

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**WEDNESDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 1972**

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## WEDNESDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 1972

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, and ordered to be printed:—

#### Reports—

Commissioner of Main Roads, for the year 1971-72.

Upon the Operations provided for by Part III—Aid to Development—of The Financial Arrangements and Development Aid Acts, 1942 to 1947, for the year 1971-72.

Director, Department of Children's Services, for the year 1971-72.

Beach Protection Authority, for the year 1971-72.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Orders in Council under the Harbours Acts, 1955 to 1968.

### QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

#### LAND OCCUPIED BY MAYNE NICKLESS LTD., PINKENBA

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

(1) Does Mayne Nickless Ltd. have occupancy of any land at Pinkenba in any way associated with the grain terminal? If so, and by freehold, when and from whom was the purchase made or, if leased, when and from whom was it leased and what are the terms of the lease?

(2) Is there any Japanese involvement in this Mayne Nickless activity?

*Answers:—*

(1) "An area of approximately 1 acre behind No. 2 Wharf has been leased to Maynegrain Limited which is an operating company for the export of grain in which Mayne Nickless has a financial interest. The land is subleased from the Corporation of the Treasurer of Queensland and I now table a copy of the lease."

(2) "I am advised that there is no Japanese investment in the activity."

*Paper.*—Whereupon Mr. Bjelke-Petersen laid upon the Table of the House the copy of the lease referred to.

#### SUSPECTED CHOLERA CASE, SOUTHPORT HOSPITAL

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

(1) Was a male patient admitted to the Southport Hospital on November 19 as a cholera suspect?

(2) Is he aware that this patient, who was in a distressed state and who was without attention, had to wait for one hour and a-half for admission?

(3) Was there a shortage in the staff on duty at the hospital on that day? If not, what was the cause of the delay?

(4) Was the case confirmed as cholera?

(5) Is the nursing staff at this hospital or other hospitals throughout the State inoculated against cholera, as are doctors, and, if not, what is the reason?

*Answers:—*

(1 to 3) "I am advised that a Brisbane resident who lived next door to persons who recently passed through Bahrein developed vomiting and diarrhoea whilst visiting the Gold Coast. As cholera is not spread by person to person contact, he was a most unlikely cholera suspect. He attended the Southport Hospital at 2.45 p.m. and was placed on a couch. The nursing staff commenced necessary observations and reported to the medical staff on duty who were operating at the time. In accordance with a hospital instruction issued by the new Superintendent which requires that the 'on call' doctor be notified if such patients are not seen within an hour, a doctor was advised and the patient was seen at 4.05 p.m. There was no shortage of staff."

(4) "No. Final tests are still not available."

(5) "Doctors and nurses are not vaccinated against cholera as a routine measure. Neither the American Public Health Association nor the National Health and Medical Research Council recommend such a procedure. The disease is spread by contaminated water or food and person-to-person spread is most unlikely. The Commonwealth Health Department and the State Health Department have constantly discussed the present outbreak and I have no doubt that the National Health and Medical Research Council will examine the subject again at its next meeting."

#### ART UNION, GOLD COAST YOUTH CLUB

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

(1) Has the auditor investigating an art union conducted by the South Coast Branch of the Queensland Police Citizens' Youth Welfare Association completed the inquiry?

(2) What information has been revealed by the inquiry and when will the art union be drawn?

*Answers:—*

(1) "Yes."

(2) "(a) Ticket sales amount to \$5,597. Total expenses, including the cost of a motor car prize and fees payable to the Department amount to \$5,631. If the winner chooses the alternative motor car prize the expenses will be reduced to \$5,173. (b) The drawing is to take place immediately the fees now outstanding have been paid."

#### SPREAD OF MURRAY VALLEY ENCEPHALITIS BY DOMESTIC FOWLS

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

(1) Has he seen the report in the Medical Journal of Australia by the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Director, Dr. R. L. Doherty, that domestic fowls could help spread the brain disease Murray Valley encephalitis in Eastern Australia?

(2) What percentage of cases reported in the past four major outbreaks of this disease resulted in death?

(3) What tests are taken in Queensland to detect infection by fowls bred for commercial purposes?

(4) What control measures are undertaken by his Department to protect workers in the poultry-processing industries?

(5) As there have been four major epidemics in Australia, what action has been taken, or is planned, to control the spread of the disease?

*Answers:—*

(1) "Yes, the report has been seen."

(2) "About 260 cases of Murray Valley encephalitis were described in epidemics in 1917, 1918, 1922, 1925, 1951, 1956, and 1971 with 60 per cent. fatality. Most infections in man however cause no disease, and are detected only by the development of immunity."

(3) "The institute and other virus laboratories conduct regular surveys of infection in domestic fowls and other animals, with results showing that infection by Murray Valley encephalitis occurs rarely in south Queensland. The virus is however detectable more frequently in Cape York Peninsula."

(4) "No control measures are considered necessary in the poultry industry."

(5) "Prevention of Murray Valley encephalitis depends on summer anti-mosquito measures in the towns of the Murray-Darling basin in those years when virus studies indicate dissemination of virus or when the previous spring rainfall pattern suggests the likely occurrence of an epidemic."

CLOSURE OF MORETON ISLAND WATERS  
TO FISHING FOR PROTECTION OF  
OYSTER LEASES

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

(1) Has a decision been made by his Department or any associated department to close an area from the south end of Days Gutter to Tangalooma, Moreton Island, to commercial and amateur fishing in order to protect oyster leases granted to the company developing an aerodrome on 34 acres of land in this area? If not, have approaches been made to his Department?

(2) Will he give an assurance that consideration will be given to consulting professional and amateur fishing organisations before any action is taken?

*Answers:—*

(1) "No approaches have been made to my Department on this matter and I am not aware of any approach to any other Department."

(2) "Yes."

TITANIUM DIOXIDE FROM ILMENITE

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

(1) Is he aware of reports that the Japanese have made a break-through in commercial research into the upgrading of ilmenite so that titanium dioxide can be extracted from it at a price comparable with that from rutile?

(2) Has his Department any information on this break-through and what effect will it have on sand-mining activities in this State?

*Answers:—*

(1) "Japanese companies, among many throughout the world, including several in Australia, have under development commercial processes for the beneficiation of ilmenite. As a result of these developments, it is likely that the price differential between synthetic rutile and the mined product will be narrowed."

(2) "One such Japanese plant is known to be in limited production and to have a small export contract. The situation is being closely followed, but it is felt the likely effect is that there will be a stabilization of rutile prices rather than any long-term cut-back in demand for the mined product. As Queensland deposits produce both ilmenite and rutile, the long-term outlook for the mineral sands industry in this State is regarded as buoyant. It should be borne in mind that any dramatic break-through using ilmenite from other sources in the world, where it is in greater supply than in Queensland, could result in

a serious cut-back in employment in the sand-mining industry in this State. The Government will do everything in its power to avoid this, and will follow closely through the Department of Mines developments in ilmenite beneficiation. When commercial plants are developed it will give every encouragement for their introduction to this State, with a view to protecting employment in the industry."

INTERSTATE RECRUITMENT OF DOCTORS;  
SEPARATE MEDICAL COLLEGE

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

Is he, as reported in the Press, seeking doctors from all over Australia for Queensland hospitals by advertisements and other media? If so, will he recommend to Cabinet that a separate college be established, as is done in many other countries, for the training of medical practitioners and so remove this function from the university which has failed to disclose any genuine reason why it has abysmally failed to face up to this important responsibility?

*Answer:—*

"Whilst the present output of graduates from the medical school has necessitated advertising in other States for resident medical officers, I could not agree that the University has failed abysmally in this matter. The establishment of a new medical school is a most costly venture and unless it were under the auspices of a University would be unlikely to attract Commonwealth financial support."

OBSCENE POSTERS AT ELECTION  
MEETING, TOWNSVILLE

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

(1) Has he been informed that, at a public meeting addressed by the Prime Minister at the Bank of New South Wales corner in Townsville on the night of November 17, certain university students brazenly displayed large, obscene posters and placards in full view of women and children in the audience and that one of these obscene placards was the back page of a southern student newspaper, thousands of copies of which were recently seized by police at the university in Brisbane as an obscene publication?

(2) Has he been further informed that, due to the deliberately organised circumstances, the police on duty were unable to reach the students responsible in time to take action on the spot? If so, can inquiries be instituted to ascertain the names of the students responsible with a view to prosecution by summons?

*Answer:*

(1 and 2) "The Inspector of Police, Townsville, has been asked by the Commissioner for an urgent report and when I am in a better informed position, I will advise the Honourable Member further."

DISTRIBUTION OF PAMPHLETS  
OUTSIDE HIGH SCHOOLS

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

(1) Has he seen a pamphlet issued by the Students for Self Management organisation which was widely distributed outside Brisbane high schools on November 20?

(2) Is he aware that the leaflet seriously challenges the authority of teachers and calls on students to argue constantly with them against tests and examinations, to turn lessons into discussions run by students, to write slogans on blackboards and walls and to make contact with the Red and Black Bookshop, Brisbane?

(3) What action has been taken by police to prevent the unlawful distribution of such leaflets on public roadways?

*Answers:—*

(1) "Yes."

(2) "Yes."

(3) "Consideration will be given to proceedings as for breaches of the Traffic Regulations in respect of the distribution of the leaflet by two persons on November 21, 1972. In the event of further distribution being made, appropriate action will be taken."

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

**Mr. W. D. Hewitt**, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

(1) At whose initiation does the Standing Orders Committee of the House meet and when did it last meet?

(2) Are submissions for change in the procedures of the House presently under consideration?

(3) How should submissions be initiated, to whom should they be directed and would they receive early consideration?

(4) When were the Standing Orders last revised?

*Answer:*

(1 to 4) "Mr. Speaker is the Chairman of the Standing Orders Committee of this House. I am confident that, should the Honourable Member care to discuss these matters with Mr. Speaker, he will be provided with the information he seeks."

POLICE BUILDINGS, DIMBULAH

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

Have any plans been drawn for works at the Dimbulah Police Station and residences? If not, will he have an investigation made into the urgent requirements at that centre?

*Answer:*

"No. There is no urgent requirement for new police buildings at this centre."

OIL POLLUTION, GLADSTONE-WEIPA  
SEA ROUTE

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

(1) Was any oil pollution in the vicinity of Lizard Island reported to him or his Department on or about October 30, 1972? If not, have there been any reports of oil pollution between Gladstone and Weipa?

(2) If reports have been received, what were the sources involved and what action was taken?

(3) Are there any facilities at Gladstone or elsewhere on the Gladstone-Weipa run for the disposal of waste oil from ships?

*Answers:—*

(1) "No."

(2) "To the best of my knowledge there have been no confirmed oil reports. There have been reports of discolouration which could have been mistaken for oil. One was near Rockhampton; one was near Cooktown, and another was observed coming from a ship between Townsville and Cairns."

(3) "Samples were taken near Rockhampton and the substance proved to be reef plankton. There is evidence that the sighting by a commercial pilot in the vicinity of the stranded ship 'Straat Chatham' near Cooktown was the same substance. A Commonwealth officer on board the ship observed such matter floating by the ship at the time of the sighting. He reported it was not oil. A ship between Townsville and Cairns was observed by the same pilot of a commercial aircraft. With the help of the R.A.A.F. the ship was identified as a Greek ship which had left Townsville that morning, after loading raw sugar. A radio message was sent to the Master asking him to explain. The Master replied that the discolouration was caused by raw sugar being washed off the decks."

(4) "There are no fixed facilities between Gladstone and Weipa for the reception of oily residues. However, mobile containers are available at all Queensland ports which are adequate to service ships wishing to dispose of waste oil."

PROMULGATION OF ABORIGINES ACT  
AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS ACT

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

As many Aborigines and Islanders, as well as interested people and organisations, are concerned at the delay in the operation of the new Aborigines Act and the Torres Strait Islanders Act which were introduced in November, 1971, and in view of the number of questions asked on this subject—

(1) When is it expected that the Acts will be promulgated?

(2) Is the delay caused by some wording or other reason which may cause the regulations to be contrary to the wishes of the people or the Department?

(3) Has he or his director been called by the Crown Law Office to solve the apparent deadlock?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 3) "As previously advised, the new statutes will be recommended for proclamation in conjunction with the publication of regulations made under and for their respective purposes. Preparation of these regulations which has involved full consultation with the Aboriginal and Islander Advisory Councils and the Crown Law Office is now complete, and I am examining the final drafts preparatory to proclamation."

FERTILISER SUPPLIES FOR SUGAR  
INDUSTRY, MACKAY AREA

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

(1) In view of the long delays and the waste of time by cane farmers in waiting in long queues for supplies, when can the cane farmers in the Mackay area expect a full supply and quick delivery of fertilisers?

(2) What are the reasons for the short supply and the delay in delivery?

*Answers:—*

(1) "There have been short duration deficiencies in the supply of various types of fertiliser during the peak requirement months this season. Current information is that the situation is now in hand except in so far as it is presently being affected by an unprecedented buying rush."

(2) "Ample supplies of fertilisers have been and are available in Australia, and problems have been centred in the transport sector. Top priority is presently being given by both rail and road transport to Mackay."

REPORT ON ALLEGED RACKETEERING  
IN ISSUE OF DRIVERS' LICENCES

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

With reference to his Answer to my Question on September 20 concerning a Crown Law Office report alleging racketeering in the issue of drivers' licences, have the court proceedings been finalised? If so, will he now supply details of the report to Parliament?

*Answer:—*

"The matter is still in the position of being *sub judice*."

JUVENILE AID BUREAU, POLICE FORCE

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to a statement by Mr. Paul Wilson on November 8 on a television programme called "Close-Up", in which he claimed that since October 26, young people who come before the Juvenile Aid Bureau and who have been charged with a trivial offence and who, during interrogation, admit that during any stage of their lives they have committed a minor offence, are charged and their records go on official police files?

(2) Is he aware that Police Commissioner Whitrod was on the same programme and did not deny Mr. Wilson's statement?

(3) Is there any substance in the claims made by Mr. Wilson?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 3) "I do not propose to comment on the particular 'Close-Up' programme other than to say that the Commissioner and Dr. Paul Wilson were not interviewed together as the programme apparently attempted to convey. The Commissioner was interviewed at 10.30 a.m. at his office on November 8. Apparently Dr. Paul Wilson was interviewed at some other time and his comments were apparently interposed between the Commissioner's answers to some of the questions."

VACANCIES, MINISTERIAL PRESS  
SECRETARIES

**Mr. N. F. Jones**, pursuant to notice, asked  
The Premier,—

With reference to vacancies advertised in *Queensland Government Gazette* No. 48 under Premier's Department, Ministerial Press Secretaries, Public Relations, Government News and Information Services—

(1) Are the appointments being made to cover vacancies created by resignations or are they additional positions?

(2) What will be (a) the duties and (b) the conditions of employment?

Answers:—

(1) "These positions were created by the Governor in Council in pursuance of the provisions of the *Public Service Act* 1922-1968."

(2) "If the Honourable Member intends submitting an application for appointment he should have observed in the same *Gazette* to whom and by when applications should be forwarded. The qualifications applicable are obtainable from the Department of the Public Service Board in the usual way."

PASSENGER TRAFFIC, KINGSTON  
RAILWAY STATION

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

How many passengers travelled to and from the Kingston Railway Station during each of the past three years?

Answer:—

"The only figures available are those of passenger journeys, as follows:—Year ended June 30, 1970,—number of passenger journeys, 65,431. Year ended June 30, 1971,—number of passenger journeys, 75,512. Year ended June 30, 1972,—number of passenger journeys, 99,068."

OPERATING THEATRES, SOUTHPORT,  
CAIRNS AND ROCKHAMPTON  
HOSPITALS

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

(1) How many operating theatres are provided at the Southport, Cairns and Rockhampton hospitals, respectively, and what additional theatres have been approved by the Department?

(2) How many operations were performed at these hospitals, respectively, for the last year for which figures are available?

Answers:—

(1) "Excluding facilities for minor operative procedures in outpatients or casualty sections, operating theatres provided at the three hospitals referred to by the Honourable Member are as follows:—Southport Hospital, two; Cairns Hospital, four; and Rockhampton Hospital, three. The number of operating theatres at Southport Hospital will be increased to four on completion of Stage I of the proposed new development at that hospital which is currently in the planning stage. No increase in the number of operating theatres at Cairns Hospital is envisaged in the foreseeable future, the new surgical block in which these theatres are located having been completed only recently. Provision

has been made for four operating theatres in the new surgical block at Rockhampton Hospital, construction of which is nearing completion. These are in replacement of the existing three theatres."

(2) "The total numbers of operations carried out in operating theatres at the Southport, Cairns and Rockhampton Hospitals for the year ended June 30, 1972 were 2,425, 2,924 and 4,135, respectively."

GOVERNMENT TOURIST BUREAU  
ADVERTISING, GREAT BARRIER  
REEF AND GOLD COAST

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

As the Queensland Tourist and Travel Industry Report for 1969-70, prepared by M. J. Gibbons in consultation with Professor R. C. Gates, shows that more than 40 per cent. of all tourists visiting Queensland visited the Gold Coast and that less than 10 per cent. visited the Great Barrier Reef, how many posters have been prepared over the last five years with their main theme as (a) the Great Barrier Reef and (b) the Gold Coast?

Answer:—

"In the past five years, the Queensland Government Tourist Bureau has designed and produced one type of poster depicting the Great Barrier Reef and three on the Gold Coast and hinterland. In recent years, the Queensland Government Tourist Bureau has procured two excellent posters designed and produced by the Australian National Travel Association and the Australian Tourist Commission, both descriptive of the Great Barrier Reef. A.N.T.A. formerly was and the A.T.C. is currently responsible for promoting Australia's tourist attractions overseas and the posters in question were produced as a result of research which indicated that the Great Barrier Reef is one of the two greatest magnets for overseas visitors to Australia, the other being Ayers Rock. The Queensland Government Tourist Bureau has distributed as many copies of the poster produced by the Gold Coast City Council as have been made available. The Queensland Government Tourist Bureau has now changed its policy on the production of posters and no longer are posters produced which are descriptive of a particular area. The Bureau is basically responsible only for the promotion of Queensland as a whole and the new series symbolises Queensland in a general way. The latest poster produced by the Bureau, although not specifically labelled 'Gold Coast', was prepared from a photograph taken on the Gold Coast."

STATEMENT BY DR. EVERINGHAM, M.P.,  
ON A.L.P. IMMIGRATION POLICIES

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to a Press statement in *The Morning Bulletin*, Rockhampton, of November 18, containing Australian Labor Party policies on immigration by Dr. Everingham which he set out in an article for the Socialist journal *Fabian Newsletter* in which he said, amongst other things, that religious and political tensions are not helped by subsidising migration, that it increased the Roman Catholic component of our population and so strengthened the pro-State aid, which is a kind of pro-segregation movement?

(2) Will he study the statements and endeavour by some means to at least neutralise the dreadful, dangerous and lasting effect which they could have on Queensland's and Australia's images generally?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "Yes. It appalls me that the Labor Member for Capricornia, Dr. Everingham, should vent his spleen on Australia's migration programme in such a fashion. There is no doubt irresponsible statements of this nature are most damaging to Australia's image abroad and give offence to the many thousands of migrants who have been brought to this country under the assisted passage scheme. I could perhaps understand his comments if he cited the popular current theory of zero population growth put forward by many who oppose the Government's migration policy. He attempts to justify his attitude with expressions such as—'Religious and political tensions are not helped by subsidising migration. It increased the Roman Catholic component of our population and so strengthens the pro-State aid, which is a kind of pro-segregation movement' and 'It increases the anti-communist, anti-Russian, anti-Labor and pro-fascist proportions among our voters, thereby committing us more uncompromisingly to the capitalistic bloc and destructive defence policies'. Statements of this nature portray a strong sectarian bias and are an unwarranted slur upon the countless number of migrants who have made a great contribution to our culture and society and who we on this side of the House welcome to this country. The hurtful prejudice exhibited by Dr. Everingham is reminiscent of his advocacy that sterilisation of aborigines would be in the best interests of Australia. As a professional man and a member of the Federal Labor Parliamentary Party, I can only assume he reflects the views of his party in relation to its policy on migration. I feel sure all fair-minded Australians will reject out of hand Dr. Everingham's biased remarks and support the present

Government's policy which provides for a well-balanced migration intake consistent with preserving the Australian way of life and promoting the nation's economic growth. As the Honourable Phillip Lynch, M.P., the then Minister for Immigration, stated in 1971—"No one would gain if the economic and financial organisation of Australia followed permanent patterns of national and ethnic origins and affinities. Though we belong to a society which is generally Christian, we would all suffer if the freedoms of conscience, belief and religion we value were denied to any citizen". I would add that those supporters of State aid for independent schools must view with suspicion the A.L.P.'s election promises when one analyses the underlying theme of Dr. Everingham's statement."

RELOCATION OF AGENT-GENERAL'S  
OFFICE IN BRUSSELS

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

(1) Does the office of the Agent-General in London handle the affairs of the Queensland Government in the countries which form the European Economic Community?

(2) In view of the different relationship that will exist between Great Britain and Australia when Great Britain formally enters the Community and as there will be a tremendous scope for trade in various commodities grown, produced and manufactured in Queensland in that expanded Community, will his Government investigate the feasibility of relocating the Queensland Government's only overseas office in Brussels, the capital of the European Economic Community?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes, within Queensland's constitutional limits."

(2) "The Honourable Member may rest assured my Government is quite capable of assessing and determining if, where and by whom it might be represented in Europe or anywhere else."

RESTORATION OF HISTORICAL SUBJECTS  
FOR TOURIST PURPOSES

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

(1) What amount has been set aside this financial year to finance the restoration of historical projects for tourist purposes?

(2) From how many separate projects have applications for grants been received and when will an allocation of finance be made?

(3) How many projects will receive support, what will be the amounts allocated and in what areas are they located?

(4) Will the grants be supported by the Commonwealth Government on a dollar-for-dollar basis?

*Answers:—*

(1) "\$50,000 has been set aside by the State to match grants from the Commonwealth on a dollar-for-dollar basis."

(2) "One only application has been received and it is not known when a decision will be made."

(3) "Total collation of projects is not yet completed, consequently the amounts or areas are not known."

(4) "The Commonwealth has allocated a total amount which will be made available to States for separate particular approved subjects on a dollar-for-dollar matching basis."

#### VANDALISM AT TOWNSVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOLS

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

(1) Is he aware that three primary schools in Townsville, the Currajong State School, the Aitkenvale State School and the Weir State School, were broken and entered over the weekend, that six of the eight rooms in the front block of the Currajong school were ransacked and that medicines from the school's first-aid kit were poured into the aquarium, killing all the fish?

(2) As this is the fifth occasion since last December on which the Currajong school has been entered by these despicable vandals, with a subsequent loss of records and science equipment, cannot his Department provide some protection to prevent this senseless destruction?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) "Reports of the unlawful entries at the three schools have not yet been received by the Townsville Regional Office or the Head Office of my Department. I understand that the schools will submit reports soon. When they are received consideration will be given to the question of security at the Currajong State School and, if necessary, the Department of Works will be asked to look into the matter."

#### THREAT TO SUNFLOWER AND BEE-KEEPING INDUSTRIES BY USE OF INSECTICIDES

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

(1) Is he aware of the warning issued in Queensland by Dr. J. R. Jensma, secretary of the International Sunflower Committee, that the sunflower industry could be threatened by inadvertent destruction of bees during insect control in agriculture?

(2) Do present agricultural insect-control practices constitute a similar threat to the Queensland sunflower industry and, if so, what protective measures exist or are proposed in the interests of apiarists and growers?

*Answers:—*

(1) "The Department of Primary Industries is well aware of the importance of bees and other flower inhabiting insects in pollinating sunflowers. This, together with all other aspects of sunflower seed production, has been fully discussed by key members of my staff with Dr. Jensma during his visits to my Department."

(2) "Sunflowers, particularly in marginal areas, are frequently found to have an imperfect seed set but this is due either to extremes of hot dry weather or to the natural scarcity of bees and other pollinating insects—not to the killing of bees with insecticides. I can assure the Honourable Member that Departmental recommendations for the control of insect pests of sunflower do take into account the essential part played by pollinating insects. We have had to live with, and overcome, exactly the same sort of problem with deciduous fruit trees in the Granite Belt. We most certainly do not recommend the continued intensive use of insecticides which, in some countries visited by Dr. Jensma has seriously depleted whole colonies of honey-bees."

#### X-RAY EQUIPMENT, HERVEY BAY HOSPITAL

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

In view of complaints by patients regarding serious breakdowns in the X-ray equipment at the Hervey Bay Hospital, Pinalba, will he have the matter investigated with a view to having efficient equipment installed in order to obviate the need to rush patients to the Maryborough Base Hospital for such services?

*Answer:—*

"Arrangements are already in hand for a Departmental X-ray engineer to visit the area and report on the equipment and for Maryborough Hospital to send a mobile X-ray unit to Hervey Bay. On receipt of the above report the matter will be considered further."

#### STOCKING OF BOYNE RIVER WITH PERCH

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

(1) Has he received a request from fishermen and the Calliope Shire Council to stock the Boyne River with perch?

(2) If so, is he aware of the great ecological disaster which occurred at Lake Atitlan, Guatemala, when North American sport fishermen introduced perch there and reduced the giant grebe to the point of extinction?

(3) In what rivers in the State and with what success have fish uncommon to the area been introduced in recent years?

Answers:—

(1) "No."

(2) "See Answer to (1). I am not aware of this disaster but I am fully aware of the dangers involved in introducing non-indigenous species to an area."

(3) "None, other than some species of aquarium fish which have been released illegally in some Southern Queensland waters."

#### FISH LADDER, BOYNE RIVER

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

(1) Is he aware that when the Gladstone water augmentation scheme was proceeded with a few years ago a fish ladder was built adjacent to the Boyne River so that the natural movement of fish would not be impeded?

(2) In view of a further likely augmentation of the scheme and as a subsequent flood washed the ladder away, will he see that temporary ladder facilities are made available so that fish can naturally move up or down the river?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "As the Honourable Member is probably aware, the matter of fish ladders is referred to in section 84 of *The Fisheries Acts, 1957 to 1962*, which provides that the Minister administering the Act will notify in writing the builder of any dam across a tidal or inland river or creek whether he requires construction of a fish-way or not. The proposal now under investigation by my Department envisages a major dam on the Boyne River which could well raise the full supply level to RL 175—that is, about 120 feet above the level of the present storage. The need to provide for a fish ladder in the proposed new structure was referred to the Department of Primary Industries. The latter Department has since advised that the value of local fishery is hardly sufficient to justify the erection of a fish ladder on a weir of the size of the proposed new Awoonga Dam quite apart from any question of whether fish in this watershed could successfully negotiate such a long ladder."

#### SHARK FLESH SALES AND MERCURY CONTAMINATION LEVELS, BRISBANE AREA

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

(1) How much shark caught in and around Moreton Bay was sold through the Brisbane fish markets in 1971-72?

(2) Is shark sold through the Board directed to any special use?

(3) Were regular checks made for mercury compounds during 1971-72 and, if so, how often, and what were the readings obtained from the tests?

(4) What is the maximum safe level of mercury compounds for human consumption?

(5) Did his Department recently distribute health-pamphlet reports to inform fishermen that the mercury level was many times above the safe limit?

(6) If so, will he (a) assure the House that fishing for shark for sale will be banned until a safe level is restored and (b) make copies of the pamphlet available to Honourable Members?

Answers:—

(1) "Shark represents a very small proportion of sales in the Brisbane area and for this reason, The Fish Board does not keep separate statistics for the species."

(2) "Shark is sold by auction in the usual way, and the Board is not aware of its being directed to any special use."

(3 and 4) "These are matters which are administered by my colleague, the Minister for Health."

(5) "No."

(6) "See Answer to (5)."

#### FISHING LICENCES, MORETON BAY AREA

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

With reference to fishing licences in Moreton Bay—

(1) How many have been issued in the last twelve months and how many of them were (a) transfers and (b) new licences?

(2) How many are special licences and how many of each category have been issued to (a) Japanese, (b) Australian-Japanese, (c) other nationality and (d) southern companies?

Answers:—

(1) "No figures are available for the Moreton Bay area only. For 1972 for the area from Tewantin to the Border 957

master fishermen's licences and 675 employee fishermen's licences have been issued. These licences are not transferable."

(2) "Special licences are not issued. No Brisbane area fishing licences have been issued to Japanese, Australian-Japanese, other nationality or southern companies. 188 have been issued to New South Wales fishermen."

#### PRAWN TRAWLING, MORETON BAY AREA

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

With reference to prawn trawling in Moreton Bay—

(1) How many Moreton Bay licences are current and are being used?

(2) What areas off the mainland from Lota Inlet to the mouth of Pimpama Creek, along the west coast of North Stradbroke Island and around the bay islands, have been closed to prawning?

(3) What other parts of the bay between North Stradbroke Island and the mainland are closed to prawners?

(4) What was the prawn catch in 1969-70 and 1970-71, respectively?

(5) How many prawning licences have been surrendered and how many were issued in 1971-72?

*Answers:—*

(1) "188 permits are current at the present time."

(2 and 3) "I refer the Honourable Member to the Order in Council dated October 12, 1972 and published in the *Government Gazette*, pages 708-9."

(4) "Statistics in respect of private buyers are not available. Landings at the Fish Board depots at Sandgate and Scarborough in total were 1,382,935 lbs. and 2,489,441 lbs. for 1969-70 and 1970-71 respectively. These totals would include some ocean prawns."

(5) "188 prawning permits have been issued for 1972 and none have been surrendered."

#### YOUTH RESTAURANT-ENTERTAINMENT CENTRES

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

(1) What facilities are available in Brisbane, other than those provided by hotels, for young people to dine and dance?

(2) Is it possible, as part of the cultural activities of this city, to encourage the establishment of high-grade restaurant-entertainment centres to accommodate those whose age is below the permitted drinking age?

*Answers:—*

(1) "No information of this kind is held in my Department."

(2) "While I am in sympathy with the Honourable Member's concern that young people should not have to go to hotels to dine and dance, the fostering of restaurant entertainment centres could not be regarded as an appropriate function of my Department. However, the Queensland Cultural Diary, which has just been produced by the Cultural Activities Section, will regularly list cultural attractions which provide, *inter alia*, for young people."

#### HUMANITIES SUBJECTS IN UNIVERSITY PROFESSIONAL COURSES

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

(1) As first-year university courses for professional training for dentistry, medicine and engineering do not, in principle, include any subjects involving the humanities, would it be practicable to include subjects such as English and History in the first-year curriculum of professional courses and reduce the preponderance of scientific subjects, many of which have already been studied in depth at school?

(2) Has this matter been considered by the Senate and what is the feeling of that august body with regard to the use of arts subjects in medicine or engineering, as found in British universities?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) "Several years ago Senate approved a recommendation which allowed a medical student who had passed Senior Zoology with a grade of 4 or higher to enrol for credit in an Arts subject such as History or English in the Medicine I course. Similarly a student in Dentistry I can also enrol for an Arts subject. Medical students are enrolled in 1972 for subjects such as Sociology I, Biblical Studies, Introduction to Literature, French IA, German Studies and Psychology. Dental students are enrolled for some Arts and some Commerce subjects. Courses are being reviewed as part of the change to a semester system in 1974. The Faculty of Dentistry hopes to make available a variety of electives in 1974 but details have not yet been finalised. Engineering students cannot at present study an Arts subject. However, the Faculty Board is exploring the possibility of including a small non-engineering option in 1974."

#### STAFFING, TOOWOOMBA POLICE STATION

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

(1) Is there a quota of police officers per head of population at police depots and, if so, what is the quota for Toowoomba?

(2) Is he aware that there is an acute shortage of police officers at Toowoomba and that because of this shortage night patrols have to be curtailed?

(3) Will he give urgent consideration to restoring a full complement to this depot so that the officers may continue with their high standard of police work?

*Answers:—*

(1) "Staffing of police stations is based on work-loads and the particular requirements of each police division."

(2) "Work-loads at police stations are constantly reviewed by the planning and research section of the Police Department and allocation of staff is made consistent with the availability of personnel."

(3) "Action is being taken to expedite the movement of two sergeants who have been transferred to Toowoomba. In addition two vacancies resulting from resignation and transfer will be filled as soon as possible."

#### FREE TAXI SERVICE FOR BLIND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

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

Do blind children on proceeding to high school not receive the usual free taxi service which is given to pupils attending Narbethong School for the Blind?

*Answer:—*

"Blind children on proceeding to high school do not receive the usual free taxi service which is given to pupils attending Narbethong School for the Visually Handicapped. It is important that visually handicapped children develop independence. For this reason a wide range of activities are encouraged to enable them to use and further develop the mobility skills they have learnt throughout their primary education. One such activity is the movement to and from school on public transport. Such transport is provided free of cost. However when exceptional distance or other circumstances which cause hardship occur in individual cases consideration will be given to providing taxi transport free of cost."

#### SYNTHETIC MEAT

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

(1) Are bulk users such as hospitals, schools and institutions in Queensland being supplied with test-tube meats and simulated chicken? If so, are prices cheaper or only comparable with those for natural meats?

(2) Are cost savings possible from simulated meats as a result of less wastage in shrinkage from cooking, loss of fat and the absence of bone?

(3) Is the artificial product capable of greater protein capacity than the natural meat it claims to represent and has natural wool been spun into protein-rich substitute meat?

(4) Are all artificial meats derived from agricultural products, such as soy bean, wool and sawdust, or are there other basic sources of supply?

(5) Are hamburgers, pies, stews, rissoles and tinned meat or extenders being produced in the artificial way and are there manufacturers in Queensland?

(6) Are baby-food processors using artificial products in the huge variety of canned goods now on display in the stores?

*Answers:—*

(1) "I am not aware of any such supply."

(2) "Cost savings are possible when lower grade soy protein is used as an extender of natural meat in processed food products. Complete substitution for natural meat requires the use of higher grade, further processed soy protein and generally eliminates the possibility of cost savings."

(3) "Protein content of imitation meat varies according to the grade of soy protein used. The more expensive products compare favourably with natural meat. I am not aware of any instances of natural wool being spun into substitute meat."

(4) "No. A protein has been made from the action of micro-organisms on petroleum by-product."

(5) "Imitation meats are used mainly in manufactured products such as hamburgers and sausages. There are not to my knowledge any manufacturers of imitation meat in Queensland."

(6) "I am not aware of any such usage."

#### COMPENSATION TO FRUIT GROWERS FOR DESTRUCTION OF TREES

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

(1) How many applications have been received from fruit growers for finance to clear surplus fruit trees and have any applications been granted?

(2) Is it a fact that in Victoria, although a large number of applications were received from fruit-growing districts, only one application was approved and this was ultimately rejected by the applicant?

(3) Has the rigid means test imposed on growers made it almost impossible for adequate compensation to be available for growers to quit the industry?

(4) What is the residual value of assets required for the grower after trees have been removed and what is the maximum amount of compensation that can be claimed?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 4) "This matter does not come within my administration. For the Honourable Member's information it is some five months since the change in portfolios."

NEW ZEALAND STABILISATION PLAN  
FOR LAMB MARKETING

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

(1) Is he aware of a New Zealand Government-sponsored plan to buy up the less keenly-contested lamb meats at auction on a weight and grade basis to provide a stability of market for what has previously proven an erratic marketing system?

(2) Has the advice and support of the Queensland meat trade from both producers' and retailers' points of view been sought by the Government to stabilise the meat market in this State and has any plan of action similar to that carried out in New Zealand been considered?

*Answers:—*

(1) "No."

(2) "No. The production of lambs in Queensland is normally insufficient to meet local requirements, and meets a ready market. Local production has to be supplemented by interstate supplies."

DESIGN RULES FOR LONG-DISTANCE  
ROAD PASSENGER VEHICLES

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

(1) What standards of construction, equipment and performance have been laid down for long-distance buses and/or passenger-carrying road vehicles following the decision of the Australian Transport Advisory Council in Port Moresby in July, 1970?

(2) When is it expected that the rules will be incorporated in Queensland's regulations and that enforcement and inspection of the standards will commence?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) "Design rules relating to equipment and performance of omnibuses are formulated periodically and when adopted by the Australian Transport

Advisory Council are incorporated in the Queensland Traffic Regulations. As an example, I would refer the Honourable Member to Clause 99 of Division 6 of the Schedule to Part 13 of the Traffic Regulations gazetted on June 16, 1972. As the design rules become part of the Queensland law, the normal procedure for inspection and enforcement applies. In addition, standards over and above the minimum requirements have been determined by the Commissioner for Transport in connection with the issue of licences for long distance bus services (for example, air-conditioning, toilet facilities, seating, etc.). These buses are regularly inspected by Inspectors of the Department of Transport as well as the Department of Machinery and Scaffolding. I would also refer the Honourable Member to a similar Question which I answered in this House on October 12, 1972."

FAUNA RANGER, GREEN ISLAND AND  
MICHAELMAS CAY

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

(1) Is he aware of a report from the Chairman of Natural Areas Limited concerning apparent vandalism at Green Island and on Michaelmas Cay recently?

(2) If so, in view of the inaccessibility of these areas to week-end honorary fauna officers and the impact of an increasing volume of tourist and boating traffic, will he consider stationing a permanent ranger on Green Island and providing him with facilities to make regular inspections of surrounding national parks and sanctuaries?

*Answers:—*

(1) "A few days ago I received a letter from the Honorary Secretary of the Wildlife Preservation Society, Cairns Branch referring to reports of apparent vandalism at Green Island and on Michaelmas Cay. The letter did not provide any details so far as Green Island is concerned but quoted parts of a letter from the Chairman of Natural Areas Limited concerning Michaelmas Cay in which mention was made of some bird disturbance by a landing party and a proposed low tide shell collection. This matter is under consideration at the present time."

(2) "An interdepartmental committee has been set up to consider the Great Barrier Reef Visitor Plan commissioned by the Australian Tourist Commission. The question of a permanent ranger being stationed on the Green Island National Park and the provision of facilities will be considered in the light of any recommendations which that committee may make."

TRAFFIC LIGHTS, CAIRNS—EDMONTON  
SECTION, BRUCE HIGHWAY

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

(1) What are the proposed locations for pedestrian-actuated or automatically-controlled traffic lights on the four-lane development of the Bruce Highway from Cairns to Edmonton?

(2) What is the order of priority and what are the anticipated dates of installation approved in each instance?

*Answers:—*

(1) "Pedestrian actuated signals are proposed at Balaclava State School and traffic lights at McCoombe Street intersection."

(2) "Balaclava State School installation is programmed later this financial year and the McCoombe Street signals are tentatively planned for installation in about two years."

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND CONFLICT  
OF INTEREST IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE  
CAPACITIES

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

(1) Did he see the report in the *Telegraph* of November 17 wherein the Premier of Victoria, Mr. Hamer, said that all Members of Parliament, including Ministers, had to avoid any possibility of a conflict of interests between their public and private capacities?

(2) Do the statements conflict with the position applying to Ministers and Members of his Government?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) "The Honourable Member was present in this House on July 22, 1970, and presumably heard me say, and I quote from Hansard Volume 254 page 24, 'that in 1957 Sir Francis Nicklin set down certain principles relative to the procedures to be adopted by Ministers. One was that they must resign from directorships, which is, of course, very important. This had not applied before then. This principle was adopted, and it is still being followed'. The foregoing is what I said in 1970 and as the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition and his more responsible colleagues know, that is the position which obtains today and which will continue to obtain so long as my Government is in office."

NURSING STAFF, CORONARY UNIT,  
ROYAL BRISBANE HOSPITAL

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

(1) How many trained nurses were dismissed or transferred from the coronary unit at Royal Brisbane Hospital during the six months ended October 31, 1972?

(2) What was the number of additional nursing aides and/or A.I.N.'s employed in the unit during the same period?

*Answers:—*

(1) "Trained nurses—dismissed, nil; transferred, one."

(2) "Additional A.I.N. employed, one."

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

LIBERAL PARTY PREFERENCES, FEDERAL  
ELECTION

**Mr. TUCKER:** I ask the Treasurer: Has his attention been drawn to a recent publication in which it was reported that 29 leading members of the Nazi Party were asked in a survey to name their favourite political party and that the Liberal Party topped the poll? If so, could this be the reason why the Queensland branch of the Liberal Party has decided to give its preferences to a member of the Nazi Party ahead of the A.L.P. candidate for Wide Bay in the forthcoming Federal election?

**Sir GORDON CHALK:** I have no knowledge of the publication referred to. I have not seen it.

BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL ELECTION

**Mr. AIKENS:** I ask the Minister for Local Government and Electricity: Will he inform the House whether any administrative difficulties may be encountered during the local government elections early next year consequent upon the passage of the amendment to the City of Brisbane Act?

**Mr. McKECHNIE:** The necessary machinery for the holding of the election in the City of Brisbane on 31 March is proceeding smoothly. However, I understand that the Lord Mayor has demanded that only those A.L.P. candidates who undertake to support him in his attempt to retain the position of Lord Mayor shall be endorsed for that election by the Q.C.E. I further understand that last Monday a meeting was held to determine the selection of these candidates and that, to avoid public reaction, the names selected, either at that meeting or at any other meetings, are to be held in abeyance until after the forthcoming Federal election. I assure the honourable member for Townsville South that none of these moves will in any way hinder the election, and I expect everything to proceed smoothly.

POLITICAL PARTIES AND INDUSTRIAL PEACE

**Mr. LANE:** I ask the Minister for Development and Industrial Affairs: Has he seen this morning's "Courier-Mail", in which Mr. Robert Hawke, president of the A.C.T.U., is reported as saying that under a Federal Labor Government this country would enjoy a better climate of industrial relations? If so, will he indicate whether this statement is fact or fantasy?

**Mr. CAMPBELL:** The statement by Mr. Hawke is sheer fantasy. The facts are that at all times when Labor has been in office it has been unable to avoid the dominance of the Left-wing elements within its organisation. Even Mr. Hawke was unable to avoid the dominance of Mr. Carmichael and Mr. Halfpenny during the recent grievous petrol strike.

**Mr. Houston:** This is pathetic!

**Mr. CAMPBELL:** The Leader of the Opposition thinks this is pathetic. I remind him that during the most recent term of office of the Labor Government in the Federal sphere, from 1942 to 1949—

**Mr. Melloy:** During the war.

**Mr. CAMPBELL:** The year 1949 was a long time after the war. During that term of office—and, as was indicated by the honourable member for Nudgee, while Australia was at war—Labor had the worst-ever experience of industrial strife, which was caused by saboteurs.

**Mr. Bromley** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! If the honourable member for South Brisbane persists in interjecting, I shall deal with him.

**Mr. CAMPBELL:** This culminated in the necessity for the then Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley) to have recourse to putting troops into the coal-mines to win enough coal to provide electricity merely for essential supplies.

It is a fantasy on Mr. Hawke's part to make such a statement because he himself is unable to overcome the dominance of the extreme Left-wing elements in his organisation. The fact is that at all times when Labor has been in office there has been a much greater upsurge of industrial strife in the community than at any other time.

#### EXTENSIONS, SOUTHPORT GENERAL HOSPITAL

**Mr. MELLOY:** I ask the Treasurer: Has he read an article in "The Courier-Mail" of Saturday, 18 November, headed, "\$6 Million Hospital Forecast", in which the Gold Coast mayor, Alderman Small, told the Gold Coast City Council that the necessary money had been allocated from this year's State Budget and that contracts would be let as soon as possible? Will he tell the House if this statement is true and, if not, when is it expected that this planned hospital, which has been mentioned so many times in the Press, will eventually be built?

**Sir GORDON CHALK:** I read the report in the Press. On the afternoon prior to its publication I received a telephone call from a Press reporter asking me whether the amount mentioned was included in the Budget. If the honourable member were to read the last paragraph of the article to which he has referred, he would see that included in it was a statement by me that the money had not been allocated in this year's Budget.

I believe that the honourable member for Surfers Paradise was perhaps slightly misreported. He would have told his council—and very rightly so—that he had had discussions with the Minister for Health, and that we had indicated that a sum of \$6,000,000 was being provided for extensions to the existing Southport Hospital. Plans are presently in the course of preparation. First it is necessary for certain land to be acquired, and the plans cannot be completed until it has been. The honourable member for Surfers Paradise was quite correct in informing his council of the Government's intention. I believe there was simply a slight error in reporting his statement.

#### ACTION BY MINISTER ON ALLEGATION OF HOMOSEXUAL ASSAULT, WESTBROOK TRAINING CENTRE

**Mr. DAVIS:** I preface a question to the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Welfare Services by pointing out that he was reported in both "The Australian" and "The Courier-Mail" of 1 August, in relation to my allegations on Westbrook Training Centre, as saying—

"If Mr. Davis is sincere in his allegations and wants the things he alleges stopped, then surely the first place he must go is to the relevant Minister."

As I have since taken him at his word and forwarded to his department a confidential document from a mother who claimed that her son had been homosexually assaulted by an older boy at Westbrook and listed a number of other charges, why did he send a personal reply to another honourable member without first discussing the contents of the letter with the mother concerned?

**Mr. HERBERT:** Every honourable member should know that when a member makes representations on behalf of a constituent in another honourable member's electorate I always advise the latter member, irrespective of which side of the House he is on. I will not be a party to accepting representations on behalf of one member's constituents from a member who has no direct responsibility in that electorate. I shall continue this practice until any particular member specifically advises me that he does not want to know if another member is interfering in matters concerning his electorate.

#### CASHING OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION CHEQUES

**Mr. BURNS:** I ask the Treasurer: Is he aware that many men and women receive workers' compensation payments by cheque at the Workers' Compensation Department of the State Government Insurance Office after 3 p.m. and, either because they do not have bank accounts or because the banks are closed when they receive the cheques, they are unable to cash them on the same day although they may be in need of ready cash? Can some arrangement be made so

that people in this position can obtain cash at either the State Government Insurance Office or some other place?

**Sir GORDON CHALK:** If the honourable member will submit his request to me in writing, I shall have it investigated by the general manager of the State Government Insurance Office.

## MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

### ELECTION CAMPAIGN STATEMENTS BY FEDERAL LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

**Hon. Sir GORDON CHALK** (Lockyer—Treasurer) (12.5 p.m.): It has not been my practice to participate in the debate on *Matters of Public Interest*, because I regarded it as an opportunity for rank-and-file members to raise matters affecting their own electorates or others that they particularly wanted to bring before the House.

However, over the past couple of weeks some outrageous statements, statements very detrimental to Queensland, have been made by the Leader of the Federal Opposition in his perambulations throughout Queensland in connection with the Federal election campaign. I feel, therefore, that there is a responsibility on me, as Leader of the Liberal Party and also as Deputy Premier of the State, to publicly correct some of these outrageous statements and mis-statements.

We had the instance yesterday of the Leader of the Federal Opposition stating when leaving Queensland that there would be a large rise in unemployment in this State within a very short period. We have had criticism by him of our hospital system. He has endeavoured to damn the system in the eyes of the people of Queensland. We have also had criticism by him and his followers of our education system, including the methods by which we have assisted denominational schools. That is the type of propaganda being disseminated in this election campaign by the Leader of the Federal Opposition—propaganda to the detriment of Queensland and its people.

I accept the responsibility to correct his allegations. No-one can deny that Queensland's present economy is strong and resilient. It has been stimulated by free-enterprise government, and it has built up at the fastest rate of any economy in Australia. The only thing that could happen in the foreseeable future to prevent a continuation of this growth would be the election of a Federal Labor Government—a Government with the A.L.P. policies of socialism and centralisation being actuated by Mr. Whitlam's proposed commissions.

What has Mr. Whitlam put forward as an alternative to what he has condemned in this State? I know that nothing has been more disappointing to the Australian Labor Party than the fact that Queensland has an economy that is second to none in the Commonwealth of Australia. One has only to

examine a few of the proposals put forward by the Leader of the Federal Opposition to realise just what the alternative would be.

For more than 12 months State and Federal A.L.P. members have been forecasting depression. There is no depression in Queensland. Work is available for anyone who desires it. There is an availability of jobs and, above all, an availability of money. Consequently, from my point of view as Treasurer, I deny the accusations made by the Federal Leader of the Opposition.

By ruthless process Mr. Whitlam has tried to undermine the confidence of our people. In this way he hoped to affect the State's economy and business activities, and to belittle us in the eyes of people in the South. I believe I have a duty, as Treasurer of this State, to tell the people that every economic indicator, whether it be housing, employment, retail sales or general business activity, shows that our economy and development stand out amongst those of the States of Australia and give the lie direct to his recent statements.

The financial affairs of Australia must be guided in the future, as they have been in the past, by responsible men. For the past 23 years, Australia has progressed far beyond what was ever anticipated, in both the commercial and industrial worlds. What does Mr. Whitlam offer the people of Queensland as an alternative? He asks for a blank cheque, but let me emphasise that the amount he would make it out for would be a very large one. He does not really know how much he wants. In his policy speech he gave an estimate of the expenditure involved, but in the next breath said that some 19 commissions would be set up to inquire into the things he has promised the people of Australia, including, presumably, their cost. Even on his conservative calculations it is clear that the cheque he wants would have to be for a very large amount. Our calculations indicate that something like \$1,300 million would be required to implement his promises.

It is very easy for him to say that certain income-tax deductions should be cut out. The people of Queensland will have to be very wary about this proposal, particularly those on a wage of more than \$80 a week. I know what my taxation refund cheque means to me. If a Federal Labor Government were elected, there would be no taxation deductions for medical expenses, insurance or other such expenditure.

Mr. Whitlam has set out deliberately to hoodwink the people. He has not explained where the money to meet his promises is coming from, for the very reason that he has no idea. Nevertheless, he is prepared to travel throughout Queensland and try to create discontent amongst our people.

One simple question needs to be answered: Do the people of Queensland want these Labor promises to be carried out if it is going to mean the loss of deductions such as I have mentioned, which Mr. Whitlam

has been trying to hide? Do we want less in our pay packets? This is the result that will follow, as the Leader of the Opposition realises only too well. He knows what loss of deductions will mean to him.

The people of Queensland have also heard Mr. Whitlam's health policy. We in Queensland already have a free hospital scheme, but Mr. Whitlam wants us to make a contribution so that he can introduce a type of free hospital scheme in other States. Queenslanders will have to pay their contributions, whereas, at the present time, they are entitled to free hospitalisation. There is surely no need for me to defend our free hospital scheme.

Mr. Whitlam has raised other points. We know the socialist policy of the A.L.P. and we remember only too well its attempt in days gone by to nationalise the banks. It now wants to nationalise the professions. By this means it will further its policy of socialisation. The A.L.P. spokesmen tell us now that they have changed, and that their policy of socialisation is not what it was in earlier days. Very few people will accept that argument. Look at what has happened in South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania—areas in which Labor Governments have taken over.

Mr. Whitlam predicted growing unemployment. I welcome the opportunity to draw to the attention of the public the true position. Compared with Queensland's registered unemployment percentage of only 1.17, South Australia has an unemployment figure of 2 per cent, Western Australia has 2.2 per cent, and Tasmania 2.15 per cent. These figures certainly highlight the result of a change to Labor Governments in those States.

#### JUVENILE AID BUREAU, POLICE FORCE

**Mr. NEWTON** (Belmont) (12.15 p.m.): The matter I wish to raise concerns the recent changes made by the Government in the role of the Juvenile Aid Bureau. It is a shocking state of affairs that the children of Queensland are to be used merely as a means of overcoming the failure of the Government and the Commissioner of Police to lift the crime clear-up rate. Both the Government and the Commissioner have failed to increase the strength of the Police Force to the level that will afford adequate protection to property and the general public. The proposed changes clearly indicate the Government's attitude to the future welfare of those unfortunate children below 16 years of age who, because of their involvement in certain incidents, are in need of both guidance and correction.

As a result of the report handed down to the Juvenile Aid Bureau on 26 October 1972, the Leader of the Opposition and other honourable members on this side of the Chamber have been contacted by social workers in all fields, religious and welfare organisations, school principals, and, of

course, a great number of parents. They have made it quite clear that in the past they have sought the assistance of the Juvenile Aid Bureau, but in view of the recent announcement as to the proposed changes to be made on the recommendation of the Commissioner of Police, who has been supported by the Minister in charge of police, they would have grave misgivings about again approaching the bureau if the need arises.

The contents of the report indicate that if children who have committed what is thought to be a first offence admit to having committed a previous offence of a similar nature, they will be charged and, as well, will be treated like criminals by having a record compiled of their offences. Furthermore, before appearing in court they will be both fingerprinted and foot-printed.

The Premier has come out in support of the proposed changes and has also endorsed the stand taken by both the Commissioner of Police and the Minister. In thus endorsing the action of one of his Ministers, the Premier involves all members of his Government.

Since the announcement was made and the report was handed down on 26 October 1972, a number of Cabinet meetings have been held. From those meetings it has emerged that the only Minister who has endeavoured to take a stand against the proposed changes is the Deputy Premier. The Premier was absent from the recent Cabinet meeting at which the Deputy Premier took his stand. But, as we know, the Deputy Premier cannot override his leader, who has declared the Government's full support for the recommendations that have been made, as well as the proposed changes.

Any attempt to place further responsibility on the already over-worked Children's Services Department—as was intimated yesterday following a meeting of Cabinet—must be closely examined. I am sure that all honourable members appreciate the work carried out by that department since its inception, but without the necessary trained personnel it would be a backward step if it were asked to handle problems affecting children up to 16 years of age. This department and similar organisations, be they religious or welfare bodies, already carry a heavy responsibility in looking after the numerous children committed to their care.

If the Government adheres to the announced changes in the Juvenile Aid Bureau, it should establish a separate committee or bureau to deal with problems previously handled by it.

Opposition members have been approached by many people from the university, religious and welfare organisations, and parents, who have all commended the bureau. It is indeed a pity that, because of the Government's policy, the experience of qualified police at the Juvenile Aid Bureau is to be lost. It is obvious that this is so because

the Government has openly supported any change recommended by Mr. Whitrod, without examining the consequences.

My submissions today are supported by all members of the Opposition because they have been approached by many people about the proposed changes. It is shocking that the Commissioner of Police can be the instigator of such changes without an investigation of them by Cabinet or other Government members. Officers of the bureau have said quite clearly that the Commissioner of Police is trying to improve the crime clear-up rate, which is poor because he cannot get the necessary police to protect people and property. He justified adopting the new, tough line with these children by claiming that 40 per cent of all offences in Queensland in the last 12 months were committed by people under 21. That statement bears investigation. He did not say that the greater number of those crimes were committed by people between the ages of 16 and 21—and we should not forget that the Juvenile Aid Bureau is only responsible for children up to 16 years of age. The Commissioner has used the number of crimes committed by people under 21 without disclosing that juveniles between the ages of 16 and 21 do not receive any counselling from the Juvenile Aid Bureau.

Members of the Juvenile Aid Bureau have also challenged Mr. Whitrod's claim—this concerns his attempt to clear up the crime rate—that despite thousands of interviews designed to win these children's confidence they had passed on only one piece of information about the use of drugs in the State. Members of the bureau have challenged that statement.

(Time expired.)

#### JUVENILE AID BUREAU, POLICE FORCE; A.L.P. ATTITUDE TO SOCIAL ISSUES

**Hon. W. E. KNOX** (Nundah—Minister for Justice) (12.25 p.m.): To answer the honourable member for Belmont quickly, it should be pointed out that originally there was a proposal to change the policy of the Juvenile Aid Bureau. This proposal was considered by Cabinet, who decided that there should be no change in policy. As recently as this week a decision was made, and announced, that the whole of the Juvenile Aid Bureau—personnel and equipment—will be transferred to the Department of Children's Services and that its present policy will not be changed.

**Mr. Newton:** What about the police?

**Mr. KNOX:** The police will also go over to the Department of Children's Services. I think the honourable member should be informed of that so that his fears will be allayed.

I now want to deal briefly—but effectively, I believe—with the issue of law in the community and the attitude of the A.L.P. to the law. In previous years we have heard,

not only in this House, but also within its precincts and in the streets surrounding it, A.L.P. members referring to policemen in the most derogatory terms. Of course, it has been part and parcel of A.L.P. policy to degrade the Police Force in the eyes of the community generally.

Not long ago, when the question of law and order in the streets, as it related to draft resisters and draft dodgers, was current in this country—and it was a very emotional one—the Federal Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Whitlam, went on record on more than one occasion as saying, "If there is a law which in conscience you cannot obey, then break it." That statement has gone down in the history of this country. We in politics know and understand that it relates to the National Service Act, but to the ordinary citizens in our community it has a far greater connotation. Never at any time has the A.L.P. put any qualification on that statement made by its Federal leader.

People in the community become concerned when they hear leading politicians advocating anything but the rule of law in this country, which is a democracy, a place where there is freedom of both choice and movement. This A.L.P. concept of obeying the law by conscience can of course be transcribed into a whole host of social activities in the community. If it is right for the A.L.P. to advocate, in this area, that anybody who does not like the law should break it, surely, in the eyes of many people in the community who do not like some other laws, they can feel in conscience that they should break them.

Of course, this attitude to the law is typical A.L.P. policy in recent years. It was not one which that party espoused many years ago, when it advocated the rule of law in this country. It is quite a different picture now. Already Mr. Whitlam and many other Labor spokesmen during the current Federal election campaign have said that if a Labor Government is returned on 2 December it will amend by regulation—I repeat "amend by regulation"—the laws of this country which they would not have time to amend through the normal parliamentary process. This is one of the ways in which the A.L.P. will subvert the usual parliamentary process in endeavouring to pursue its policies.

If that is the A.L.P. policy on law and order generally, let us now look at its policy on abortion, for instance. On 3 November, in Brisbane, Mr. Whitlam was reported in these words—

"A Labor Government would not have the power to change State abortion laws even if it wanted to, and in any case it had no party policy on abortion."

I have here the policy of the A.L.P. For some reason or other, it happens to be in "Liberal blue" this year. Its policy on abortion is printed quite distinctly on page 42. What the A.L.P. has been trying to do is to make abortion a non-issue—not a non-policy matter but a non-issue—in this election. Mr. Whitlam has also gone on record as saying that he advocates abortion on demand, and that it is a matter for the consciences of the members of his party whether or not they support him.

**Mr. Wright:** Don't you believe in conscience?

**Mr. KNOX:** Of course I believe in conscience; but, where there is a matter of conscience, one has to say where one stands. Where do A.L.P. members stand in this matter? Conscience demands that people should say where they stand.

**Honourable Members** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. KNOX:** Mr. Whitlam is not ashamed to say where he stands; he believes in abortion on demand. In matters of conscience, we all know from our political experience how the A.L.P. operates. It threatens its members with loss of endorsement at election-time, and their opportunities for promotion in the party are prejudiced if they do not follow the party leadership on such matters. We all know that the policy of the A.L.P. is nothing but a back-door method of introducing abortion on demand in this country.

A test of the theory of conscience that the Labor Party is espousing is the case of Professor Burns, who fortunately for him is no relation of the honourable member for Lytton but is a member of the A.L.P. in Canberra. He is standing as an A.L.P. candidate in the forthcoming Federal Election, as a matter of conscience, on the question of abortion laws. Already the A.L.P. machine has moved. A meeting has been held, and, after 2 December, Professor Burns will no longer be a member of the A.L.P. We all know that his views on abortion are contrary to those of the honourable member for Lytton, whose views are the same as those of Mr. Whitlam.

Let us therefore see where A.L.P. members stand on a matter in which conscience is involved. There is a new concept of interpretation of the laws of this land, as well as a new concept of policy, by the A.L.P. When an issue becomes a little "dicey" or too difficult to handle, and A.L.P. members do not want to say where they stand on it, it then becomes a "matter of private conscience". Private conscience demands that people stand up and be counted on important social questions. The A.L.P. in this State has dodged this issue, just as it has dodged a number of other issues of social consequence.

**Honourable Members** interjected.

**Mr. KNOX:** The Australia Party is giving its preferences to the A.L.P., and we know the associations that its members have in this field.

We ask ourselves this question: Why does the A.L.P. take this attitude to these social questions? The answer is that they do it because theirs is a Socialist party. In many countries in which Socialists have attempted to gain power, they have tried to introduce processes, methods and laws that strip the citizen of his dignity. This is an old Socialist device, and one that is known and practised in many parts of the world. As soon as the citizen has been stripped of his dignity, "Big Brother" comes on to the scene and says to him, "We will help you out of this problem that has arisen for you". It can perhaps be solved by introducing clinics to help those who are suffering from the strains of excess pornography and all the other things that found their way into community life under the type of rule that the A.L.P. espouses.

These "hush" policies of the A.L.P. have seen very little light indeed in the current election campaign, because whenever Mr. Whitlam has been challenged on such issues they have become "matters of conscience" and he has proceeded to dodge them, as every other A.L.P. member has done during this campaign.

I have no doubt that sooner or later we will hear from the Leader of the Opposition in this House where he stands on some of these important issues, and whether he supports his Federal leader in the election campaign in the manner in which we have been supporting our Federal Leaders quite openly. We are not afraid to do that, in spite of the policies of the A.L.P. As a matter of conscience, we are entirely opposed to the social attitudes that it is espousing.

(Time expired.)

**Mr. HOUSTON** (Bulimba—Leader of the Opposition) (12.35 p.m.): Mr. Speaker—

**Government Members** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. HOUSTON:** When the noise of the rabble has subsided, I will continue.

If Gough Whitlam wanted to know whether his policies were having an effect in the current election campaign, I am sure that if he were here today he would quickly realise what a tremendous impact they are having, so much so that this morning honourable members have seen both the Leader and the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party completely rattled in this Chamber. I have never heard the Treasurer make a worse contribution.

Let us look, Mr. Speaker, at some of the nonsense uttered by the honourable gentlemen. First, the Treasurer said, "I speak as the Leader of the Liberal Party and as

Deputy Premier." I ask the House to note that he did not say, "I am speaking on behalf of Queensland, as Deputy Premier." His first thought was that he was Leader of the Liberal Party. Did the Premier enter the debate on behalf of Queensland? Did the Deputy Leader of the Country Party (Mr. Camm) enter the debate? No! It was left to the Minister for Justice to support the Treasurer.

I turn now to some of the comments they made and the way in which they argued. The Minister for Justice said, "We must have freedom—freedom for people to go where they want to go." Do honourable members remember the Mt. Isa strike, when a Mr. McMahon—a man with the same name as the present Prime Minister—wanted to go to his home in Mt. Isa? And what did the Government do? It passed a special Bill through Parliament and made an Order in Council preventing Mr. McMahon from returning to his home. He was forcibly taken—

**Mr. Lane** interjected.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** I know you were one of the special "cops" who did it.

**Mr. LANE:** I rise to a point of order. The remarks of the Leader of the Opposition relative to Mt. Isa are untrue. I was there, and none of what he has said is true.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! Are the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition offensive to the honourable member for Merthyr?

**Mr. LANE:** They are offensive, and I ask the honourable member to withdraw them.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** I accept the honourable member's word that the fact that he was a member of the Police Force is now offensive to him.

Let us have a look, Mr. Speaker, at some of the other things that were said on behalf of the Liberal and Country Parties. Honourable members opposite speak about socialisation, but they are acting more and more like Fascists in the way they are trying to run this State. So much so, in fact, that the Nazi Party has decided to run a candidate against a sitting Labor Party member in the coming Federal election, and to whom is the Nazi Party giving its preferences? To the Country Party, of course!

**Mr. Camm:** Good.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** The Minister says, "Good". Of course it is.

**Mr. Camm:** Of course it is.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** He knows the affiliation between the Country Party and the Right-wing League of Rights and the Fascist Party.

Of course, this matter went a bit further. The Liberal Party had to allocate its preferences. What did it do? It said, "We are going to give the A.L.P. last preference."

The A.L.P. candidate, Mr. Hansen, is a sitting member in the House of Representatives who has already taken the oath of allegiance to this nation and to the Queen. What is happening now? The Liberal Party has said, "We prefer a Nazi in Parliament to the Australian Labor Party candidate." That is what the allocation of preferences by the Liberal Party indicates. Let there be no doubt about that.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition gave the Treasurer an opportunity this morning to deny in this Chamber that that was true, to come out and say, "We don't want the Nazis. We are in no way associated with them." And the article to which the honourable member for Townsville West referred appeared in "The Australian" only this morning. Surely the evidence is clear that that is what has happened.

Let us take some of the other matters to which the honourable gentleman opposite referred. They are claiming that unemployment in Queensland is the lowest in Australia. I am not denying that unemployment is lower in Queensland than in any other State. But we all know full well that traditionally Queensland is always behind the other States. That applies even with daylight saving. Let there be no doubt that, whatever the trends down South, they will be repeated here. One important point about unemployment in Queensland has been lost sight of. For the month of October 8,688 persons in Queensland were registered as unemployed. Those are the official figures. They are the highest in the State's history. Only 12 months ago there were 7,679 persons unemployed. In the last 12 months the unemployment figure in this State has increased.

**Mr. Marginson** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I should expect the honourable member for Wolston to be quiet while his leader is speaking.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** How can the Government say that it is happy with the unemployment position? What about the thousands of young people who are going to leave school very shortly? What has the Government done to ensure that employment will be available for them? How about young girls in country centres? What about the 30 who were referred to by my colleague this morning when he sought information from the Minister? The Government is not going to allow young girls to train as nurses in country areas. If they want to become nurses, they will have to leave their families and towns and go to the main centres.

**Mr. Hughes** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I warn the honourable member for Kurilpa.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** A great deal has been said about Labor's hospital policy. Let me make the point very clear: there will be

absolutely free hospitals here under Labor's scheme. We know the half truths that the Liberal and Country Parties are so capable of stating. They are suggesting that Labor's policy will do away with free hospitals. They know that is completely untrue. Under our scheme a person will go to a hospital and receive free treatment. The big difference under Labor's scheme will be that there will be more hospitals, with more staff, and quicker and better attention will be available.

The ordinary person who today takes out full medical coverage has to pay \$82 a year to a medical benefits fund. Recently I received a telephone call from a person who had taken out full medical and hospital coverage. Her doctor said to her, "Go into a private hospital so that I can perform the operation you need." She could not get a bed in a private hospital, so it means that she has paid for something that is not available. The Labor Party has come out with a scheme of which we are very proud. Under that scheme those who can afford to pay will do so.

The Government says that it does not believe in segregation or priorities. But what does it do itself? Although we are criticised by Government members because we say that in education we will give help where there is need, what happens when we make representations on behalf of a person who desperately needs a house? That person is finally advised, "Your case has been looked at, but you have a low priority, and there are others with a higher priority." The Queensland Housing Commission works on priorities. If the secretary of a State school parents and citizens' association writes to the Department of Education to request ground improvements or an extra classroom, what is he told? He is informed that what is asked for will be considered along with the needs of the rest of the State. State Governments throughout Australia allocate the available money according to need, and I have no fight with that at all. But the Government talks with two tongues. On the one hand, Government members condemn because it does not suit them to do otherwise, and, on the other, another issue, they praise.

Gough Whitlam and the Australian Labor Party can be very pleased that the Treasurer and the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party raised this matter today, because it shows that they are very worried. McMahon, himself, is now worried. In the forthcoming election the Australian Labor Party will not only win well in Queensland, but will have a resounding victory throughout Australia.

(Time expired.)

#### A.L.P. POLICY OF CENTRALISM

**Mr. PORTER** (Toowong) (12.45 p.m.): It is very clear that the Opposition has been caught flat-footed in this debate. Although

the Leader of the Opposition was not on the list of speakers, he was "smoked out" and we have heard a tedious, bungling speech which would be farcical were it not involved in so important a matter.

I now wish to raise a matter of urgent public importance. It deals with a situation, created over the last couple of weeks, which is a dagger pointed at the very heart of Queensland's sovereignty and prosperity. I have been involved in a great many Federal elections and referendum campaigns, including the one in 1946, and thus I am well aware that it is part of the ritualistic procedure in elections to say, "This is the most vital one ever." But, as far as I am concerned, this one is indeed the most vital election ever.

Labor's slogan is, "It's time." Yes, it's time; but time for what? In 30 years of Federal campaigning I have never previously known a situation other than that those participating in one of these campaigns accept the fact that they are operating within a Federal system. This is the first election since Federation where one of the major participants—the A.L.P.—bluntly says, "If we win this election, then the very Federal system which enabled us to reach office will be abandoned. It will so alter that it can never be restored again in the lifetime of people of this generation."

A.L.P. policy on this matter is both explicit and implicit. It has been enunciated by Mr. Whitlam; it has been given in more detail by his so-called "shadow" Ministers, and in even greater detail by A.L.P. rank-and-file members. This A.L.P. "me and my shadows" refrain is, as I say, a dirge for the death of Federalism. What has not been encompassed in 20 referendums over a half-century of Federalism is to be done in this election campaign under the guise of advocating a kind of new-frontier policy. It is therefore a very vital poll, and I think that voters in all States, particularly in Queensland, which relies on decentralisation of power to be successful, should know what are the real issues involved. It is no use anybody saying, after Saturday week, "We didn't know the gun was loaded."

The A.L.P. platform is the source-spring for all its details of policy, and it is quite definite on the policy of centralism. The section of the policy, I think on methods of implementation, says in clause 3—

"Amendment of the Commonwealth Constitution—

(i) to clothe the Commonwealth Parliament with unlimited powers and with the duty and authority to create States possessing delegated Constitutional powers;"

**Opposition Members** interjected.

**Mr. PORTER:** Honourable gentlemen opposite do not even seem to be aware that their own platform has been changed. I

quoted then the 1969 platform. The 1971 platform has been changed to read in this way—

“Amendment of the Commonwealth Constitution—

(i) to clothe the Parliament of Australia with such plenary powers as are necessary and desirable to achieve international co-operation, national planning and the Party’s economic and social objectives;”

In other words, it is now wider than it was before. “Plenary” means, “entire, absolute”. This clause means that under Labor’s platform, the Federal Government—the central Government—is to be given absolute power to do whatever it believes is necessary in terms of national planning.

Is anybody confused about the words? If any honourable gentlemen opposite think that the words mean something other than what they say, let them say so. They are explicit, clear and definite, and the intention is as plain as a pikestaff. “Be damned to Federalism; Canberra over all!” It has very familiar overtones—“one Reich, one Fuehrer.” In this case it is to be one Government, one source of power, one centre of decision for all things.

**Mr. Aikens:** One Whitlam.

**Mr. PORTER:** Yes, for as long as he lasts.

While remembering the A.L.P. platform, we should consider its policy for the forthcoming Federal election. It is aimed at bypassing the States in a whole host of fields which, according to the Commonwealth Constitution, are totally areas of State responsibility. The Labor Party would establish a score of bureaus, commissions and ministries, which would enable Canberra to plan everything in detail. Labor would have Parliament abdicate its real responsibility to a whole host of super-experts who will plan everything in detail. It is the concept of the new bureaucracy taken to quite lunatic proportions.

I remind those honourable members who think I may be exaggerating that “The Australian”, which as a rule is somewhat partisan towards the Labor Party, in its editorial on the morning after Mr. Whitlam’s policy speech, said—

“Mr. Whitlam last night offered Australia the chance of a dramatic, full-scale change. He made no bones about it: the full effects of the proposals contained in his policy speech would amount to a radical alternative to the Australia which exists today.”

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** I should hope so.

**Mr. PORTER:** The honourable member for Archerfield has a socialistic objective, and would naturally hope so.

On the same morning “The Sydney Morning Herald”, which endeavours to be a little more objective, reported—

“What is clear is that Labor proposes to govern through a formidable network of commissions which, together with the present Commonwealth Public Service, would add up to a vast centralised bureaucracy, slowly reducing the States to impotence and stifling local initiative.”

From Mr. Whitlam’s speech “The Courier-Mail” picked out two sentences that perfectly symbolise what his speech was all about. They are—and they are in small print—

“Any basic service or function which can be hitched to the star of the Commonwealth grows in quality and affluence. Any function or activity which is financially limited to the States will grow slowly, or even decline.”

That is a plain statement as to the shape of things to come, if ever there was one.

Let there be no doubt whatever that the sovereignty of this State is imperilled by the proposals put forward by the Labor Party in its Federal pre-election campaign. A.L.P. policy is a promise to terminate the Federal system and to alter it beyond all recognition. Labor proposes to make direct loans and grants to local government bodies as well as to statutory bodies. This is a crushing blow to State sovereignty and economic responsibility. Labor proposes to establish 20 super-planning boards, which will in fact have the effect of reducing the States to nothing more than mere administrative agencies implementing Commonwealth decisions. Labor proposes that Cabinet Ministers will not be elected but will be appointed by the Government. They will be men with no responsibility to the people, no accountability to Parliament and nothing more than creatures of the party machine that directs an A.L.P. Government.

To anyone who imagines that this is an exaggeration or a flight of fancy I pose this question: Is it not a fact that the Queensland branch of the A.L.P. sent a motion either to its Federal conference or to its Federal executive seeking power for the party executive to appoint the parliamentary leader? There are plenty of honourable gentlemen opposite who are in a position to answer that question. Is it not a fact?

**Mr. Burns:** No, it is not.

**Mr. PORTER:** Was there not a discussion on this point? Did it not appear on the agenda? If it did not so appear, how was it taken off the agenda?

Such a proposal would dramatically change the procedures under which the parliamentary machines have operated in Australia since it first became a nation. It would mean, for instance, that the party executive of the A.L.P. could replace Mr. Houston with Mr. Burns overnight. That was the power sought, and that is the thinking of the party.

I conclude by reminding honourable members that in its pre-election campaign the Labor Party says, "It's time." I say, "It's time, as Labor sees it, for the wholesale restructuring of all our Federal and parliamentary processes in order to make an omelette of such a type that the eggs could never again be unscrambled." Labor would do all this under the guise of leading Australia, particularly young Australia, into the land of a new frontier.

It may be said that under the Constitution this cannot be done. I make this prediction: if Labor wins—heaven forbid!—within six months there will be a referendum on the basis that the people of Australia have given Labor a mandate to do certain things and that these things cannot be done without a change in the Constitution. Relying on the Australian concept of "give a bloke a go", Labor would hope to carry a referendum covering enormous constitutional changes.

This is the picture we could see next year. As I said earlier, if ever a Federal election was vital, this is it. People must make sure that they know what is vital in this election; they must be sure on the point of whether they want a Federal system, which has brought us unparalleled security, growth and prosperity, or a unitary system controlled from sources outside Parliament.

(Time expired.)

#### JUVENILE AID BUREAU, POLICE FORCE

**Mr. N. F. JONES** (Everton) (12.56 p.m.): We have listened to an attack from the Government benches on the Australian Labor Party's policies in the Federal election campaign. My colleague the honourable member for Lytton said that Government members were like a lot of scared rabbits. Judging by their attitude today, I could not agree more.

The Treasurer sits on the ministerial bench, smiling, laughing and gloating, but the only thing he has done is to drag Queensland down from a state of prosperity to one of being a claimant. If anyone sells out our free hospitalisation scheme, it will be the Treasurer, who made Queensland a claimant State.

We have heard a great deal of talk by Government members about the Labor Party's policy on hospitalisation and education.

**Mr. Lane:** What about the Labor Party's policy on riots?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. N. F. JONES:** Since I have been in this House I have heard Government members refer on numerous occasions to law and order, but not once have I heard a Government member mention the word "justice". What about a little bit of law, order and justice—justice for the people who wait at the hospital four or five hours to be seen by a doctor; justice for the children who were

charged after 26 October as a result of changes in the Juvenile Aid Bureau; justice for the children who have to sit in demountables under the Government's education scheme? Government members talk about law and order, but never mention the word "justice". Why? Simply because they don't believe in it, and that is one reason why the Nazi Party is giving its preferences to some Federal Government candidates.

**Mr. Aikens:** And the homosexuals are giving their support to you.

**Mr. N. F. JONES:** You should know, Tom; you associate with them.

**Mr. Aikens:** There's a homosexual university student in Townsville going around leading a gang at A.L.P. meetings.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! If the honourable member for Townsville South continues with his disorderly conduct I will deal with him under Standing Order 123A.

**Mr. N. F. JONES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad to see that you have brought a little decorum back to the House.

For purely selfish, political reasons, the Government attempted to change the policy of the Juvenile Aid Bureau in Queensland. In yesterday's edition of "The Australian", in a very small paragraph, it was announced that the Government intended to transfer the activities of the bureau to the Children's Services Department. That decision was made after criticism and questioning by members of the Opposition, as well as criticism by some Government members, which the Minister in charge of police did not wish to answer.

The Government has changed the role of the Juvenile Aid Bureau from rehabilitation work to general police duties. The change was not made in the best interests of the children or the public, but to provide the Government, the Police Department, the Minister in charge of police and the Premier with an opportunity to list children's names and thus boost the crime clean-up rate in the State. What about a little justice for some of the children who are being charged?

Let me detail the record of the Juvenile Aid Bureau, which the Government wishes to change.

**Mr. Aikens** interjected.

**Mr. N. F. JONES:** The honourable member should be aware that Jack London wrote a poem about him.

According to a newspaper report on 8 November, juvenile aid since 1963 has turned 7,000 Queensland children away from crime. By the same token, bureau members have never forgotten that they are policemen. I think some Government members commented on that. It also stated that Juvenile Aid Bureau members had put more than 900 juveniles and adults before the courts for various offences. It pointed out that, of the people who come to the notice of the

Juvenile Aid Bureau, only 20 per cent commit further offences. That means that the Juvenile Aid Bureau has had a success rate of 80 per cent, which is tremendous on any world standard of crime prevention.

In a book entitled "The Police and the Public", by Dr. Chappell and P. R. Wilson (who is now the Acting Head of the Department of Sociology at the Queensland University), the following appears:—

"The authors believe that one of the most important ways police can help to reduce crime and delinquency is by active participation in delinquency prevention programmes through the media or special youth divisions in each Police Force."

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The time for the debate on Matters of Public Interest has now expired.

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

#### REVOCATION OF STATE FOREST AND NATIONAL PARK AREAS

**Hon. W. A. R. RAE** (Gregory—Minister for Lands and Forestry) (2.16 p.m.): I move—

"(1) That this House agrees that the proposal by the Governor in Council to revoke the setting apart and declaration under the Forestry Act, for the purpose mentioned in each case, of:—

(a) All that piece or part of State Forest 611, parishes of Beerwah, Canning and Toorbul, described as portions 920 and 922, parish of Beerwah, as shown on plans Cg. 2772 and Cg. 2911, respectively, deposited in the Survey Office, and containing an area of about 5 acres 2 roods 31 perches—and,

(b) All that piece or part of State Forest 1142, parish of Geham, described as Area 'A' as shown on plan FTY. 558 made and prepared by the Surveyor-General and deposited in the Office of the Conservator of Forests and containing an area of about 1 acre 3 roods 36.4 perches—and,

(c) All that piece or part of State Forest 127, parishes of Kerimilla and Moogoon, described as Areas 'A' and 'C' as shown on plan FTY. 441 made and prepared by the Surveyor-General and deposited in the Office of the Conservator of Forests and containing an area of about 31 acres 1 rood—and,

(d) All that piece or part of National Park 880, parishes of Cairns and Smithfield, described as portions 150 and 152, parish of Smithfield and R. 1385, parish of Cairns, as shown on plans Nr. 4991 and Nr. 5189, respectively, deposited in the Survey Office and containing an area of about 56 acres and 27 perches—be carried out.

(2) That Mr. Speaker convey a copy of this resolution to the Minister for submission to His Excellency the Governor in Council."

This proposal makes provision for three minor excisions from State forests of land no longer required for forestry purposes and for the revocation from a national park of areas occupied by surface works associated with the Barron Falls hydro-electric project. All four revocation proposals have been carefully considered by the Conservator of Forests and I am in complete agreement with his recommendations.

The first of the proposals now before the House concerns the exclusion of about 5½ acres from Beerburum State forest which has a total area of 31,340 acres. The land concerned is of irregular shape, roughly some 24 chains long by about 2½ chains wide, and is situated to the north of the main access road to the State forest from the town of Glasshouse Mountains.

Some years ago it was made available, as a special lease, to adjoining landholders. The conditions of the lease permitted complete clearing and cultivation of the land. The whole of the lease area is now under pine-apples. Following on this development the lessees have made application to the Land Administration Commission for conversion of the special lease to freehold tenure.

I mention here, for the information of honourable members, that a lessee who holds a special lease over a State forest, and who considers he has reasonably improved the leased land for the purpose for which it is being used, has the right to apply to purchase the land. Before any such application can succeed, the Forestry Department must agree to relinquish control of the land. In this case the Conservator of Forests raised no objections to excision of this land on account of its location in relation to the balance of the State forest and the small acreage involved.

The next proposal involves the excision of slightly less than 2 acres from State forest 1142, parish of Geham. This State forest of about 966 acres was purchased by the Forestry Department some years ago for use as a softwood plantation. It is located on the Toowoomba-Crow's Nest section of the New England Highway a few miles from Pechey State forest.

The small area concerned is cut off by the highway from the balance of the State forest and consequently has no value for forestry purposes. Approval for its excision from the State forest is being sought so that it can be used as part payment for about 14 acres of freehold land which forms a re-entrant into forestry land south-east of the highway. The acquisition and addition of this 14 acres to State forest 1142 will straighten the external boundary, simplify protection and provide some additional land suitable for planting with exotic softwoods.

The next proposal provides for the excision of about 31 acres from State forest 127, an area of about 5,000 acres located to the north-east of Goondiwindi. In constructing the external firebreak along the boundary between State forest 127 and an adjoining

grazing selection, a give-and-take route was adopted in order to follow existing fencing and to straighten the firebreak in places. A reduction in costs was also achieved by taking advantage of existing clearing along the fenceline. The selector raised no objection to the adoption of the firebreak as the most practical boundary and this line has since been surveyed at the expense of the Forestry Department.

To finalise the whole matter, it will now be necessary to exclude two small parcels of land from the State forest and to add to it about 45 acres from the selection. This latter area has already been surrendered to the Crown and action is proceeding for its amalgamation with the State forest. The land recommended for excision from the State forest is mainly brigalow-Belah type suitable for development while the area made available from the selection carries some valuable cypress pine.

The final proposal covers the excision of just over 56 acres from the Barron Falls National Park so that the land surrounding the main surface works associated with the Barron Falls hydro-electric project can be dedicated under the Land Act as reserves for electrical works purposes. The Barron Falls Hydro-electric Extension Project Act of 1958 authorised and provided for the construction, maintenance and utilisation of a hydro-electric project in the vicinity of the Barron Falls for the purpose of securing increased supplies of electricity for the further development of North Queensland, and for associated purposes.

Much of the construction work in connection with this project was located within the boundaries of the Barron Falls National Park, and, while the special Act I have mentioned gave the Co-ordinator General and others power to enter upon and occupy land, including land set apart and declared a national park, and upon such land to build or place any plant, machinery, equipment or goods, and to do other things, it did not convey any power to acquire any part of a national park for the purposes of the project.

The approval of this House is therefore necessary to secure partial revocation of the national park to enable the land to be dealt with as Crown land, and reserved under the Land Act for electrical works purposes. The areas recommended for exclusion from the national park have been the subject of lengthy negotiations, and are considered to be the absolute minimum requirements of the authority administering the hydro-electric project.

I strongly support all of these proposals, and commend them to the House for its approval.

**Mr. BOUSEN (Toowoomba North) (2.22 p.m.):** The Opposition does not oppose the alienation of the land in question. On the outline given by the Minister, it will

be used for essential services that will be of benefit to the State. However, we view with great concern the fact that large parcels of land on forestry reserves are being handed over indiscriminately to people who have no useful purpose for it. The parcels of land described in subparagraphs (a), (b) and (c) of the motion are very small, and it is because of that, and the use to which they are to be put, that we offer no objection to their alienation.

The land described in subparagraph (d), which contains an area of approximately 56 acres and 27 perches, is part of a national park, and it is to be handed over to the Barron Falls hydro-electric extension project. It is true, as the Minister said, that a special Act was introduced in 1958 for the implementation of that project. This Act, which includes an outline of the reasons for its introduction, appears at page 25, volume 5, of the Queensland Statutes. To get the project "off the ground", section 7 of the Act gave the Government the necessary power to enter and take control of this land. The project was officially opened by the Premier of the day on 7 September 1963.

I wish to refer to section 17 of the Barron River Hydro-electric Extension Project Act, which reads—

"Nothing in 'The State Forests and National Parks Acts, 1906 to 1948,' shall affect the exercise of any powers conferred by this Act and those Acts shall be read subject to this Act."

**Mr. R. E. Moore:** What does that mean?

**Mr. BOUSEN:** If the honourable member waits a moment, I will tell him. He would not know at the moment.

The Government has power to resume the land and work it; it also has power to put buildings on the land if it wishes; but nothing in the Forestry Act can override the provisions of section 7 of the Barron River Hydro-electric Extension Project Act. Some 14 years after that project was implemented, and after certain buildings have been erected on the site, the Government is applying for permission to acquire this park land. Honourable members on this side of the House ask why it has taken 14 years for the Government to decide to acquire the land. Surely to goodness it had all the authority it needed to enter the land and undertake the project, and the time would then have been ripe to acquire the land. Why wait for 14 years?

One might well ask for what purpose the land has been used during the past 14 years. Has it been lying idle? Has it been leased for a particular purpose? Or has the Government allowed the ecology of the tropics to remain undisturbed during those 14 years? Members of the Opposition are always concerned about lack of activity on the part of the Government, because over the years certain legislation that has passed

through this Chamber has not been implemented. Therefore, we are wondering why there has been delay in this instance.

I wish to point out also that, during his introduction of the Lands and Forestry Estimates, the Minister said—I am quoting from page 1448 of "Hansard" of 31 October—

"Finally, I come to the subject of national parks, which is so topical at the present time and which many would regard as the most important phase of Government activity entrusted to the Department of Forestry."

It was only a matter of days ago that the Minister—

**Mr. R. E. Moore:** Under Standing Orders, you are not allowed to quote that.

**Mr. BOUSEN:** You know nothing about the subject, so why don't you keep quiet?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. BOUSEN:** The Minister continued—

"This has been brought about largely by an examination of the influence of man on his environment and the harmful effects that have stemmed from it."

Yet the Minister has now introduced a motion that will enable land to be acquired for a purpose for which he then said it should not be used.

The Minister also said—

"In this regard, the words of Lyndon B. Johnson are very much to the point. He said—

"If future generations are to remember us more with gratitude than sorrow, we must achieve more than just the miracles of technology, we must also leave them a glimpse of the world as God really made it; not just as it looked when we got through with it."

There the Minister told us of the desirable attributes of forestry and park land; now he has moved a motion that will enable some of it to be acquired.

He continued—

"This Government and I, as the responsible Minister, recognise fully the need to preserve in their natural state adequate representative areas of each of the major ecological types and habitats of the State . . . Therefore, the very permanence and finality of national-park status supplies the reason for calm and careful consideration of each proposal."

The Minister's words were very true, and I think all members of this Assembly are in accord on the need for the preservation of the State's park lands and forestry areas.

I trust that the Minister and his Government will not fritter away some of our parklands and forestry reserves simply to make an extra dollar for the State. I sincerely hope that the Minister will keep

his previous words of wisdom in mind, and that he will not fritter away any of our forestry areas.

**Mr. R. JONES** (Cairns) (2.30 p.m.): The proposal to revoke the setting apart of this "piece of turf" in the Barron Gorge concerns me in a couple of respects, and I ask the Minister for some clarification. As a representative who is vitally concerned with this area, I believe we should be given a little more explanation by the Minister about the Government's future intentions. Why is it necessary to revoke the setting apart and declaration of that piece or part of national park 880, which contains an area of over 56 acres?

As the honourable member for Toowoomba North explained, the Barron River Hydro-electric Extension Project Act contained powers which allowed everything to be done that had to be done. Construction of the scheme came under the control of the Act. It seemed then that everything that was done was quite reasonable. Over the 14 years since that legislation was enacted there have been no difficulties associated with its implementation for the purposes of that project. We know that the hydro-electric scheme is essential, and is of great benefit to the area. It was inaugurated by a Labor Government at the instigation of a well-renowned member of the board at that time, Alderman Bill Murchison, who was a Labor alderman in Cairns for many years. It was his "baby", and he was a member of the original board.

This area has been a national park for 14 years. Obviously something has brought about the need for a change. I should like the Minister to elaborate on the matter a little and tell us what it is intended to do with this land. So far, we have had no indication of what is intended.

Why is it necessary to revoke the setting apart of this area? We know that the hydro-electric scheme was part of the Tinaroo Falls Dam scheme; we know also that Flaggy Creek is a supplementary scheme. If it is the intention to broaden the scheme, we should be happy to hear about it from the Minister.

**Hon. W. A. R. RAE** (Gregory—Minister for Lands and Forestry) (2.33 p.m.), in reply: I thank honourable members who have spoken in this debate. Their speeches indicate that they are closely watching the national parks and forestry areas of the State.

**Mr. Sherrington** interjected.

**Mr. RAE:** I am not talking about Cooloola at the moment. There will be ample opportunity for that a little later on.

I hasten to assure the honourable member for Toowoomba North that what is proposed here involves only relatively small areas. I shall deal particularly with the area mentioned by the honourable member for Cairns in a moment. As I said earlier, the area at Beerburum is a small parcel

of land of some 5 to 6 acres. The lessee has held it for a long time and has developed it as a pineapple farm. And it is a good farm. It has never carried the type of timber being sought by the department, which possibly was the plan in the early days. After the many years of service that this man has given to the area, he has been given the right to freehold it. The proposal will not upset anything planned by the Forestry Department in the area. The honourable member for Landsborough showed some concern about what was being proposed, but I was able to assure him that this was not in any way a bad move for the Forestry Department.

The other proposal, which is of interest to my friend from Goondiwindi, will enable adequate protection of the area. A fence was more or less cutting off one corner and, although the adjustment means that we are abandoning a few hundred acres on one side, we will gain by the swap a more valuable acreage on another portion of the property.

Adverting to the Cairns area, I point out to the honourable member for Cairns that, during the period of 14 years he mentioned, considerable development has taken place in the construction of such works as switch yards, roads, and buildings ancillary to the power-house itself. The purpose of this move is to allow the authority to control this area in its own right. We have been frustrating them, just as they have been frustrating us, and we feel that we were both being rather foolish, so we have decided to give them this area. It is not very big and will not impair the national park in any way.

This move has been achieved only as a result of lengthy negotiations between the Forestry Department, the national parks body and the power-house authorities. The area involved is only about 56 acres, which is not much in view of the total aggregation. This will clean up the matter and enable the hydro-electric authority to plan ahead. We feel that our agreement is in the best interests of the State generally. The honourable member can rest assured that there will be no further giving or taking of land—certainly not in the foreseeable future.

**Mr. R. Jones:** Will you look for a comparable area to add to the national park at the top end of the falls, and thus compensate for the loss of this area?

**Mr. RAE:** This would be desirable if land suitable for this purpose is available. I would not know, but we are always looking for additional areas for national parks. As I indicated in my opening remarks, the panel is watching very carefully all developments of this kind and I feel that, in the long term, this move will be of tremendous assistance to the State generally.

Although these matters are all of a minor nature, I can appreciate the concern expressed by honourable members.

Motion (Mr. Rae) agreed to.

The House adjourned at 2.38 p.m.