, we saw a Torres Strait Islander contesting the seat held by the honourable member for Cook.

We see more residential accommodation, ultra-modern hospitals, schools, and shopping complexes being erected on reserve areas. Above all, we see the representatives

of the Aboriginal and Islander people participating to the fullest extent with the Government in planning for their future. The ultimate aim of placing all Aborigines and Islanders on a par, in every manner, with other citizens will be achieved, as indeed it is presently being achieved. The honourable member does not care to mention these aspects, and it is quite possible, for the reasons I mentioned earlier, that he does not want to see their existence.

The honourable member plucked from the air an imaginary figure and stated that 80 per cent of Aborigines in this State need better housing. The basis of this calculation, or the research or survey from which that figure was produced, is not known. He did not care to give it. I suspect it is non-existent. The Government is aware that many families occupy overcrowded or sub-standard dwellings. All honourable members in this Chamber recognise that. However, this problem is being attacked under a planned re-housing programme.

There are difficulties here, as you, Mr. Speaker, would know. Complete change from generations of decadent Labor rule cannot be achieved overnight, or in a space of five or 10 years, but change is taking place. The Government and the Aboriginal Advisory Council together recognise that as improved standards of education, health and employment develop, so will the need for residential accommodation increase, not only in reserve areas but in urban and country centres. Huge allocations of money have been and are being appropriated for housing, as these figures demonstrate—

Year	Amount \$
1968-69	542,865
1969-70	1,297,389
1970-71	1,829,886
1971-72	1,816,672

In 1972-73, the department will spend \$2,938,330 on the provision of housing alone for Aborigines and Islanders. In addition, during the foregoing period, a further amount of \$2,350,000, from State sources, provided 235 new dwellings. It is interesting to note that the amount spent by the department on housing last year exceeded the total amount allocated by Labor in 1957 for all—and I emphasise “all”—purposes.

Despite the comments made and the opinions formed by an overseas visitor, to whom the honourable member referred, after her brief residence of about 12 hours in Queensland, such a person could hardly be conversant with the true situation in this State. Indeed, the honourable member, who has lived in the country since birth, is apparently not totally familiar with the situation even in his own electorate. If he is, he deliberately chooses to ignore some of the highlights.

Again without any effort to establish facts, he referred to housing standards on Horn Island. It is, of course, not a reserve controlled by the Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs. Apart from its airport, which is a Commonwealth responsibility, and certain miner's homestead leases, the island is totally controlled by the Department of Lands. Persons residing on the island have chosen to do so.

**Mr. Newton:** They could not get land anywhere else.

**Mr. AHERN:** That is not so. The honourable member should look at the facts.

Persons residing on the island do so of their own volition, and no doubt they enjoy living close to the social attributes on nearby Thursday Island. The honourable member for Belmont would know that that is the case. There is plenty of space at the Bamaga Mission if they want to go there.

The Department of Lands is considering the future of these people and a new township, to be named Wasaga, has been surveyed this year. It will comprise about 80 residential blocks, several  $\frac{1}{4}$ -acre blocks possibly appropriate for light industry, and areas suitable for shopping, playgrounds and churches. These facts are common knowledge to the local residents on Thursday Island and Horn Island. It is abundantly clear that the honourable member for Cook makes little effort to obtain facts in compiling his argument.

His compliment to the crews of the boats supplying islands in the Torres Strait is noted. Indeed, he could not do otherwise, because it is an absolute fact.

He has gallantly given notice to the Minister of an imminent barrage from himself and his colleagues in the Opposition concerning the wages paid to these people. Before doing so, I ask him to cast his mind back to the days of Labor administration in this State when this fine race was legislatively categorised on a par with opium-sellers. They came under the Aborigines Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act, which was in force in Queensland until 1939. Under it, an Islander, a natural seafarer, could not enjoy the free use and operation of his own vessel in any industry, could not leave his own home area without a permit, and could not marry without permission. A harsh legislative barrier separated these people from the rest of Queensland.

I might draw a parallel with the situation today. The Torres Strait Island Council has made representations to the Minister for the people to be categorised under the Torres Strait Islanders Act. They feel it confers on them certain privileges that they want.

As I said earlier, the equitable state of affairs today could never have been foreseen 15 years ago. Yet the honourable member, using fictitious theories, has the audacity to criticise a social situation which is so vastly

different from that which existed in the days when his colleagues failed so miserably in the exercise of their administrative power.

Many Islanders today are successful businessmen. Many of them earn more than do the honourable member and I. I understand also that the rates paid to those who choose to remain on reserves in departmental employment have this year been subject to revision, resulting in quite substantial increases.

**Mr. Wright:** Didn't the honourable member for Redcliffe say that you cannot read speeches?

**Mr. AHERN:** Who is reading? I challenge the honourable member for Rockhampton to come here and read this document.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. AHERN:** The honourable member for Cook has already been advised in this House that efforts are being made to replace the departmental supply-vessel "Melbidir", and the new vessel is to be specifically designed with larger carrying capacity for all classes of cargo, including deep-frozen and perishable goods. Facilities will also be available for the training of cadet officers.

The honourable member also referred to the transportation of the sick. I have made reference before to the new airports that have been provided specifically for the purpose of evacuating emergency cases. This policy is to be extended in the future. As a further measure, fast seagoing evacuation methods have been examined, and the Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs has made representations to the State Stores Board for quotations to be obtained for the provision of a fast marine ambulance to operate in this area.

The honourable member referred to the cost of specific items supplied by the Island Industries Board to people in the Torres Strait area. He specifically cited Cornflakes as a commodity from which to draw certain inferences. Obviously the honourable member has not seen the physical condition of these people, and apparently does not realise that they do not depend for their nutrition on Cornflakes alone. Apparently he has never enjoyed some of the sop-sop that they provide, which is a most beneficial type of food.

The honourable member referred to the education facilities provided throughout Torres Strait.

**Mr. P. Wood:** I have seen what they eat there.

**Mr. AHERN:** If the honourable member wished to be as healthy as Torres Strait Islanders, he could well set about eating some of the food that they eat.

The honourable member for Cook cast reflections on the teachers in many of the church schools in the islands and on reserves.

He cast aspersions on them, without having any educational expertise himself to do so. He made particular reference to Education Department teachers on Thursday Island, completely ignoring the situation at the Sacred Heart College. The situation in Torres Strait and throughout Aboriginal reserves in Queensland is one of which the Government is proud. We realise that there are problems, but the Government has a planned approach to overcome them in the future. It is recognised that there are difficulties to be overcome, and that very many people are involved. Centuries of history have to be overcome. As the Government has finance available to overcome these problems, they will be overcome, and at the moment the Government is proud of what has been achieved. The Aboriginal and Island Councils are very happy with what the Government is achieving, and co-operatively is prepared—

**Mr. Wright** interjected.

**Mr. AHERN:** The honourable member could well look at the election result in Cook. When the honourable member for Barron River represented that area, he, too, did not get anywhere near a majority in many of those areas. Those people will not vote for Labor, especially when the Federal Leader of the Opposition has the views that he has expressed, which the honourable members for Cook and Barron River have also expressed so often in this House.

**Mr. JENSEN (Bundaberg) (3.55 p.m.):** I am pleased to have the opportunity to take part in the Address-in-Reply debate. I hoped to do so last Thursday week, when the Premier adjourned the House at 4.15 p.m. Again last Thursday I sat here hoping to enter the debate, but once more the Premier came in, at 5 o'clock, and moved the adjournment of the House. Today I have been sitting here waiting and watching the door, expecting the Premier to come in at any moment and move the adjournment.

While I was sitting here last Thursday waiting to speak, I listened to a very refreshing speech from the young A.L.P. member for Albert. As honourable members will recall, the honourable member for Surfers Paradise, in his maiden speech in this Chamber, ran down the Gold Coast City Council, its aldermen and council officers, and the honourable member for Albert stood up in the House and supported those people in addition to the people of his own electorate.

For the last 40 minutes I have listened to the honourable member for Landsborough reading a typewritten, well-prepared brief from the Minister for Conservation, Marine and Aboriginal Affairs, who is well able to speak for his own department.

**Mr. N. T. E. HEWITT:** I rise to a point of order. I ask that that remark be withdrawn.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I did not hear the remark.

**Mr. JENSEN:** I said that I had listened for almost 40 minutes to the honourable member for Landsborough reading a well-prepared, typewritten brief from the Minister for Conservation, Marine and Aboriginal Affairs, who is quite capable of speaking for his own department. I do not think that the honourable member for Landsborough should speak for the Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs.

**Mr. AHERN:** I rise to a point of order. I ask that the remark be withdrawn.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** What was the remark?

**Mr. AHERN:** The honourable member said that I had read a typewritten script received from the Minister for Conservation, Marine and Aboriginal Affairs. That is not true, and I ask that the remark be withdrawn.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I ask the honourable member for Bundaberg to withdraw the remark. He knows quite well that it is not true.

**Mr. JENSEN:** I will withdraw it. I did not hear what the honourable member for Landsborough said. I think he said that it was prepared by the department, not by the Minister. I accept that.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I ask the honourable member to continue with his speech.

**Mr. JENSEN:** On behalf of the citizens of Bundaberg, I express loyalty to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, and to the Governor of Queensland, Sir Colin Hannah, and Lady Hannah. I know that Sir Colin and Lady Hannah will be visiting Bundaberg on the 29th of this month and that the citizens of Bundaberg will be pleased to welcome them.

I also take the opportunity to thank the electors of Bundaberg, who returned me with the third highest majority in the State. The only two ahead of me were the honourable member for Port Curtis, Mr. Hanson, and the honourable member for Archerfield, Mr. K. J. Hooper. Even the honourable member for Lytton beat the Premier, who ran fifth. It was very pleasing to see four Labor members take the first four places in the poll.

I also thank my campaign director, Mr. Bob Farthing, and members of the Bundaberg Branch of the A.L.P., who supported me very loyally, and those friends of mine who assisted so ably at the polling booths.

I express my thanks also to the 5,000-odd electors who, because of the electoral redistribution, were placed in the Isis electorate for their support of my colleague Mr. Jim Blake, the honourable member for Isis, who received 57 per cent of the votes in the Bundaberg section of his electorate. That section was taken from Bundaberg in the hope that Jim Blake could be defeated. Actually he received a better percentage in my old section of Bundaberg than he ever did over all in the Isis electorate. And, I repeat, that section

of Bundaberg was placed in the Isis electorate for one purpose only: to try to beat my colleague Jim Blake.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member is out of order in referring to the honourable member for Isis as Jim Blake. Please refer to him as the honourable member for Isis.

**Mr. JENSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I do not know who gave the secret information to the electoral commissioners, but apparently they thought that that part of Bundaberg was a Tory section because it contains very many lovely homes. They must think that nice homes are the prerogative of the rich and retired cane farmers. The workers in Bundaberg have just as much right as others to nice homes, and the workers occupying those homes supported the Labor Party to the full.

I want to refer to the redistribution in Bundaberg because much has been said about electoral redistribution during this debate. I say without equivocation that Bundaberg received the rawest deal of any electorate. Its electoral roll was the greatest shemuzzle of all. Bundaberg was reduced from one of the biggest provincial electorates to the smallest, that is, on the valid votes counted. Under the Act, Bundaberg had a quota of 12,087 voters, but the new roll showed 11,034 and the number of votes cast was only 10,253. Although Maryborough had a smaller quota than Bundaberg, namely 11,960 electors, the number enrolled was 11,911 and 11,378 votes were cast.

The Isis electorate, the third electorate in the Bundaberg area, was given a quota of 12,213, but the number enrolled was 13,705, and 12,895 votes were cast. In Bundaberg the number of electors enrolled was over 1,000 under quota, and in Isis over 1,500 over quota. Those differences came about because of the transfer of a section of Bundaberg to the Isis electorate. The 1971 Bundaberg roll showed 15,881 electors and the Electoral Commission stated that about 3,000 electors would have to be transferred to Isis, but in fact 5,000 were transferred to Isis. I do not know whether that was due to the inefficiency of the persons conducting the check or a devious plan to defeat the honourable member for Isis. The inefficiency of the persons conducting the census could arise only by their taking 2,500 houses out of Bundaberg and forgetting that approximately two persons in each house vote. That is how 5,000 electors were taken from one of the biggest electoral divisions of the State, which brought it down to almost the smallest provincial city electorate.

The Bundaberg City Council even organised a protest to the Premier about it. It was very concerned about the matter. This is the report in one newspaper—

"Ald. Faircloth said it had been claimed that no fewer than 200 electors had been

wrongly enrolled in the transfer of about 5,000 electors from Bundaberg to Isis." The surprising part of the whole thing was that the maps used by the Electoral Commission, as indicated by our city council engineer, were of 1962-63 vintage. It is astounding that they did not use maps from the Bundaberg City Council for the year 1972. The sections of map that went to the returning officer, marked "1972", were parts of the city council's maps for 1963. That is how such a mess was made of streets and everything else in the redistribution. When the Bundaberg City Council put the matter to the Premier's Department, this was its Press release—

**"Government Officer Defends Electoral Divisions**

"Bundaberg City Council has been informed by the Premier's Department that it would not have been possible, within the provisions of the Act, for all electors in the city of Bundaberg to have been included in the one electorate under the recent redistribution."

They knew that quite well. The article continues—

"The Commissioners were forced to excise a section of electors from the Bundaberg electorate and include them in an adjoining electorate, which they did with the following effect: Bundaberg, approximate number of electors 12,087; Isis 12,213; Maryborough 11,960.

"The figures for the Bundaberg district could be said to be precisely on quota."

They were more than 1,000 under quota, and the figures for Isis were more than 1,500 over quota. That indicates how big a mess it was, yet the message from the Premier's Department was that everything was O.K. The Bundaberg City Council was not very pleased about it.

I have here the map sent to Bundaberg on the day of the election containing the message, "Know your electorate and where to vote on Saturday the 27th." It is completely incorrect. It appeared in the Bundaberg Press on 26 May and it showed street names in the Isis electorate. It states—

"This reproduction is a copy of a map published by the Survey Office, Department of Lands, Brisbane."

Nice, isn't it? Some of it is 1963 vintage. I now want to say something about the new rolls.

**Mr. Lee:** What about the share market?

**Mr. JENSEN:** I will get on to that later.

Some hundreds of Bundaberg citizens were enrolled incorrectly, with some being placed on the Isis roll and others on the Burnett roll. A few of the mistakes were rectified and names were placed on the supplementary roll, but in most instances that was not

possible because of the lateness of the rolls. People in the same streets were differently enrolled. That happened to people living next door to each other in Walker Street, Bundaberg. A married couple living in the same house in Barolin Street were on different rolls, one being on the Isis roll and the other on the Bundaberg roll. Electors who have lived in Bundaberg for 20 to 50 years and who should have been on the Bundaberg roll were placed on the Isis roll because a street name had been changed many years ago. The street name was changed from Scott Street to Avenue Street some 20 years ago. These people have been shown as living in Scott Street on all State electoral rolls up to and including 1971, whereas the Federal roll shows them as living in Avenue Street.

The State electoral rolls do not appear to have been brought up to date and the computer did not know that Scott Street in East End, Bundaberg is now, and has been for many years, Avenue Street. When the computer found these names in Scott Street, it placed them in the Isis electorate because there was a Scott Street in that electorate. The computer also did not know that one young lady was married about a year ago, so she was placed on both rolls—on the Bundaberg roll under her single name, and on the Walkervale sector of the Isis roll under her married name. Another young lady who enrolled in 1971 had the same name as her mother. As soon as she was enrolled, her mother's name was taken off the roll. Because their names were exactly the same, she went on the roll in 1971 and her mother went off.

Another lady living in May Street, Bundaberg, right in the centre of the electorate, was enrolled for Isis and was given an electoral visitor's vote. Instead of being told she was on the wrong roll, she was handed an electoral visitor's vote for Isis. The computer was not informed that Barolin Street continued past the boundary line between Bundaberg and Isis electorates at Maynards Road. Consequently, all electors living in Barolin Street south of Maynards Road were put on the Bundaberg roll instead of the Isis roll. Electors living on the southern side of Fairymead Road were placed in the electorate of the honourable member for Burnett instead of in the Bundaberg electorate. This happened in a number of streets forming the boundary line between the electorates of Bundaberg and Isis.

I have listed here some 20 streets that were not even covered at all. They were new streets in Bundaberg and were not on the map. They were not officially anywhere because that map was drawn up on the 1960 boundaries. Some of these new streets were in the Isis electorate and others were in the Bundaberg electorate, and the few of them that were recorded were placed in the wrong electorate.

The Electoral Commission said that the redistribution would be concerned with regional and community interests. I should like to know where the commissioners got the idea that Isis had a real affinity with Bundaberg, whose people have always known that Isis had been tied closely to Maryborough. The people of Bundaberg believe that their city should have been divided into two seats, encompassing the City of Bundaberg and the Shires of Gooburrum and Woongarra. The City of Bundaberg is the centre of the region, and contiguous to it are the two shires to which I have referred. They produce much of the city's wealth and contain the region's beach resorts. Incidentally, both the Gooburrum and Woongarra Shire Council offices are 50 yards closer to the Bundaberg Post Office than is the Bundaberg City Council office.

The Gin Gin and Kolan Shires have a greater affinity with Bundaberg than has the Isis Shire. The population of this region is more than sufficient to warrant the creation of two seats under the present electoral-quota system. I do not know whether or not the honourable member for Burnett was opposed to the creation of two seats, but he would have realised that he would be forced to represent a portion of Bundaberg that has now been included in the Isis electorate, and that part of Bundaberg may have worried him.

**Mr. WHARTON:** I rise to a point of order. The honourable member's remarks offend me. I am not afraid of any voters who come my way. I can represent them quite adequately.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I do not think there is any valid point of order.

**Mr. JENSEN:** The honourable member would be afraid to have his electorate extended to cover the north side of Bundaberg, which is a good Labor stronghold.

The only bright spot in the change in Bundaberg's electoral boundaries is that many of the people of the city are now represented by the honourable member for Isis. And he is representing them very efficiently and sincerely.

The people of Bundaberg were aggrieved by the Electoral Commission's division of Bundaberg. It aligned 5,000 electors of Bundaberg with those of Isis and Hervey Bay, with whom they have no real affinity at all.

I should now like to deal with the recent oil strike and the resultant effect on the Bundaberg and Isis electorates, both of which suffered a severe shortage of petrol. The oil companies attempted to blame that shortage on the striking workers, whereas in fact they were hiding behind franchise agreements and would not supply petrol even to Maryborough, where Caltex has a franchise and no ban operated at that time. On speaking to the Under Secretary about petrol supplies, I was informed that road and rail tankers

were not available as they were all being used in the Brisbane area. I told him that road and rail tankers were available in Maryborough and Bundaberg, and that they could proceed to Brisbane to take on loads of petrol. He knew that the oil companies would not allow this, so I had to request the Premier to force the oil companies to lift the franchise agreements. The Premier said he would not do that, but by that evening the tankers were moving and transporting petrol supplies to Bundaberg, Childers and Maryborough.

The people of Bundaberg realised that the oil companies were only playing with them, and that the companies, and not the strikers, were the "big bad wolf" in the play. I believe that even the honourable member for Maryborough—I have not seen him in the House at all this week—approached the Government about the shortage in that city and was told to blame the workers because no tankers were available. He was playing politics, of course, by not taking the Government to task in the interests of the citizens of Maryborough.

I have here an editorial from the Bundaberg "News Mail" to substantiate what I am saying. It reads—

"Another issue that the people of Bundaberg and Maryborough might consider worthy of investigation is the existence of company franchise agreements affecting the supply of petrol in this region. These agreements are linked with the provision of the seaboard bulk terminals and are restricted in their nature. Because of them, Bundaberg and Maryborough district motorists seemed certain to suffer a severe shortage until the Premier, Mr. Bjelke-Petersen responded to complaints and induced the oil industry committee to approve emergency arrangements for suppliers. So that, politics aside, there certainly appears to be a need for an inquiry based on the public interest."

Honourable members should realise what can happen when the Government does not want to take action and blames the working man.

Once again I must speak of the proposed new North Bundaberg high school. In 1970 the Minister for Education was reported in the Press, under the heading "School for Bundaberg", in these terms—

"The Education Minister (Mr. Fletcher) said a new State high school might be built at North Bundaberg for the 1972 school year.

"If the school could not get a place on the 1970-71 works programme, every effort would be made to place it on the 1971-72 programme. The school would then be open at the start of 1972."

Although the Minister is reported as having said that, the construction of this school has not even been commenced. I do not want to be selfish in representing my electorate, and I do not expect that we

should get a school before new areas that are expanding at a greater rate than Bundaberg. However, I believe that we are entitled to this school to cater for the children who live on the north side of the Burnett River.

**Mr. R. E. Moore:** I want one in my electorate first.

**Mr. JENSEN:** I do not know about that, although the Minister may.

I realise that any electorate with a greater build-up than Bundaberg is entitled to another school, but this one was promised two years ago. There must be a good reason why the Government is not proceeding with it. I have written to the Minister for Education on a number of occasions about this project. After reading an article that appeared in the Press headed "\$29,700,000 in grants for schools", I thought, "The Minister has a further \$29,700,000. At least he will start the construction of that school." On 28 January I wrote to him in these terms—

"With regard to the new high school for North Bundaberg, a check on enrolments for 1972 will confirm this need. You will, no doubt, recall the meeting you attended at the Civic Centre, Bundaberg, with the Mayor, Aldermen, and myself, with regard to a new High School for North Bundaberg.

"Statements appeared in the Press during 1970 that the school would be erected for 1972 . . .

"It should be noted that this year's primary and secondary school enrolments, which appeared in the Bundaberg Press on the 25th and 26th instant—that is, January—showed increased enrolments in Bundaberg. Further, the enrolment for the Bundaberg North State School is shown as 440, against 270 for the Gin Gin State School. But Gin Gin was given priority over Bundaberg for that year."

If the Minister and his departmental officers believe that Gin Gin, with an enrolment of 270, should have priority over Bundaberg, with an enrolment of 440—this school caters for the surrounding districts of Fairy-mead, Bingera, and Kolan, and so on—there is something wrong with their thinking.

The letter continues—

"A new high school at North Bundaberg would take pupils not only from the North State School, but also from all schools in the Gooburrum area—Fairy-mead, Gooburrum, Oakwood, Sharon, Kolan, etc."

Those schools are in the electorate of the honourable member for Burnett.

The letter continues—

"This new high school would also eliminate the need for children to cross the traffic bridge over the Burnett River, which is dangerous owing to the number of vehicles now using this bridge."

That letter went to the Minister, and I still got the same reply—he is looking into it. That is a shame, seeing it was promised for 1972.

I appeal to the Minister to visit Bundaberg and look at the new houses that have been built on the north side in the past two years. The people there expect a high school in that area. I also ask him to bring the Director of Primary Education with him to have a look at the East Bundaberg State School. The honourable member for Burnett knows that school as well as I do. Its playground is only as large as this Chamber; it was built when playgrounds and sporting areas were not provided. A mile from the school is an area of eight acres which has been set aside for a new school. The present school is situated near a corner, and children who travel to school on bicycles have to cross this intersection, which carries an increasing amount of traffic each day. The school is on a small block overlooking the river, and has no sporting facilities. I have asked the Minister to move this school to the new location, and I have not received a reply from him yet. I suppose he will look into that matter, too.

Many schools in Queensland require new buildings. This morning the Minister for Education admitted the existence of 700 temporary classrooms, excluding rooms under schools. Many other schools in Queensland have to suffer the same conditions as those at the East Bundaberg State School. They have absolutely no amenities. Yet the Government intends to implement a half-baked pre-school education scheme, which can only take funds that are needed to give just consideration to many areas in Queensland.

**Mr. F. P. Moore:** Like most of the Government's schemes, it has not been properly prepared.

**Mr. JENSEN:** The Government has not made proper preparation for this scheme. The honourable member for South Brisbane spoke about SPELD recently. In addition, more money is required for subnormal schools and opportunity schools, which will now go by the board. The Government does not pay the full salaries for teachers at subnormal schools. In Bundaberg, our budget for subnormal schools is something like \$100,000 a year, and a good deal of it goes towards paying teachers' salaries. Yet the Government intends to supply teachers to educate three-year-old and four-year-old kids.

At a meeting in Bundaberg, Dr. Goodwin told me that no-one knew how to teach pre-school children. I suppose we will revert to the old system that was in vogue when my cousin was a teacher 30 years ago, when the children simply played with toys. Dr. Goodwin also informed me that it was impossible to tell, at the age of 10, which children had been given pre-school education and which had not.

**Mr. Lee:** You have established that you do not want pre-schooling in Bundaberg.

**Mr. JENSEN:** We have a pre-school in Bundaberg to which people can send their children if they want to. The Government's half-baked scheme will still cater for the rich and not the community as a whole. Such a scheme should either be available for all children or for none at all. The Government has started on other things, and these will be left in abeyance.

**Mr. Sherrington:** The Minister admitted this morning that he was only starting to investigate it.

**Mr. JENSEN:** That is right. He admitted that there are 700 temporary buildings in our schools. There are also all the children who at present are being educated under school buildings. That is the type of thing that is going on.

**Mr. Houston:** They were not going to do anything about pre-school education till I mentioned it in my policy speech.

**Mr. JENSEN:** That is correct. They jumped in with it because it was part of our policy. They have done the same with the appointment of an ombudsman. I remember three Liberal members speaking for 10 minutes each during debates on matters of public interest in favour of the appointment of an ombudsman. The Government then said that an ombudsman was not needed. Then the Government's policy speech was prepared, and included in it was such an appointment. There is a similar situation in the provision of pre-school education. Teachers will have to be trained, and buildings will have to be provided. But the Government cannot even provide sufficient buildings for the education of children between 6 and 15 years of age.

**Mr. Wright:** It's a political move on the part of the Government.

**Mr. JENSEN:** Of course it is. The Government has simply got onto the band wagon. It does not know where pre-school classes are to be established, and it has to start training teachers. Let it first get other schools built, and let it also provide education facilities for incapacitated and subnormal children. Even subnormal children are not provided with learning equipment, as normal children are supposed to be provided with books. Parents and citizens' associations have to provide much of this equipment.

The Government's scheme for the provision of pre-school education is a half-baked one. It jumped into this field of education without knowing anything about it. It hopped onto the band wagon merely in an attempt to gain a few swinging votes from those who do not want to pay for anything if the Government will provide it. Why do this if others are to be left floundering? Other needy sections in the field of education will be forgotten, because insufficient money will be available to do everything. This is happening now throughout all areas of Government activity.

I visit schools and see what the Government is supposed to provide and what is provided by parents and citizens' associations. I have seen schools that have no facilities for sport, and cannot get any Government assistance in providing them. The Government has areas set aside for high schools, but it cannot provide them. Yet it is starting this scheme. It is about time some common sense was shown by the Government.

When Dr. Goodman, one of the Minister's chief advisers, cannot give any advice on the correct method of pre-school teaching, there is something wrong. I said to him in Bundaberg, "I listened to you three years ago when you came here and told us that every child, even though he did not want to remain at school and could not gain anything from it, should remain there till he is 15 years of age." He went to Bundaberg to talk about the advantages of remaining at school. Then he had the hide to say in Bundaberg, "You can blame the politicians for the fact that we don't have pre-school education." I had to "get into" him then. I said, "I have to back the politicians on that one. You are one of those who advised the Minister on this. You advised him three years ago to increase the school-leaving age to 15. Now you say, 'Blame the politicians for the fact that we don't have pre-school education'. The Minister does not dream these things up, or pluck them out of a hat. He gets them from you. I support the politicians in this matter. When you can show that you can give pre-school education to all children of three, four and five years, and that it is of some benefit to them, put your case up. But don't come here blaming politicians."

**Mr. K. W. Hooper:** Who was that?

**Mr. JENSEN:** Dr. Goodman. The Minister was probably not in the Chamber when I was making those comments.

I am pleased that the Minister for Transport has entered the Chamber, because he still has not answered the letter I wrote to him about the Bundaberg Railway Station.

I wrote to the former Minister for Transport in October last year and again in May this year. When I wrote to the present Minister for Transport (Hon. K. W. Hooper), I said—

"Attached hereto is a photostat copy of a letter, dated 30th May, 1972, which I wrote to your colleague, the Hon. W. E. Knox, then Minister for Transport. This letter referred to previous correspondence dated 8th October, 1971, of which a photostat copy is attached, and to which I have been awaiting a reply."

The former Minister acknowledged my letter of 8 October 1971, but when I wrote to him again on 30 May this year he did not bother to reply, probably because he knew he was going to another portfolio.

As a result, on 12 July I wrote to the present Minister for Transport, and I received from him this reply, dated 18 July—

"I refer to your personal representations in regard to the railway station and goods yard at Bundaberg.

"I shall ascertain the present position in the matters which you raised previously and shall write to you again as soon as possible."

It was very similar to the acknowledgment I received from the former Minister in October last year.

**Mr. K. W. Hooper:** That is fair enough, isn't it?

**Mr. JENSEN:** Yes. But that letter is dated 18 July, and I raised the matter last year.

Earlier in the debate today I heard the honourable member for Ipswich West talking about the Ipswich Railway Station. The former Minister for Transport visited Bundaberg last year. A few of the boards riddled with white ants were pulled out of the railway buildings before he arrived, and he promised to do something. As usual, Bundaberg received nothing.

**Mr. Sherrington:** It seems that the white ants got into his promises.

**Mr. JENSEN:** There is no doubt about that; the white ants got into his promises. The whole place is riddled with white ants. As I said, a few boards were replaced before Mr. Knox's visit, but they were not even painted. I wrote to him and said, "Don't waste paint on them. They aren't worth painting. Kindly have a look at the situation." What happened? The Minister visited the station, but the officers in the department did not give me any satisfaction.

I hope that the present Minister for Transport will investigate matters such as those to which I have referred and straighten them out. The former Minister could not straighten them out; I could not get any satisfaction from him. He could not even say "Yes" or "No" to the simple question, "Can apprentices have a free pass?" It took me six months and two letters to get a reply to that question.

I hope that the Minister will also consider the law relating to the wearing of seat belts and do something about the very iniquitous regulation that has been introduced providing for a fine of \$20 and a loss of three points, even for a passenger. That is the most discriminatory regulation that one could imagine.

**Mr. K. W. Hooper:** You are in favour of seat belts? It is the loss of points that concerns you?

**Mr. JENSEN:** Yes. A person with a provisional licence might lose it because of some misdemeanour. He might be used to driving an old car with no seat belts, and

then forget to use the seat belt in a new car in which he is a passenger. Although he has not driven the car or done anything wrong, he is liable to be further penalised.

**Mr. K. W. Hooper:** You are in favour of seat belts as such?

**Mr. JENSEN:** Yes, of course, but the present situation is ridiculous. A person who has not even driven the car might lose his licence.

I see that the Minister in charge of the Police Department is in the Chamber, so I shall bring a matter to his attention. I asked the Minister for Justice a question about a Press report of the remarks of the Minister in charge of the Police Department about bringing a charge of stealing against persons who illegally use motor vehicles. He said, "We will do it when we are ready. You know that you can't refer to legislation", or something to that effect. I agree with the Minister in charge of the Police Department that the illegal use of motor vehicles is stealing in the first degree.

I have here a newspaper cutting relating to a girl of 15 in Bundaberg who illegally used a car and killed a lad of 22 who was riding a motor-cycle and seriously injured his pillion passenger. The police took the matter before the court before the inquest was held, and at the end of a full day's hearing the girl was discharged on the ground that there was insufficient evidence of criminal negligence. Why in the world did the police take that case to court when they did not have sufficient evidence? Why not have an inquest first when a man is killed and a girl is injured?

(Time expired.)

Motion—That the Address in Reply be adopted (Dr. Scott-Young)—agreed to.

## SUPPLY

### CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEE

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

"That the House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty."

Motion agreed to.

## WAYS AND MEANS

### CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEE

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

"That the House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider of Ways and Means for raising the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty."

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 4.36 p.m.