

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**WEDNESDAY, 21 MARCH 1973**

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## WEDNESDAY, 21 MARCH 1973

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

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

#### INDUSTRIAL UNREST, ROMA STREET RAILWAY GOODS YARDS

Hon. K. W. HOOPER (Greenslopes—Minister for Transport) (11.2 a.m.): In view of statements that have appeared in the Press and utterances that have been made over the past few days, I feel it is incumbent upon me to provide the House and the public with the facts relating to the Roma Street Railway Yards dispute and associated matters.

Honourable members will recall that on Wednesday, 14 March 1973, in response to a question by the honourable member for Cairns, I indicated that I would be prepared to confer with the parties involved. Before an hour had passed, I received information that the parties were to appear before the Industrial Commission, and I informed the honourable members for Cairns and Brisbane that in that case I could not proceed with the conference. They agreed. I arranged, however, for the Industrial Commission to be informed that, provided work returned to normal at the yards, I would call the parties together.

The recommendation handed down by Mr. Commissioner Gibson reads—

“The outcome of the conference is that the Minister for Transport has agreed, when normal operations have resumed and the ban is lifted, to convene a top-level conference to consider the matters related to the Roma Street Rail Yards, and it is recommended that the persons concerned resume normal operations at Roma Street as early as possible and that the Minister’s conference be convened within one week from today.”

A time and date were set next morning on the assumption that members of the Transport Workers’ Union were working to normal procedures. When it was reported to me regularly during Wednesday and Thursday that this was not so, I stayed my hand in calling the parties together. At 10.30 a.m. on Friday—20 minutes after the honourable member for Brisbane rang my office—the Commissioner for Railways contacted me to inform me that the situation at Roma Street appeared normal and honourable members will recall that in answer to a question without notice, I informed the honourable member for Brisbane that the conference was being arranged for 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 20 March.

I want to make it quite clear that the delay in giving advice of the time and day for the conference was due to the action of members of the Transport Workers’ Union in not complying with the direction of officials of the

union to work normally, although, I understand, under protest. There was no departure from the usual practices so far as railway staff was concerned.

The secretary of the union, Mr. Bevis, apparently endeavoured to contact me over the week-end, but I was not available. In any case, I could not see any purpose in speaking to him prior to the conference, as he would have every opportunity to raise any issue he wished to at such conference. In fact, it would not have been right for me to meet anyone who was to take part in the conference.

In a phone call to my house early on Monday morning, Mr. Bevis conveyed a threat to have my office and Parliament House picketed in order to “get” me. They were his words. A newspaper on Monday carried a story that the union wanted four delegates at the conference. This request was made, despite the fact that it was made clear in earlier telephonic conversations between a member of my staff and Mr. Tapper of the Transport Workers’ Union, and also in my letters to all parties to the conference, that representation from all bodies would be confined to two persons.

At all times I left no doubt that the representation from the Transport Workers’ Union, the Master Carriers’ Association, the Australian Railways Union and the Queensland Railways Traffic Employees’ Union would be confined to two. Only the Transport Workers’ Union sought increased representation, and, in this regard, I quote the text of a telegram I received yesterday morning and my reply:—

“The Queensland Branch Committee of Management of the Transport Workers’ Union of Australia, at its meeting on Monday, 19 March, carried the following resolution: That the Minister for Transport, Mr. Hooper, be notified by telegram on Tuesday, 20th, AM, elected in keeping within the Union’s policy and rank-and-file members request that A. Bevis, S. Tapper, H. Williams and B. Cowan be the authorised delegation to place before the Minister and his officers submissions on behalf of the union re Roma Street and Rockhampton Rail Yards.”

Honourable members will notice how this union worked Rockhampton into it, although in fact the railway unions in Rockhampton have passed a motion of no confidence in the Transport Workers’ Union.

My reply reads—

“Your telegram received. As advised in my letter of 16 March, delegation from each union at today’s conference will comprise two representatives.”

The parties duly assembled at my office, when Mr. Bevis immediately sought the inclusion of two additional representatives of his union. When I remained adamant in the matter, the two Transport Workers’ Union representatives withdrew, as did the

four representatives of the railway unions. The latter explained that they would have raised matters involving Transport Workers' Union members and would also have been interested in the submissions by that body. The Master Carriers' Association representatives remained, and a number of matters raised which relate to Roma Street operations will be examined and there are to be further negotiations. I am convinced that only good could have resulted from the full conference if it had proceeded.

I have heard tape-recordings of interviews with Mr. Bevis after he and Mr. Tapper left the conference yesterday afternoon, when, as I say, the only issue he raised was that of representation by his union. There was not one word about Roma Street. It is significant that in a statement attributed to Mr. Bevis in "The Courier-Mail" this morning, this subject is not mentioned at all.

I repeat what I told the conference yesterday before Mr. Bevis and Mr. Tapper left, that is, that I agreed to the conference before I knew that the matter was in the hands of the Industrial Commission and that therefore the respective representatives were in my office at my invitation. The Industrial Commission had merely indicated its endorsement of my action to try to solve the problems at Roma Street by getting the parties together.

Incidentally, one of the matters that it is being claimed would have been raised is that of safety, but, following earlier approaches to the department, this issue is resolved. Representatives of the railway unions confirmed that there was a vast improvement following the taking of a number of remedial steps.

#### QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

##### BURGLARY AND BREAKING AND ENTERING OFFENCES, MORNINGSIDE POLICE DISTRICT

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

(1) Since January 1, in the Morningside Police District, how many cases of (a) burglary and/or (b) breaking and entering have taken place in (i) dwelling houses, (ii) shops and (iii) factories?

(2) How many persons have been arrested and charged with all, or any, of these offences?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) "Figures in respect of the whole period since January 1, 1973 are not available. However, the total number of offences of burglary and breaking and entering committed in the Morningside Police Division and reported to the police for the period from January 1, 1973 to February 28, 1973 are:—(i) Dwelling houses, 45; (ii) Shops, 18; and (iii) Other

premises, 20. Separate figures for burglary and breaking and entering in respect of dwelling houses are not maintained by the Police Department. As advised in reply to a Question asked by the Honourable Member on March 9, 1973, it is not possible without extensive research to obtain clear-up figures for a particular area over a specific period. In any event, the period is so recent that records would not be updated to such an extent to reflect the true position."

##### NEW TOILET BLOCK, MORNINGSIDE STATE SCHOOL

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

As the toilets used by senior students and teachers at the Morningside State School are antiquated and in an unsatisfactory state, as evidenced from the Parents and Citizens' Association's letter to him, will he arrange an immediate inspection with a view to providing a new toilet block which I, personally, feel is an urgent priority?

*Answer:—*

"Preliminary planning is already in hand for the provision of a new toilet block."

##### BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL DISPLAY OF MAIN ROADS WORK

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

(1) With reference to his Answer to my Question on October 24, 1972, has the Lord Mayor given proper credit to the Main Roads Department in regard to the road-works display in the City Hall foyer?

(2) Will he consider placing permanent strategically-placed "State Government Project" signs at various locations on completed road works to overcome the impression created by the Brisbane City Council?

*Answers:—*

(1) "Following the earlier Question asked by the Honourable Member relating to the roadworks display, my colleague the Honourable Minister for Mines and Main Roads, for whom I am acting, drew the attention of the Lord Mayor by letter dated November 6, 1972, to the lack of credit given to the Main Roads Department for the works for which it was responsible. There is no evidence in the display that any action has been taken by the Lord Mayor in response to this request. I will again direct his attention to this lack of acknowledgement of the involvement of the Main Roads Department in the freeway works depicted in the model."

(2) "It is intended that all Main Roads Department jobs under construction will be preceded by a prominent sign stating that same are Queensland Government projects. There could be some merit in leaving these signs for a limited period following completion of the works, however, leaving them in position permanently could result in a multitude of signs along roadsides which would only serve as added distractions to the motorist. To this extent the proposal is not considered to be desirable, particularly when the Main Roads Department, in the interests of road safety is endeavouring to minimise the number of advertising signs on roadsides."

VISITS BY MOUNT ISA RADIUM CLINIC  
TO CLONCURRY

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

As there are quite a number of Cloncurry residents who are unable to attend the radium clinic at Mount Isa owing to the lack of transport, will he arrange for a one-day visit by the clinic to this centre during each of its visits to the far-western areas?

Answer:—

"The field of radio therapy is a most specialised one and the expert staff attached to the Queensland Radium Institute, in addition to their special duties in Brisbane, attend sub-centres situated in provincial cities throughout Queensland. Qualified staff in this specialty are in short supply. Due to the shortage of specialised staff it is impracticable to extend the service by visiting smaller centres. Should approval be given to visit Cloncurry, many other towns of similar population could justifiably claim a similar service and this would be impossible to implement with the present staff."

INSECT SCREENING OF HOUSING COM-  
MISSION PENSIONER ACCOMMODATION,  
MOUNT ISA

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

As mosquito infestation is prevalent in the Sunset area at Mount Isa, will he give further comfort to aged pensioners occupying Housing Commission accommodation by the gauging of these premises to provide protection against pests?

Answer:—

"I will have this matter investigated."

DISTRICT COURT SITTINGS, IPSWICH

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

How many sittings of the District Court are to be held in Ipswich this year and for what dates are the sittings scheduled?

Answer:—

"Seven, as follows:—February 12, for 3 weeks; March 26, for 2 weeks; May 21, for 2 weeks; May 28, for 1 week; July 30, for 2 weeks; September 10, for 2 weeks; and November 19, for 2 weeks. These are all criminal and civil sittings except for a civil sittings commencing on May 28."

STATEMENT BY DR. EVERINGHAM ON BED  
NUMBERS, QUEENSLAND HOSPITALS

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

(1) With reference to the report in *The Australian* of March 17 by the Commonwealth Minister for Health, Dr. Everingham, that Queensland hospitals needed six times the present number of beds, what is the actual position?

(2) How many beds per 1,000 population would Dr. Everingham's claim represent and what would be the total estimated cost?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "Yes, I have read the statement in Saturday's issue of *The Australian* in which Dr. Everingham is reported as having said that Queensland needed six times our present number of beds to improve our hospitals scheme, and I must say frankly that when I first read that item I felt that Dr. Everingham must have been misreported. Since then, however, I have had confirmation of the accuracy of the report from a member of the party accompanying him. In reply to the Honourable Member, I can only say that it is one of the most extraordinary statements that I have ever heard from a responsible Minister of the Crown and in direct conflict with comments regarding the Queensland bed situation made recently by his colleague, the Honourable W. G. Hayden, Minister for Social Security. Dr. Everingham's proposal would require a total of over 70,000 beds in Queensland as against the 12,000 approximately which we currently have. The additional beds demanded by Dr. Everingham if located in new hospitals of 300 beds each would require the erection of 200 new hospitals. Assuming a building cost of \$20,000 a bed—a modest figure in terms of present day hospital building costs—we would be talking in terms of a further capital outlay of \$1,200 million, a truly astronomical figure even in the context of the grandiose thinking of the present Federal Government. The total number of beds suggested by Dr. Everingham would represent an all time record of considerably in excess of 30 beds per thousand of population. I would remind the Honourable Member that in a recent

television discussion I had with Dr. Everingham's colleague, Mr. Hayden—

**Mr. Burns:** He killed you!

**Mr. TOOTH:** You have to cop this, you know.

**Mr. Burns** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. Burns:** He walked over you.

**Mr. TOOTH:** He did not walk over me. Let me tell the honourable member that I got from Mr. Hayden—and I deliberately played for it—a guarantee that he will be very sorry he ever gave. But let me return to the answer—

*Answer (contd):*

"I would remind the Honourable Member that in a recent television discussion I had with Dr. Everingham's colleague, Mr. Hayden, he made a critical comment about the beds we already have and I quote, 'Queensland has the highest bed ratio to population in any State of the Commonwealth. Now that is not necessarily a good thing as any hospital planner would tell you. That represents a bad allocation of resources. Queensland has somewhere near eight beds per thousand of population. Overseas planning usually proceeds on the basis of as low as 2.5 but usually around 3 or 3.5 in the key countries. If you provide a greater ratio of beds than this then you are wasting resources because they are very expensive things.' It will thus be seen that Dr. Everingham's views and those of Mr. Hayden are poles apart. On Mr. Hayden's assessment of our needs we should have less than 6,000 beds in Queensland. On Dr. Everingham's assessment of our needs we should have more than 70,000 beds. Mr. Hayden says we are wasting money providing too many beds. Dr. Everingham says we should spend over a thousand million dollars more on beds. They both say we have the most crowded hospitals in Australia, though they both admit that we have the highest number of beds per 1,000 of population in the Commonwealth. I look forward with keen anticipation to further comments and criticisms of the Queensland hospital system from Dr. Everingham and Mr. Hayden."

NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL AND PRE-SCHOOL CENTRE, EVERTON PARK

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

Has he taken any action to provide a new primary school and/or pre-school centre in the Everton Park area? If so, have sites been allocated or suggested for the proposed school and centre, where are the sites located and

when will construction begin on (a) the primary school and (b) the pre-school centre?

*Answer:—*

"The Department of Public Works is now actively investigating the possibility of acquiring land for a new primary or infants school in the Everton Park area. My Department is awaiting a report from the Regional Director of Education concerning the possible location of the pre-school centre. The commencement of construction of either school will depend on the availability and successful acquisition of suitable sites."

SEWERAGE INSTALLATIONS, DECEPTION BAY; L. & D. CONSTRUCTIONS PTY. LTD.

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

Under the Local Government Act, can a construction firm known as L & D Constructions Pty. Ltd., which is carrying out the installation of sewerage mains at Deception Bay for the local authority, be compelled to restore to their original condition properties which have been disturbed during the course of construction of the sewer?

*Answer:—*

"I am advised that the successful contractor to the Caboolture Shire Council for the construction of sewers and rising mains in the Deception Bay area was Don Johnson. I also understand that L. & D. Constructions Pty. Ltd. have a financial interest in this contract and are undertaking some of the work. My enquiries reveal that wet weather in February last hampered the work of restoration of properties affected by the sewerage work but that the contractors are now performing satisfactorily and that restoration has almost caught up with the sewer laying operations. Under the conditions of contract it is the responsibility of the contractor to restore properties to an equivalent condition to that existing prior to work being undertaken. In the event of any damage occurring which is not capable of restoration then the property owner can claim compensation from the local authority under section 51 of the *Local Government Act 1936-1971.*"

BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL COMPENSATION FOR RESUMPTIONS, NORTH PINE RIVER DAM

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

(1) Is the Brisbane City Council at last adhering to the provisions of the Acquisition of Land Act by paying the landholders whose properties have been resumed for the North Pine Dam, or is it

continuing its policy of frustration and delay and still continuing to penalise the landholders in this area?

(2) Is he aware that the private valuer employed by the council to value land in connection with the acquisitions for the North Pine Dam admitted in evidence at a recent Land Court hearing that he had been instructed by the council to deliberately under-value properties, thereby attempting to defraud landholders?

(3) Has the council the finance to pay for the land acquired and, if not, will the Government have to come to its assistance as on previous occasions?

*Answers:—*

(1) "Since the coming into force of the *Acquisition of Land Act 1967-1971*, the resumption by the Brisbane City Council of land for the purposes of the North Pine Dam has to be effected under the provisions of that Act. The Act makes provision for the payment of full compensation for land taken and for an owner of land acquired by a constructing authority to apply for an advance payment against compensation. This he may do at any time after he has made a claim on the constructing authority for compensation. The advance payment that may be claimed is the amount of compensation offered by the constructing authority, or, where no such offer has been made, the constructing authority's estimate of the compensation payable. The Act further provides that if the advance payment claimed is not paid within 90 days, it is recoverable by the claimant from the constructing authority as a debt due. The constructing authority of course in this case is the Brisbane City Council. A number of representations have been made to me regarding the resumption by the Council of land for the purposes of this dam and I am aware that some persons are dissatisfied with certain aspects of these resumptions, including the length of time which elapsed before resumption proceedings were commenced by the council and the quantum of compensation offered by the council for land resumed."

(2) "I am not aware of the alleged admission referred to. As previously pointed out, however, any resumption of land by the council for the purposes of the dam since the coming into force of the *Acquisition of Land Act 1967-1971* and the payment of compensation for land so resumed are governed by the provisions of that Act. This would apply notwithstanding any instruction which might have been given by the council to its valuers."

(3) "The Auditor-General's Report to Parliament on his examination of the books and accounts of the Council for 1971-72 contains the following comments, and I quote:—'At June 30, 1972, loan moneys approved specifically for the North Pine River Dam were \$3,762,421 in excess of

actual expenditure on this project but during 1971-72 this excess was used to finance other capital works. Provision has been made in the 1972-73 estimates to re-instate the cash balance position for the project. The extra spending in the Loan Fund afforded by the greater revenue \$2,342,483, and the North Pine River Dam balance, \$3,762,421, has offset the restraints imposed on City Fund in 1971-72 in respect of capital expenditure because of the Lennons Hotel purchase.' From the foregoing it is obvious the council had moneys available to it for meeting resumption costs but these moneys were invested in Lennons Hotel but I understand these moneys are now available."

#### A.S.I.O. AND COMMONWEALTH AND QUEENSLAND POLICE FORCES

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

(1) Has he or his Department any knowledge of the strength and disposition of the Commonwealth Police Force in Queensland and, if so, what are they?

(2) Has he or his Department any knowledge of the strength and disposition of the A.S.I.O. in Queensland and, if so, what are they?

(3) What is the strength and disposition of the Special Branch of the Queensland Police Force throughout the State?

(4) Are Commonwealth Police officers required to obey Queensland laws in regard to the arrest, questioning and searching of suspected persons and the obtaining of search warrants for premises in Queensland for (a) all offences or (b) offences only against Commonwealth Acts?

(5) Is there any difference between the type of criminal who commits an offence against State laws and the one who commits an offence against Commonwealth laws, such as social-security and P.M.G. offences?

(6) Will he take action to cease the petty squabbling between the Commonwealth and the State Police Forces in the interests of the need for protection of the public and their property?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 6) "The Honourable Member is requested to repeat his Question for Tuesday March 27, 1973 and to clarify paragraph (4) of his Question."

#### LOCAL MEAT SUPPLY FROM NORTH QUEENSLAND MEATWORKS

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

(1) As, during the off season for exporting meat, Queerah and other meatworks in North Queensland are ever ready

to sell cuts of rumps and loins to North Queensland butchers, why do Queerah or Cairns Meat Export Co. and other companies hold these butchers and, in fact, North Queensland consumers to ransom by refusing to supply the required cuts in the export season?

(2) What can be done with regard to this action?

(3) Are the companies liable under the Profiteering Prevention Act?

Answers:—

(1) "I am informed that the particular cuts of meat to which the Honourable Member refers are obtainable in North Queensland all the year round."

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

(3) "The price of meat is not controlled under the Profiteering Prevention Act."

**Mr. F. P. MOORE:** Again he is telling untruths.

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** I rise to a point of order. The honourable member for Mourilyan said that I am telling untruths. That remark is objectionable to me, and I ask for its withdrawal.

**Mr. F. P. MOORE:** I rise to a point of order. I did not refer to the Minister. I said his informers are telling an untruth.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! There is no valid point of order. However, I remind the honourable member for Mourilyan that I have frequently warned him not to comment on answers to questions.

**Mr. F. P. MOORE:** I rise to a point of order. I refuse to be provoked by the Minister.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! When I am on my feet the honourable member will remain seated.

TECHNICAL CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL  
TEXTBOOK, "PRINCIPLES OF  
ELECTRICITY"

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

As the book "Principles of Electricity", by Arthur Morley and Edward Hughes, has been used by the Technical Correspondence School for a number of years as a text for first-year students in electricity and as a book written by the same authors, with the same title and with recognised metric units, has now been set for the students, will he assure the House that this text will not be changed for a number of years unless the Department feels that there are new texts to replace it?

Answer:—

"The new fully metric edition of 'Principles of Electricity' by Morley and Hughes will continue to be used as the set text book for electrical apprentices for the duration of the present syllabus. It should be noted, however, that a committee is at present reviewing the syllabus for the electrical course. This could lead to a recommendation that a new text book be introduced."

FLAGGY ROCK—MARLBOROUGH SECTION,  
BRUCE HIGHWAY

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

In view of the completion of reconstruction and widening of the Sarina to Marlborough inland road, what is his programme to expedite the building of the Flaggy Rock to Marlborough section of the Bruce Highway?

Answer:—

"It is estimated that the 91 mile surfaced length between Marlborough and Flaggy Rock will cost in the vicinity of \$5 million to construct. Over the next five years, it is planned to spend about \$400,000 per year on works on this length. Work will comprise the extension of the bitumen pavement south to Kalarka and the construction of several bridges between Kalarka and St. Lawrence. In this regard, schemes providing for the construction of Freshwater Creek Bridge and its approaches were recently released to the Broadsound Shire Council."

TREATMENT OF KIDNEY COMPLAINTS,  
TOWNSVILLE GENERAL HOSPITAL

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to an article in *The Townsville Daily Bulletin* of March 17 headed "Doctor Claims some Patients are Suffering", which states that the Medical Superintendent of the Townsville General Hospital claimed that patients with kidney complaints were beginning to suffer due to delays in establishing necessary treatment facilities at the hospital?

(2) In view of this outspoken and worrying statement, when will the necessary treatment facilities be established at the hospital to alleviate the suffering of the North Queensland patients referred to by the superintendent?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "It has been the firm policy of the Health and Medical Branch of my Department that any extension of super-specialties

to provincial areas should be at the same high standard as is achieved in metropolitan base hospitals, and to secure this, careful detailed planning is essential. The State Health Department in recent months has given consideration to the extension of renal dialysis facilities throughout Queensland. To achieve desired standards it was, therefore, considered most important that any extension should be made in close collaboration with the Renal Unit at Princess Alexandra Hospital where top-level standards have already been established. Arrangements were made for practitioners from Townsville, Toowoomba, and Rockhampton Hospitals to come to Brisbane to discuss these proposed developments with specialists at the Princess Alexandra Hospital Unit. Dr. Bowler, Medical Superintendent, Townsville Hospital, and Drs. Parisi and Stephens, visiting consultants to the Townsville Hospital, visited Brisbane in November, 1972. From the press report referred to by the Honourable Member, it would appear that Dr. Bowler failed to inform his Board of these events as well as the fact that the Director-General of Health advised him recently that the overall plan for extension of these units at the three provincial centres would shortly be placed before Cabinet. The Honourable Member is no doubt aware that Cabinet has given approval to the Director-General's recommendations regarding these proposals."

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

### DISCUSSIONS AT CABINET MEETINGS

**Mr. DAVIS:** I ask the Premier: On how many occasions in the past 24 months have Ministers of the Crown refrained from discussing matters in Cabinet on the ground that they had a pecuniary interest in them?

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** After the length of time that the honourable member has been in Parliament, I would have thought that he would be aware that what takes place at Cabinet meetings is more or less secret and confidential. I am sorry that I cannot satisfy his curiosity on this point.

### A.L.P. GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL OPINION POLLS

**Mr. BOUSEN:** I ask the Premier: Has his attention been drawn to a report in "The Australian" of 10 March, wherein it is stated that, according to Australian national opinion polls, some 64 per cent of the people favour the Australian Labor Party as a Government and 67 per cent favour Mr. Whitlam as Prime Minister? In view of this report, why is it necessary for so many back-bench members of the Government to ask "Dorothy Dix" questions in an attempt to belittle the Federal Labor Government and Mr. Whitlam as Prime Minister?

**Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN:** I think the honourable member is a little out of date. If a poll in relation to Mr. Whitlam were conducted today, I think the result would be very different. I could go on at considerable length and draw attention to things that have happened since the poll he refers to was taken. From the mail that comes to me from all over Australia, it is obvious that there is very deep concern about the policy of the Federal Labor Government. I am sure that today very serious doubts exist in the minds of many Queenslanders, and Australians generally, about the supposed original advantage of having a Labor Government in the Federal sphere. There is a very big question mark in their minds. Yesterday's experience in Canberra demonstrates very clearly where Australia is headed under the present Federal Labor Government.

### CLASSROOM ACCOMMODATION, EVERTON PARK STATE SCHOOL

**Mr. N. F. JONES:** In asking the Minister for Works and Housing a question, I refer to his answer to a question by me on 17 October to the effect that existing classroom accommodation at the Everton Park State School would cater satisfactorily for the expected enrolment at the commencement of the 1973 school year. If, as he claimed, the existing classrooms would cater for this year's enrolments, why is his department at present erecting two demountable classrooms at the Everton Park State School?

**Mr. HODGES:** It is quite obvious why the two demountable classrooms are being erected. They are to provide adequate accommodation for the pupils attending the school.

### FIRE AT TORINO NIGHT CLUB

**Mr. N. F. JONES:** I ask the Minister for Works and Housing: Had the police any prior knowledge of a threat to the Torino night club before the night when a fire destroyed it?

**Mr. HODGES:** I am not aware of any such information being passed on to the police.

### ALLEGED SPECIAL BRANCH SURVEILLANCE OF POLICE UNION CONFERENCE

**Mr. R. JONES:** I ask the Minister for Works and Housing: Is he aware that, in accordance with its normal policy towards trade unions, the Special Branch of the Queensland Police Force is taking a very close look at activities at the State conference of the Queensland Police Union at present being held in Brisbane? Can he say who

ordered this probe and whether the Special Branch report on the conference will be forwarded through the Police Commissioner to him for consideration by Cabinet?

**Mr. HODGES:** I am not aware of any probe being made by the Special Branch, but I was really surprised yesterday afternoon when I read a statement by Mr. Egerston in which the A.L.P., through him, criticised the Special Branch for doing what the Federal A.L.P. is claiming that A.S.I.O. is not doing—that is, supplying relevant information to the authorities for the protection of the State. To my knowledge, there has been no investigation into the activities of the Queensland Police Union at its conference this week.

### HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT BILL

#### INITIATION

**Hon. S. D. TOOTH** (Ashgrove—Minister for Health): I move—

“That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill to amend the Health Act 1937–1971 in certain particulars and for a connected purpose.”

Motion agreed to.

### SPORTING BODIES' LOANS GUARANTEE BILL

#### INITIATION

**Hon. J. D. HERBERT** (Sherwood—Minister for Tourism, Sport and Welfare Services): I move—

“That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill to authorise the Treasurer on behalf of the Government to guarantee the repayment of moneys borrowed by sporting bodies in certain cases, and for purposes connected therewith.”

Motion agreed to.

### MARGARINE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

#### INITIATION

**Hon. V. B. SULLIVAN** (Condamine—Minister for Primary Industries): I move—

“That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill to amend the Margarine Act of 1958 in a certain particular.”

Motion agreed to.

### MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

#### GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAJOR ROAD WORKS, CITY OF BRISBANE AREA

**Mr. CHINCHEN** (Mt. Gravatt) (12.6 p.m.): The matter that I wish to raise today is the hoodwinking of the general public by the Brisbane City Council. Over a period of time the Lord Mayor has been using television, the radio and the Press, at the rate-payers' expense, to create the impression, “This is the council that gets things done; I am the Lord Mayor who gets things done.” Backed by an enormous propaganda machine, he has been quite successful in creating this impression; but how true is it? What has the Brisbane City Council done?

Only a few days ago, when I was travelling in a taxi, the taxi-driver said, “My word! Isn't it amazing what the council has done around this area?” He was referring to the Shafston Avenue area extending towards the Captain Cook Bridge. I said to him, “Do you think the council is doing all this work?” He replied, “Well, yes. It is in the city, so I presume it is doing the work. I have always thought it did.”

This quite incorrect impression is also gained by the general public, so I would like to correct it by citing a number of major works that this Government has carried out in Brisbane.

The first project to which I refer is the Rocklea overpass. Was it constructed by the Brisbane City Council? Certainly not. At a cost of \$3,200,000, it was constructed by the State Government at Government expense.

**Mr. Sherrington** interjected.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr. Lickiss): Order! I warn the honourable member for Salisbury under Standing Order 123A.

**Mr. CHINCHEN:** What about the Shafston Avenue complex, which I have just mentioned and which was one of the earlier jobs? The council was not responsible for this work. It was designed and built by this Government at a cost of \$3,100,000.

Next I refer to the traffic complex at Kemp Place, which was built at a cost of \$4,000,000. Was it constructed by the Brisbane City Council? Again the answer is “No.” It, too, was provided by the State Government. But how many people of Brisbane are aware of this fact? The Lord Mayor's propaganda machine has convinced them that he is responsible for everything that has been done in Brisbane. He has even taken the credit for the erection of many free-enterprise buildings throughout the city. He is using very clever tactics to hoodwink the people of Brisbane.

Another major project is the Riverside Expressway, which is costing \$15,000,000. Is it being constructed by the Brisbane City

Council? It certainly is not; it, too, is being provided by the State Government at Government expense. Has the Woolloongabba interchange, which is costing \$2,500,000, been provided by the Brisbane City Council? Here, too, the answer is "No." The State Government is providing it at Government expense.

Next I turn to the South-east Freeway, which is being constructed at a cost of \$10,000,000. Who is bearing the cost—the Brisbane City Council or the State Government? The answer is, of course, "the State Government."

On Logan Road, four-lane work costing \$500,000, is being carried out by the State Government, not the Brisbane City Council. Four-lane work on Moggill Road, costing \$500,000, is again being carried out by the State Government, not the Brisbane City Council. On Gympie Road, between Cherm-side and Aspley, was the \$1,000,000 work carried out by the Brisbane City Council? No. That work, again, was done by the State Government.

A \$2,000,000 contract for the Nyanda overpass has just been let. In this instance, again, the State Government is doing the work and paying for it, not the Brisbane City Council. The Bald Hills bypass, costing \$1,000,000, is also being constructed by the State Government, not by the Brisbane City Council. On Beaudesert Road, \$800,000 is being spent by the State Government, not the Brisbane City Council. The Captain Cook Bridge, which my taxi-driver thought was being constructed by the Brisbane City Council at a cost of \$8,000,000, was financed and built by the State Government, not the Brisbane City Council.

This can also be said about a large number of traffic lights in the Brisbane city area which have been provided by the Main Roads Department. Traffic lights are being installed by that department in Moggill Road, Taringa Parade, Hamilton Road, Sandgate Road, Kelvin Grove Road, Prospect Terrace and Logan Road. I could cite an enormous list of traffic lights that are being provided by the State Government in the City of Brisbane area.

What has the council done? Of course, the King George Square car park project was undertaken by it. It has encouraged cars to come into the centre of the city and further pollute it. It is well known that private enterprise will construct car parks on the city perimeter, where they should be built, but the council thought it knew more than the experts. Page 6 of the latest annual report of the Brisbane City Council discloses that, at 30 June 1972, expenditure on the underground car park in King George Square

totalled \$5,473,261. And this is the car park that was not going to cost the citizens of Brisbane a cent!

**Mr. Porter:** And it is losing \$500,000 a year.

**Mr. CHINCHEN:** It is losing a lot of money every year, and nobody knows what its ultimate cost will be. This was one of the Brisbane City Council's undertakings.

I have here an article headed, "Slow to pay for dam land". It refers to the Brisbane City Council. As the Minister for Local Government pointed out this morning—I need not repeat his words—the necessary money was available. I think the council used \$3,750,000 to buy Lennons Hotel rather than pay for land that was resumed from people for construction of the North Pine River Dam. That is the type of thing the council is doing.

When Lord Mayor Jones took over, the gross debt of the city council as disclosed by its annual report for 1960-61 was a little more than \$60,000,000, and the net debt totalled \$52,000,000. Today the gross debt of the city is \$237,000,000 and the net debt stands at \$196,500,000. In the comparative few years that the Lord Mayor has been in office, the city's net debt has jumped by \$144,000,000. This is an extremely serious situation, especially when we consider that virtually all Brisbane's major road works have been carried out by the State Government, not by the Brisbane City Council. It is shocking that the net debt should increase by \$144,000,000, from \$52,000,000 to \$196,000,000, in that period. The people of Brisbane should be told what has happened.

When Lord Mayor Clem Jones took over in 1961, 44 per cent of general rates was needed to service the city debt. Today 67 per cent of general rates is needed for this purpose. How can we get road works and many other necessary jobs done when 67 per cent of the general rates is used up in financing the city debt?

The people of Brisbane are being hoodwinked. That was proven in the Bennett Report, which said quite clearly that the Brisbane City Council did not intend to act legally. It is acting in the same way today. I have here a letter from a gentleman at Runcorn who cannot get a permit to build a home for himself on his own land. The council wants this land and adjacent land for itself. It will not resume the land and wants to negotiate. This man is being forced to negotiate with the council because he cannot get a permit to build a house on the land. He says in his letter—

"The reason was that the Council intended to redevelop the area between Gowan Road and Lexton Street . . .

The Council wished to keep the matter private."

Isn't this lovely? This is supposed to be open government. He continues—

“... and did not wish the matter made public...”

The Council would not issue formal resumption notices as they wished to negotiate with the land-owners...”

The people on the adjoining blocks would not be notified, but as they applied for a building permit this would be refused and the council hoped negotiations would take place.

(Time expired.)

#### RELATIONS, QUEENSLAND AND COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENTS

**Mr. TUCKER** (Townsville West) (12.16 p.m.): I speak today on the dangerous deception that is being practised by the Queensland Country-Liberal Government in the pursuit of its senseless confrontation with the Federal Labor administration. We have reached the ridiculous stage where this Government, largely at the instigation of the Premier, has manufactured an artificial barrier not only between Queensland and Canberra but also between Queensland and the five other States of Australia.

This “20 per cent” Premier, if I may call him that because his party represents only 20 per cent of the people of Queensland—in fact, he is the most undemocratically elected political leader in Australia—is trying to tell the democratically elected national Government how it should run this country. It is significant that not one of the other five Premiers has backed the Queensland Premier in his lone stand against Canberra. If he is so right, where are the voices of Askin and Hamer and the other blue-bloods in Australia today? They are not raising their voices in support of Queensland's Premier. They obviously believe that he is a political ratbag.

I refer firstly to the present Commonwealth-State police crisis, which was deliberately concocted and promoted by the Premier and the other 13 members of Cabinet. In the past week, the integrity of the Commonwealth Police Force has been viciously smeared—and I use those words advisedly—in Queensland by the State Minister in charge of the Police Department. He has described Commonwealth policemen as unethical and untrustworthy. He is reported in last Monday's “Telegraph” as saying, “Queensland's co-operation with the Federal police will be cut to a minimum”; “We will co-operate only on major crimes”; and “They can do their own work until they prove they are trustworthy.” In the same newspaper, the Premier is reported as having said that the State would co-operate with Federal police only where it may be necessary.

We have witnessed the spectacle of the undemocratic Premier of Queensland using newspaper reports on certain alleged happenings in the South as the excuse to place his own price and terms upon the preservation of national security in Australia. We have also witnessed the spectacle of the worst ever Minister in charge of the Police Department—he has been censured more often by rank-and-file policemen in this State than any other Minister in Queensland's political history—smeared the reputation of the Commonwealth police because they dared to transmit to State authorities a genuine warning of a certain criminal intent. The Minister lacked the political honesty to admit it. Shades of the statement that I read the other day: “What I liked about him most was his sincerity.”!

These two Ministers are prepared to jeopardise the security of this nation and destroy Commonwealth-State police liaison because of their own administrative inadequacies and their warped hatred of the Federal Labor Government. Even worse than that, they view this vendetta against the Labor Government as a lever with which to impose direct Cabinet political control of the Queensland Police Force. I say that this is frightening—and it should be frightening to every thinking Queenslander.

Cabinet Ministers in this State have secretly granted themselves the political power to dictate the pattern and procedure of important police investigations. Queensland policemen can no longer seek Federal assistance without top-level political approval. Investigations of crime will be delayed or obstructed simply because the Government persists in its petty political war with the Commonwealth Government. Police will be forced to conduct investigations according to the political instructions of their Cabinet bosses rather than in the public interest. The very type of political intrusion of which the State Government has accused the Commonwealth Government in regard to the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation is now being inflicted on the Queensland police. The Queensland State Government is itself doing what it finds so reprehensible at the Commonwealth level.

It is now seen that these political hypocrites are inflicting this type of control on the Queensland Police Force. Last Monday's Cabinet decision must have been the best news that the criminals of Queensland have received since the honourable member for Gympie was first appointed as Minister in charge of the Police Force. The frightening result of this Cabinet meeting was that the State police have been placed squarely under the political direction, dictation and dominance of the 14-man Country-Liberal Cabinet. Queensland policemen who approach the Commonwealth police in the course of legitimate investigations will obviously be liable

to political-type discipline, and not only the Commonwealth police but other State Police Forces will be reluctant to co-operate with them on a confidential basis. I believe that the State Government has, by its actions, destroyed the confidence of the Police Forces of other States in the Queensland Police Force. There will be reluctance to co-operate with a Police Force that is so clearly under tight political control.

The Premier, who feigns concern for law and order (how many times did we hear that during the Springbok tour?), has even indicated that he and his Government intend to hand-pick the cases in which the State will assist Federal police inquiries. He said, "We will decide the cases in which we will co-operate." That shows that he is prepared to hand-pick them. In other words, the Government would sooner see offenders go scot-free than co-operate with the Commonwealth Government. No subversive element has ever done more to endanger law and order in this country than Cabinet did in a few short hours last Monday.

Before concluding, I wish to deal with one aspect of what I term "criminal interference" concerning the Torres Strait Islands border issue. We saw the Premier present to Parliament what can only be described as a "phoney" petition. To drum up antagonism against the Federal Government on this issue, we have seen nothing but misrepresentation and deception on the part of this Government.

I refer now to telegrams that were lodged between 26 January and 31 January in the Torres Strait region concerning a meeting that the Council of Aboriginal Affairs sought to arrange at the request of the Prime Minister. One of these telegrams read, "Invitation accepted. Meeting be held in Canberra." These telegrams never arrived in Canberra. I am reliably informed that they were not retransmitted from Thursday Island, where the Queensland authorities have an absolute obligation to ensure the unhindered transmission of mail and telegrams in both directions. Instead, certain Islanders who had lodged telegrams were informed by a senior officer of the Queensland Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs on Thursday Island that the telegrams had been "slightly modified" before being sent on. In fact, they were never sent. On 31 January, one telegram, purporting to come from the entire group of island leaders, was received in Canberra declining the meeting.

This is a very serious charge, and I want to know why the transmission of these telegrams was stopped. I want to know, also, who gave the authority to exercise State censorship over the confidential contents of telegrams lodged legally for despatch.

(Time expired.)

#### RADIO AND TELEVISION COVERAGE OF PROCEEDINGS, QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT

**Mr. HARTWIG** (Callide) (12.26 p.m.): Today I wish to introduce and comment upon a suggestion that I believe we, as responsible members of this Legislative Assembly, should endeavour to implement. I refer to the introduction of radio broadcasts of selected periods of the proceedings of State Parliament—I suggest question time—similar to the broadcasts of Federal parliamentary debates from Parliament House, Canberra.

I am adamant, Mr. Speaker, that if one has a good article for dissemination, one should be prepared to promote it. In this regard, it is true to say that the Government has a record of which it can justly be proud.

During the present session, legislation has been brought down by the Country-Liberal coalition Government to give voting rights to 18-year-olds in the community, and I believe that the members of this Assembly, as the elected representatives of the people, have a responsibility to these young Queenslanders who have been given an acknowledgement of adulthood by this Government, and also by the Federal Government. All honourable members agree that these young adults are maturing earlier, and that they are taking a greater interest in matters of importance to society—such things as conservation, pollution, and quality of life.

Recently introduced legislative improvements have seen the inclusion of "citizenship" in the first-year course for high school students. By the use of television, radio and audio-visual aids in schools, we could stimulate interest in and inform young people of the workings of government. I suggest that question time in this Assembly be broadcast, so that young students may listen to proceedings of their own State Parliament. This would complement their theoretical studies of government.

Many people have either an apathetic or a cynical attitude towards Governments and politicians. The critic is inclined, in most instances through lack of knowledge, to "rubbish" politicians because of long parliamentary recesses by suggesting that members do nothing, and to criticise salary increases, etc.

I believe that we, as a Government, should endeavour to create a better image. We must certainly endeavour to remove from the public mind our present poor image. By television and radio coverage, we must show that we are concerned with matters affecting public welfare. We should also let people know how Parliament works and endeavour to educate them to discover things for themselves and, as a result, form their own opinions.

In my opinion, some television coverage from the gallery would make members more aware of their responsibility to the citizens of this State, halt inane interjections, and generally encourage behaviour more in keeping with the prestige and dignity of Parliament. Television coverage would also allow the public to come to know individual members, judge their performances, and thus form their own opinions.

Government is by and for the people. Let us take Parliament to the people.

#### READY AVAILABILITY OF FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES

Mr. CASEY (Mackay) (12.29 p.m.): Recent events in Queensland and Australia have shown in a very stark fashion that the likelihood of violence—I mean real violence—has become part of life in this part of the world. In the newspapers this morning reports have been given of the precautions necessary to safeguard a dignitary visiting this country. Only a few weeks ago we had a tragedy in this city when some violent persons took certain action.

I should like to draw the attention of the House and the public to the subject of violence. How does it erupt? A real problem in Queensland is the ready availability of weapons of violence. The Government should take a very hard look at this matter because it is of great concern to the whole community. Through the newspapers, radio and television, we are made aware of the violence that occurs in the United States of America, Europe and other faraway places. We become aware of bashings, kidnappings, bombings and hijackings. The news media reveal to us the stark reality of these happenings. We are told that we in Australia are very fortunate in that such things do not normally happen here.

We are also told why these acts of violence occur in other countries. Perhaps it is that those countries have open legislation on weapons so that they are more readily available. We are told that violence occurs because of difference of opinion, the actions of radicals, racial problems or some other thing. Tribal fights are also mentioned. Many are the reasons given, but generally speaking it is said "This would not happen here." But what is the true story here? Violence can certainly happen here because weapons are available to the general public.

The other day I walked into the largest sports store in the State and could have purchased and walked out with the latest high-powered automatic rifle. It could easily have been dismantled to its component parts

and concealed in a briefcase. I could have taken that rifle anywhere in this city; I could have brought it into this Chamber; I could have taken it on an aircraft. I could have taken it anywhere at all. I could have purchased that rifle without providing any proof of my identity. No permit would have been needed. I would not have been required to indicate my real need for such a weapon or what I proposed to do with it. I am talking about one of the most powerful rifles that would be available in the State. All that would have been required of me was a name for the record in case the police wanted to know where the rifle had gone. I could have given your name, Mr. Speaker. I could have given the name of anybody at all. No proof of identity would have been required.

I could just as easily have purchased a shotgun, and all honourable members would realise the tremendous effect of a shotgun blast at short range. A very powerful shotgun can be purchased freely and openly in this State. Such a shotgun could be broken down into small component pieces, none of which could be more than 18 to 24 inches long, and they, too, would fit into a briefcase or airline bag.

There are certainly strict laws controlling the sale and ownership of concealable firearms, pistols and revolvers, but such weapons are effective only at very short range. A good marksman using a high-powered rifle can, without any difficulty, kill a person at ranges up to 900 yards. The ability to fire accurately at that distance with a high-powered rifle is demonstrated regularly on practice ranges of rifle clubs throughout the State. Anyone who has watched the competitions would know what can be done with high-powered weapons.

Once a person has purchased a weapon, he finds that the purchase of ammunition is an open slather. He can buy the required ammunition without any difficulty. I go on record as saying that it is as easy to buy rifles of all types, and ammunition for them, as it is to buy a beer in a pub.

Let us now consider explosives. It is just as easy to purchase high-powered explosives as it is to purchase a highly dangerous rifle. There is no strict law that a person has to identify himself properly before purchasing gelignite, which is the main explosive used in industry. And because of the ease with which it can be obtained, the facility with which it can be put into a small parcel and the fact that it can be detonated either by fire or an electrical detonator, it is the main type of explosive selected by bombers and hijackers.

This explosive can be purchased at any hardware store licensed to sell explosives. The stores themselves have to go through a

very stringent process in order to obtain a licence to sell explosives but, so long as a purchaser supplies a name—any name at all—he can obtain them. Admittedly, some reputable firms do require proof of identity. They will sell explosives only if they know that by doing so they are not placing their licences in jeopardy. They will not sell them willy-nilly, but first make sure that the purchaser is a person they know and can trust or one they are satisfied is putting them to proper use.

Nevertheless, as the law now stands in this State there is no compulsion upon any person to prove his identity or the purpose for which he is purchasing gelnignite, detonators or fuses. I have spoken before in this Chamber about the explosive commonly known as Nitropril, which is ammonium nitrate. We all remember the big explosion outside Wandoan last year when a truck loaded with this substance virtually disappeared in an explosion.

Ammonium nitrate is used in many areas as a fertiliser. It is as common as any fertiliser and can be bought in 112 lb. or 120 lb. plastic bags or by the ton. I do not know the metric weight of packs, but it can be bought in large plastic bags. No proof of identity or information about the use to which it is to be put is required. The procedure in detonating it is slightly different from that with gelnignite. The ridiculous situation in this State is that we ban fireworks and crackers that children throw around on cracker night on the basis that they can cause problems and are a health risk, yet we allow anybody to go into virtually any hardware store in the State and buy the big "fire-crackers". A plug of gelnignite can just as easily be thrown around and cause personal injury and damage to property.

Queensland has always been reasonably progressive in its outlook, and I think that something has to be done now to tighten up our laws in this regard. We should bring in strong legislation to control the sale and use of guns and explosives. If we take action now, we will prevent in Queensland the type of violence that occurs overseas that we see on television, hear about on the radio and read about in the Press. Proper legislation to control these things will not inconvenience those who require these things for legitimate purposes. Provided they show the legitimacy of their purpose and the way in which they intend to use the gun or substance, there will be no problem at all. I believe that this is a very important matter and that the Government should look at it now in the interests of the safety and welfare not only of present Queenslanders but of future generations.

#### PARKS AND RESERVES, BRISBANE

**Mr. PORTER** (Toowong) (12.39 p.m.): I wish to draw attention to the very grave deprivation that Brisbane is suffering in terms

of parks and gardens, a deprivation that has already gone past the disaster stage. Brisbane is now a city that, in open-space terms, is a catastrophe. In order to demonstrate the truth of this assertion, I suggest that we compare Brisbane with Perth and Adelaide which, in over-all terms, are of a similar size. But to make the comparison valid and because of the availability of statistics, I suggest that we equate the Perth City Council, with an area of 14,000 acres and the Adelaide City Council, with an area of nearly 4,000 acres, with about 10,000 acres in Brisbane, comprising the city proper and the inner suburbs, roughly from Crosby Park/Wilston, north of the river down to a line running from Mowbray Park to Davies Park, south of the river.

If we compare these three city areas—that is, metropolitan, city and closer suburbs in each case—what do we find? Perth has 25 per cent of its total city acreage comprising parks and recreation reserves, and Adelaide has 45 per cent. In contrast, Brisbane has a miserable, poverty-stricken 3.5 per cent. Whereas Brisbane has approximately 320 parks and reserves comprising 10,000 acres, Perth has 3,367 parks and reserves totalling 14,065 acres and Adelaide has 1,700 parks and reserves covering an area of 3,372 acres.

What does this mean in terms of fully ornamental or fully developed parks? Whereas 8.6 per cent of the Perth city area is set aside as ornamental parks, and 12.4 per cent of Adelaide's city area is used for the same purpose, Brisbane's ornamental parks represent a piddling 1.4 per cent of the city area. I should mention that the Brisbane percentage includes both King George Square and Anzac Square, one of which is now not an ornamental park but simply the lid of some sort of concrete box, and, if the council has its way, the other will soon be the same.

Very often we are told that in terms of parks and reserves Brisbane is better off than any other Australian city, so the truth comes as a bit of a shock. Brisbane is infinitely worse off in this respect than any other Australian capital. In terms of parks and recreation reserves, which are the essential measures of well-being in any modern city, the Perth area is not 20 per cent but five times better off than the Brisbane area, and Adelaide is eight times better off.

This dire park poverty in Brisbane's case is bad enough in the current context, but it is infinitely more frightening when set against the policies that have obtained in Brisbane over the past decade. Whereas Perth and Adelaide have both carried out a vigorous expansion and acquisition policy in terms of open space, representing an increase of more than 1,000 per cent in the past 40 years, by comparison, the policies of the past decade in Brisbane have not added anything

at all proportionate to growth. On the contrary, they have subtracted from open space. Instead of acquiring extra, we have sold what we once had.

Those of us who are concerned more about the city than with the amount of money that can be made out of it are greatly dismayed at this criminal filching of the people's open space, either by sale or by enclosure. By coincidence, in yesterday's "Courier-Mail" a letter to the editor referred to the filching of more of Yeronga Park, and a second letter, from a girl 12 years of age, pointed out that in the brand-new suburb of Mansfield there is not one playing ground, one playing field, one park or one reserve.

People of my generation who look back over many years might well ask these factual questions—

Where has the one-time 18-acre national park at Coorparoo gone?

Why pretend that Langlands Park is still a park when every acre of it is totally enclosed?

**Mr. Bromley:** It isn't enclosed.

**Mr. PORTER:** I will take the honourable gentleman out there and show him. To continue—

How do we justify the rape for commercial sale of half of the Mt. Gravatt Showground?

Where now are the old Cannon Hill and Hemmant reserves?

What have the 18 acres of Ithaca's one-time Cobbler's Flats been used for?

Where now are the many open spaces that were once cherished by the old councils of Moggill, Enoggera, Tingalpa, Yeerongpilly, Wynnum and Sandgate?

The list of missing parks is as tragic and endless as any list of missing persons. This ruthless squandering of our priceless inheritance of open space, which is now in top gear with the council's programme of "Get cash for the council any way we can", is massively compounded by the council's refusal to do any real planning for the future open-space needs of a rapidly growing city.

We all know that as zoning changes open up the closer suburbs to the hazards of high-density living, which means that anything up to 10 times as many people will be living in them within a decade, no corresponding provision has been made for parks, gardens, reserves, walks, riding tracks, playgrounds and playing fields. On the contrary, we all know from personal experience that in the suburbs the council is taking away, rather than increasing, these precious areas of open land.

Take, for example, Toowong, St. Lucia, Indooroopilly and Taringa. These suburbs possess an enormous growth potential. They are close to the city, situated along the river and ideally suited to high-rise buildings. What has happened there? The council has

enclosed parts of Hero's Park and Perrin Park, and on land that should have been a park right inside a well-developed residential area it has constructed an ugly works depot.

The council's attitude is well exemplified in the charge of \$20 an allotment that, under its own ordinances, it levies upon developers to provide open space in such development. That charge yielded more than \$180,000 in eight years, but not a cent was spent in five years. \$100,000 was spent at the time of the last council election, but where, and on what? Certainly not on those things for which it was raised. No wonder the Lord Mayor would like the ante raised to \$100 a block. That would be very useful for a council that is in poverty street.

Big cities are now a world phenomenon; their growth cannot be stopped. I believe the Government can no longer stand aside in this field. The whole gamut of social and economic ills arises from the congestion and frustration of unplanned, big-city growth. The time for pussyfooting has gone. An urgent need exists for a new State town-planning Act with broad planning standards and an infinite capacity for councils to have variety and diversity of standards below which no city would be permitted to fall. Perhaps the most stringent of all the standards in such an Act would be a requirement for the adequate "greening" of a city area. At least 25 per cent of all urban areas should be usable open space. Every office block and every dwelling should be no more than two minutes' walk from such a space.

Brisbane is in imminent danger of strangulation as the concrete jungles choke off its breathing capacity, and the present city council is acting as garrotter-in-chief in the process. The State Government must come to the rescue now.

#### LAND PRICES, SOUTH-EAST QUEENSLAND

**Mr. BALDWIN** (Redlands) (12.47 p.m.): The honourable member for Toowong has just delivered his traditional tirade against the Brisbane City Council but, as usual, he failed to mention the previous quarter of a century of utter neglect and strangling profit motives of the C.M.O., which choked the city's development. The present city council is doing very well in trying to get out of the morass.

The honourable member referred to 1.4 per cent of Brisbane's 240-odd square miles, but he did not tell us how he arrived at the 25 per cent for Perth, which is less than a quarter the size of Brisbane.

**Mr. PORTER:** I rise to a point of order. The honourable member has quite deliberately misrepresented my comments. It would not be possible for him to misunderstand that I compared 10,000 acres of inner Brisbane and the inner suburbs with the same portion of the other cities. My figures are correct as they stand.

**Mr. BALDWIN:** No doubt in due course they will be checked.

In this Chamber we hear a continuous tirade by Government members against the Brisbane City Council. From what I have seen since my election to this Parliament, I am convinced that this tirade is nothing but a weak attempt to curtain off what is happening in other local authority areas. The honourable member for Mt. Gravatt, who spoke first in this debate today, launched a similar tirade. I was amused to hear him trying to condemn the Brisbane City Council for being able to out-Herod Herod. The greatest spenders of public money for their own promotion are Government members. When the Lord Mayor, with his own resources, can outbid them, they squeal. To determine whether the Minister for Main Roads, or any other Minister, would like to outbid the Lord Mayor in getting publicity, we only have to consider what happens when a State election is forthcoming. During those periods, 10 times more is spent on public relations for Cabinet Ministers than would ever be allowed or found in the case of the Brisbane City Council.

All this leads up to the main point that I wish to advance today, namely, the crippling effect of rocketing land prices in the south-east zone of Queensland and their causes. Perhaps I could give it the short title of "The case of the all-up Government".

According to Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics figures as at 30 September 1972, the population-growth rate in the south-east zone as a whole was almost 35 per cent above that of the average for the rest of the State. The population-growth rate in most of the shires around the Brisbane metropolitan area, from Coolangatta in the south to Noosa in the north and Ipswich in the west, is many times greater than the State average. The 1966 census figures show that the Redland Shire had a population of 12,632, Pine Rivers Shire 13,309, Albert Shire 13,782, Landsborough Shire 8,798, and Maroochy Shire 21,455. By 30 June 1967, Redlands Shire had grown to 13,300 (5.5 per cent increase), Albert Shire to 15,550 (4.2 per cent), Pine Rivers Shire to 14,460 (8.5 per cent), Landsborough Shire to 8,900 (1.3 per cent), and Maroochy Shire to 21,900 (almost 2 per cent).

By the 1971 census, Redland Shire had grown to 16,426, with a growth rate for the preceding year of almost 3.5 per cent, Pine Rivers Shire to 26,133, with a growth rate for the preceding year of almost 32 per cent, which is almost staggering, Albert Shire to 29,263, its annual growth rate being another staggering figure of over 30 per cent, Landsborough Shire to 11,625, a staggering 22 per cent, and Maroochy Shire to 25,454, a large 12 per cent.

It is interesting to note that the smallest population-growth rate was in Redland Shire, where land prices have now reached a horrifying 57.6 annual growth rate, and the

largest population-growth rate was in Pine Rivers Shire, where the land-price increase is currently running at slightly more than 12 per cent. The connection between the two is horribly obvious to all honourable members.

It is important to realise that at least 90 per cent of the growth rate in the five shires mentioned resulted from population influx of persons marrying, persons retiring, and persons displaced by freeways and persons from failed farms. It is these persons who need building allotments and houses, and the high price of land is their greatest single cost hurdle. In many localities the cost of land is now more than half the value of the houses built on it.

If the Government has the future of this State at heart, it must look first at what is causing the crippling costs in this important field of establishing the family unit, to which it gives sickening lip-service year after year. One cause is the artificially imposed zoning requirements of many councils and the associated cost burdens of zoning and subdividing.

Where members of councils in these housing development shires own land or have an interest in land dealings, whether as vendors, agents and/or subdividers, or financial and party-political interests in retarding and directing development, as in the case of councillors in the Redland, Albert and Pine Rivers Shires, then this Government, through its Local Government and Justice Departments, has the duty and the right to investigate the matter and recommend suitable changes in local government laws to see that crippling actions of this kind can occur no longer. The Government has done nothing. It has shielded these people.

Shire inefficiency can result from—

Farmer-councillors trying to run shires that have changed from farms to housing, industrial, business and tourist areas;

Expensive development oriented towards benefiting a few large subdividers—as was mentioned during question time this morning—often controlled by overseas and southern interests, such as Intercapital Realty, Cambridge Credit, Hooker (or "Rooker") Rex, and Jennings, to mention but a few;

Unnecessary and unsuccessful litigation carried on by some councils to protect the interests of their Country Party cronies at the expense of efficient private and pensioner-owners who wish to subdivide (and I mention here the fantastic case of the Pine Rivers Shire, which has spent \$25,000 of the ratepayers' money in trying to block court proceedings in about 23 blatantly indefensible cases against an agent-developer named Bowden);

Attempting to browbeat and bully ratepayers wronged in matters of bad sewerage and drainage and the blocking of their individual rights;

Drawing up temporary town plans and interim development by-laws that have to be altered every week, and for which the town-planning consultants and engineers get up to 7½ per cent commission.

All of these costs are placing an unbearable burden on the home buyer and the ratepayer, as also is the cost of so-called "master plans", which were mentioned in this Chamber yesterday and today and are aimed more at blocking opponents and burdening honest ratepayers while creating juicy deals for the people I have mentioned and their friends. I mention specifically that horrifying, blood-sucking serpent, the so-called strategic plan of the Albert Shire, stretching its ghastly length from Springwood to the Gold Coast, against all the best interests of family people.

This so-called strategic plan was rightly condemned by eminent town planners such as Professor Keeble and Mr. C. J. Taylor, chartered town planner, but slobbered over by the boa-constrictor owners of the land in its path—the likes of Charlie Holm, councillor of the Albert Shire Council, who owns land in the Ormeau area mentioned in the plan, and who is a high officer in the Country Party in this State. It was eulogised by the sycophants like Hughie Muntz, Country Party Chairman of the Albert Shire Council, who was given free trips costing thousands of dollars to Canada to have it blessed by foreign investors. All this compendium of crippling costs is passed on to the only true ratepayers, namely, the wage and salary-earners, the poor people who want to build homes and establish families. It is passed on to the small farmers, the business men, the garage owners and factory owners in the area. They are the ones who have to bear these costs.

All of this amounts to a shocking indictment of the Government, which should have the inclination as well as the power to enact for fair, just and proper treatment of those who struggle in the overpopulated and underprivileged areas of this south-east region. To reinforce the strength and validity of my proposals and accusations, I will table documents obtained from persons and organisations that prove my right to introduce these matters in this way before the House. I table them for members and officers of the House to peruse. They contain ample evidence to warrant a close and detailed inquiry into the operations of two of the five shire councils mentioned, and I refer to Albert and Pine Rivers. We are all aware of what has happened concerning the Maroochy Shire inquiry.

(Time expired.)

#### AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANISATION

**Mr. LANE** (Merthyr) (12.57 p.m.): I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity of spending three minutes dealing with what

is probably the most important matter of public interest that has arisen in this nation in the last 23 years. I propose to speak about the destruction of the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation by a very senior Minister of the Federal Labor Government. This destruction took place shortly after midnight on Thursday of last week, when a raid was carried out on the Canberra headquarters of A.S.I.O., the security organisation that is yours, I say to honourable members opposite, and mine. It is the security organisation that Ben Chifley, a great Australian, created and the organisation that has been relied upon by very many Australians to preserve the internal and external security of this country.

This dastardly act was carried out under a smokescreen of concern over extreme Rightist activity by a group of Croatian migrants in this country. I say that it was a smokescreen, because I believe that that is exactly what it was. It was a smokescreen that was deliberately laid to cover the ultimate destruction of the people's security organisation. If honourable members opposite do not believe what I am saying, they are not loyal Australians. I should like to ask honourable members on the other side of the House if Senator Murphy's real purpose, rather than to get files dealing with Croatians, was to obtain information on some of their Leftist friends in the Labor movement in this country—people who could be, and indeed have been, publicly branded as security risks. I refer to people such as Senator Cavanagh, the present Federal Minister for Works, whom Ben Chifley banned from the Woomera rocket range as a security risk. He is a man who obviously must be considered a risk by the national security organisation.

I take this opportunity of challenging Senator Murphy to state which files he perused and which he removed from A.S.I.O. headquarters. Were they security files relating to Senator Murphy and some of his ministerial colleagues whose loyalty to this country is now open to doubt? I question the loyalty of the Federal Attorney-General when he was prepared to so blatantly destroy Australia's security organisation. A.S.I.O. was set up by a directive from the then Prime Minister on 16 March 1949. This setting-up was acknowledged in the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Act of 1956.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! In accordance with the sessional order, the debate on matters of public interest is now terminated.

The House adjourned at 1.1 p.m.