

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**WEDNESDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 1973**

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## WEDNESDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 1973

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:—

#### Proclamations under—

Acquisition of Land Act 1967–1969 and State and Regional Planning and Development, Public Works Organization and Environmental Control Act 1971–1973.

Acquisition of Land Act 1967–1969 and the Petroleum Acts, 1923 to 1967.

#### Orders in Council under—

Racing and Betting Act 1954–1972.

Workers' Compensation Act 1916–1973.

Industrial Development Act 1963–1973.

The State Electricity Commissions Acts, 1937 to 1965.

The Southern Electric Authority of Queensland Acts, 1952 to 1964.

By-law of the Capricornia Institute of Advanced Education.

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

#### POLICE QUESTIONING OF EMPANELLED JURORS

Hon. W. E. KNOX (Nundah—Minister for Justice) (11.3 a.m.): By Order in Council on 13 August 1973, Mr. J. S. Callaghan, Stipendiary Magistrate, was appointed to inquire into the whole of the circumstances surrounding the speaking to or communicating with any person after being sworn in as a juror and before being discharged in any criminal trial in the Supreme Court or District Courts held at Brisbane during the period between 30 July 1973 and 3 August 1973.

The hearing of evidence commenced on 16 August 1973 and concluded on 5 September 1973.

The inquiry revealed that there were in fact approaches made by police officers to empanelled jurors and members of their immediate families. These approaches were found to be due to a number of factors, principally a lack of understanding by junior police officers of what is required of them in checking jury qualifications. There was also some failure in communications which resulted in a check being made upon jurors who were already empanelled.

The report states that the evidence before the inquiry revealed that, though the approaches were certainly improper and were contrary to the method approved by the Police Department, there was nothing of an illegal or sinister nature. The report also

found that these approaches did not in any way affect the impartiality of any sworn juror in the discharge of her duty.

The recommendations arising from the report relate to administrative procedures that should be taken to avoid any repetition of this occurrence in the future. These recommendations have been accepted by the Government.

I lay upon the table of the House a copy of the report by Mr. J. S. Callaghan, who was appointed by Order in Council dated 13 August 1973 to make this inquiry.

Whereupon the honourable gentleman laid the report upon the table.

### QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

#### ARMING OF PRIVATE SECURITY PATROL OFFICERS

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

(1) What guarantee can the public be given that the action of a Brisbane security firm in arming its patrol officers with automatic rifles, as reported in *The Sunday Mail* on September 23, will not engender greater violence?

(2) What training or legal guidance do the patrol officers concerned undertake to ensure use of the rifles only in the correct circumstances?

Answers:—

(1) "No such guarantee can be given. However, the matter will be closely watched by the Police Department and in the event of any offence being committed, either by a patrol officer in possession of any such rifle or by any other person, appropriate police action will be taken."

(2) "I am unaware of what training patrol officers undertake. The legislation of this State makes no requirement on this aspect. However, Section 289 of the Criminal Code sets out the duty of persons in charge of dangerous things."

#### SPEECH THERAPY LESSONS, SUB-NORMAL CHILDREN'S WELFARE ASSOCIATION

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

(1) How many children are receiving speech therapy lessons through the Queensland Sub-Normal Children's Welfare Association at Radford House?

(2) Is the present number of lessons adequate or how many other children are also in need of either periodic or continuous speech therapy guidance?

Answers:—

(1) "The number of children receiving speech therapy at Radford House varies between fifteen and twenty."

(2) "Because of the complexity of the problem of sub-normality it would be impossible to comment on the adequacy of the present service. The extent to which sub-normal children will benefit from specific speech therapy as distinct from language development in a classroom is uncertain. However, the Queensland Sub-Normal Children's Welfare Association is presently conducting a twelve-month research programme to evaluate the effectiveness of speech therapy intervention programmes. This trial programme will be completed in July, 1974. If this trial proves successful it is envisaged more speech therapists will be appointed."

COMMUNIST PARTY BROCHURE DEPICTING WESTERN FREEWAY, BRISBANE

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

(1) Is he aware of a document being circulated by the Communist Party in my Electorate showing a western freeway?

(2) Is such a freeway considered and, if so, is it at any identifiable stage of planning?

(3) How is this proposal known and released by the Communist Party before information is made available to Members of this House?

(4) In order to allay property owners' fears, will he give a categorical assurance that this freeway is purely a malicious speculation of the Communist Party?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "No western freeway has been considered in this location."

(3) "It is a malicious fabrication and only causes unnecessary anxiety."

(4) "Yes. I can assure the property owners no freeway has been planned on the route shown in the communist document nor is a freeway intended along this route. I will be making a more detailed statement in the near future."

RAID ON N.S.W. REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT BY COMMONWEALTH ATTORNEY-GENERAL

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

(1) Is he aware that on June 23 the Commonwealth Attorney-General made a raid on the New South Wales Registrar-General's Department when the marriage registry was about to open?

(2) Was this raid made without prior arrangement with the Ministerial Head of the department?

(3) In view of the present seemingly odious decision of a denigration of the concept of Christian marriage by the Commonwealth Attorney-General, have similar intrusions been made into the offices of the Registrar-General in this State?

(4) Will he safeguard his Department against the blatant, arrogant antics of the Commonwealth Attorney-General?

(5) Will he give an assurance that all marriages conducted in the Registrar-General's offices have some representation of the Bible and that future generations in this State are not subjected to the mockery of a sacred ceremony as encouraged by the Commonwealth Attorney-General?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) "I have read newspaper reports which contain allegations of this nature."

(3) "No."

(4) "I would hope that the Commonwealth Attorney-General would be courteous enough to inform me of any proposed visit to any Department coming under my control."

(5) "A registry office marriage is a civil ceremony and the registrar or other celebrant is unaware of the religious persuasion, if any, of the parties to the marriage."

AIR-CONDITIONING OF RAILWAY OFFICES, CLONCURRY

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

(1) Will the new Railway Administrative Office block which is under construction at Brisbane Central Station be air-conditioned at a cost in excess of half a million dollars? If so, how can he and his Commissioner justify the refusal to air-condition the various railway offices at Cloncurry, where temperatures far in excess of those experienced in Brisbane are suffered for long periods each year?

(2) Is there a number of spare units in Townsville which could be used to air-condition the Cloncurry offices? If so, why are the units not being utilised?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "The new Railway Administrative Office block is being constructed by the State Government Insurance Office and will be air-conditioned. The question of the air-conditioning of the Cloncurry

offices was a matter for compulsory conference before an Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Commissioner on September 18, 1973. As a result, the parties are to confer on September 27, 1973, and report the result to the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Commissioner."

#### COUNTRY SITTINGS, SMALL CLAIMS TRIBUNAL

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

Because of the public interest created by the setting-up of the Small Claims Tribunal and the protection it is intended to provide for consumers, which provincial and country centres have been visited by the Small Claims Referee since the commencement of operations by the Tribunal, and what is the total number of claims which has been heard in these centres?

*Answer:—*

"Since the Small Claims Tribunal came into operation on July 1, 1973, the referee has visited the following centres outside Brisbane for the hearing of claims in those centres—Nambour, Caloundra, Townsville, Cairns, Gladstone and Southport. The number of claims heard at these centres total 23. Further visits to centres outside Brisbane will be made by the referee when necessary."

#### ROYAL COMMISSIONS, GREAT BARRIER REEF PETROLEUM DRILLING

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

(1) When were the Royal Commissions on Great Barrier Reef Petroleum Drilling first set up, who are the members and what are their normal occupations and addresses?

(2) Where did the commissions hold sittings and on what dates?

(3) Did members of the commissions personally inspect the Great Barrier Reef and, if so, at what locations?

(4) Have the commissions completed their inquiries and, if not, what is the delay?

(5) If all inquiries have been completed, when will the report be submitted to the Government?

(6) What is the agreed method regarding the division of the costs of the commissions between the State and Commonwealth Governments and what has been the cost to the State to date?

*Answers:—*

(1) "(i) May 5, 1970. (ii) Chairman—The Honourable Sir Gordon Wallace, Sydney, retired President of the Court of

Appeal of New South Wales. Commissioner—Dr. James Eric Smith, Plymouth, England, Doctor of Science, Fellow of the Royal Society, Director of the Plymouth Laboratory of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom, Chairman of Trustees of the British Museum of Natural History, Chairman of the Indian Ocean Biological Centre Consultative Committee. Commissioner—Mr. Vincent John Moroney, Calgary, Canada, Consultant Petroleum Engineer with experience in problems of off-shore operations."

(2) "All sittings were held in Brisbane during the following dates—July 14 to August 27, 1970; November 30 to December 11, 1970; February 9 to April 2, 1971; April 27 to July 1, 1971; July 26 to December 14, 1971; February 15 to July 3, 1972."

(3) "Members of the commissions visited Green, Magnetic and Heron Islands and several of the Islands in the Whitsunday Group. Aerial inspections at low height were made from Gladstone to Townsville and from Cairns to Princess Charlotte Bay."

(4) "The commissions completed taking formal evidence on July 3, 1972."

(5) "The commissions are presently conferring in Sydney and a further conference could be necessary in late November/early December. Thereafter the preparation of final drafts, typing and printing could take several weeks."

(6) "(i) Not yet determined. (ii) \$164,562."

#### STORM AND TEMPEST COVER, S.G.I.O. FIRE AND HOUSEHOLDER POLICIES

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

What percentage of fire and householder policies with the State Government Insurance Office has included storm and tempest cover in each of the three zones in Queensland?

*Answer:—*

"The information sought by the Honourable Member is not available at short notice. However, I shall arrange for him to be advised of whatever statistical information is obtainable from the State Government Insurance Office in regard to this matter as soon as practicable."

#### PAROLE BOARD

**Mr. R. E. Moore**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Justice,—

(1) What are the names of the members of the Parole Board?

(2) When an application for parole is being considered, what factors are taken into account and what advice and information relating to the application is made available to the board?

*Answers:—*

(1) "The members are—The Honourable Mr. Justice Hoare, C.M.G., Chairman; Mr. S. G. E. Kerr, Comptroller-General of Prisons; Mr. N. Langford, Solicitor, Under Secretary, Department of Justice; Mrs. W. A. Freeman, M.B.E., B.Sc.; Dr. R. A. M. Miller, C.B.E., M.B., B.S., F.R.A.C.G.P.; Lieutenant-Colonel G. Barrett, Salvation Army Officer. During the absence of the chairman, the Honourable Mr. Justice Andrews is acting as chairman."

(2) "The paramount consideration is whether the prisoner is likely to benefit by a period of parole and the other major consideration is whether his release is in the best interest of the community. The board is able not only to draw on the knowledge and experience of its members in many fields but can and does, in fact, have recourse to a vast fountain of expertise, such as psychiatric reports and reports from officers highly trained and skilled in the field of correctional work. The board also considers the applicant's previous criminal history, if any, the domestic background, and the availability of employment."

#### LEGUME, CELERA BEAN

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

(1) Have trials been carried out with the legume, celera bean, which is reportedly tolerant to a wide range of soil types and conditions on the Darling Downs, to establish its suitability as an intermediate crop in areas further north?

(2) What are the market prospects for its expanded production?

(3) Apart from its cash crop value as an edible bean, has the plant significant value as a soil nitrogen improver?

*Answers:—*

(1) "This variety of mung bean is new to Queensland. Even on the Darling Downs trials have only been conducted in the last year. No trials have been conducted further North as Departmental officers have been concentrating on soybeans, a legume crop with excellent market prospects and potential for expansion."

(2) "The domestic market is very limited. Export prices for the Asian market are good at present but lower than for soybeans. Export demand tends to be very variable for mung beans."

(3) "In common with other grain legumes the Celera bean does contribute some nitrogen to the soil."

#### FRAUD SQUAD INVESTIGATION OF LAND TRANSACTIONS, WOOGOOMPAH ISLAND

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

With reference to his Answer to my Question on August 21 regarding land transactions on Woogoompah Island that it was anticipated that investigations would be completed in approximately one month, is he now able to reveal the result of the completed investigation?

*Answer:—*

"No. However, the police file has been forwarded to the Solicitor General for advice as to whether the evidence available is sufficient to substantiate the preferment of any criminal charge."

#### SAFETY BARS ON TRACTORS; BINNING-OUT PROCEDURES, SUGAR INDUSTRY

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

(1) In view of the three tragic tractor accidents on September 22 and 23, and many others during this year, will he introduce appropriate legislation to compel the provision of safety bars on tractors?

(2) Will he request all sugar-mill areas to police the binning-out of cane, as too much pressure is being exerted on the harvesting crews to supply bins at points?

(3) As the season's cutting is behind time, will lives be sacrificed in order to get the cane in on time?

*Answers:—*

(1) "The matter of legislation relative to providing for the fitting of safety bars to tractors is outside my purview. I suggest the Honourable Member address that part of his Question to the appropriate Minister."

(2 and 3) "Matters relating to the harvesting and delivery of sugar cane in a mill area are governed by the provisions of the relevant local board award. Most awards provide for a Harvesting Equity Tribunal to be constituted. The function of these tribunals, which include representatives of the canegrowers, is to ensure the efficient and orderly harvesting of the crop and the equitable utilisation of the available labour and harvesting equipment. Whilst I share the Honourable Member's concern regarding the tragic nature of these accidents, I fail to see how the actions of these tribunals or of industry officials would be a contributing factor."

I understand that considerable research has been and is being done in the sugar industry in an attempt to minimise accidents resulting from the operation of tractors and other heavy equipment."

#### FEES CHARGED BY MOTION PICTURE DISTRIBUTORS

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

(1) Is he aware that certain motion picture distributors are holding theatre proprietors to ransom by charging 60 per cent. of the first \$400 taken and 80 per cent. of the amount taken in excess of \$400, for current modern films?

(2) As this is not a fair deal for country theatres, what will he do to rectify the situation?

*Answers:—*

(1) "I am not aware of a specific instance of a film hiring contract between a distributor and an exhibitor on the terms quoted by the Honourable Member. I am aware, however, that the charges fixed by film distributors for the hiring of films are sometimes calculated as a percentage of box office receipts and can be of a substantial nature."

(2) "Arrangements made between film distributors and exhibitors for the hiring of films are in the nature of a private contract and I have no authority to interfere therein."

#### INCREASED PRICE FOR RAILWAY SLEEPERS

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

As the cutters' price for railway sleepers has not increased since mid-1971 in North Queensland, when the price rose from \$145 to \$190 for 100 super feet and the specifications were increased from three inches red wood to five inches red wood, will he consider an increase in the price as costs have increased tremendously since 1971?

*Answer:—*

"I will have the matter examined."

#### SMALL CLAIMS TRIBUNALS, NEW SOUTH WALES AND VICTORIA

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

Is he aware of plans by the New South Wales and Victorian Governments to establish Small Claims Tribunals and are the tribunals to be based upon the successful tribunal operating in Queensland?

*Answer:—*

"I am aware of these proposals which I understand are to be based on legislation pioneered in Australia by this Government and supported by the Queensland Parliament."

#### HIGH COURT JUDGMENT IN MT. GRAVATT SHOWGROUND CASE; REVIEW OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT COURT PROCEDURES

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

In view of the High Court judgment in the Mount Gravatt Showground issue, where the court not only unanimously supported a citizens' appeal from the Local Government Court decision but also expressed surprise that the appeal had even reached the court, do Local Government Court procedures and practices need considerable review to ensure that the court will provide real justice for people rather than lean towards upholding official attitudes?

*Answer:—*

"The Honourable Member's Question reflects on the decision of a Court of law and accordingly I do not consider it proper for me to comment thereon. I might add that the decision of the Local Government Court relevant to this matter was upheld by the Full Court of the Supreme Court of Queensland."

#### BALLOT FOR RESIDENTIAL ALLOTMENTS LISTED FOR PUBLIC AUCTION, BUNDABERG

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

As his Department has notified in the *Queensland Government Gazette* that 17 allotments situated in Section 129, County of Cook, Parish of Bundaberg, City of Bundaberg, will be auctioned publicly on October 23, will he seek Cabinet approval for a ballot for these allotments at the upset price of \$1,300, which will prevent further inflation in land prices for people seeking home-building sites?

*Answer:—*

"I have previously indicated my concern over the rising cost of residential land and the situation is being closely observed. At this point in time, there is no provision in law to hold a ballot for residential allotments sold by my Department at auction as freehold and in any case, such lands comprise a relatively small percentage of the total of such blocks reaching the market as a whole. I would mention too that the sale referred to by the Honourable Member is in respect of one allotment only."

QUEENSLAND PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY

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

(1) How many permanent building societies have been taken over by way of amalgamation by the Queensland Permanent Building Society?

(2) What was the value of the assets, including property, held by the societies, and how many investors and borrowers were registered with each at the time of the amalgamations?

(3) What was the cost of the Queensland Permanent Building Society building, 161 Queen Street, Brisbane, and what was the cost of converting the building to the new offices now occupied by the society?

(4) For what are the four floors to be used?

(5) When a society is able to purchase and renovate such an elaborate building for administration purposes, are the costs involved passed on by way of interest increases to borrowers?

(6) Where amalgamation of permanent building societies outside the metropolitan area occurs, will he amend the Building Societies Act to ensure that money invested in country districts is spent in those districts?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 6) "Both last night and this morning my officers and I spent considerable time in carrying out research so that proper answers could be given to these questions. However, when a copy of the Business Paper was delivered to my office this morning it was noticed that the wording, and, consequently, the meaning, of several of the handwritten questions had been altered rather substantially. I regret that time did not permit me to obtain the required information in answer to the questions as they appeared in the Business Paper. I therefore ask the honourable member to redirect the question to me on Tuesday, 9 October."

DISREGARD OF "DON'T WALK" SIGNALS  
BY PEDESTRIANS, BRISBANE

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

In view of the continuing blatant disregard or ill-informed disobedience by Brisbane pedestrians of "Don't Walk" signals at Albert, Edward and George Streets, can enforcement action be taken to overcome the accident hazard involved, as well as the interruption to traffic flow which the signals are designed to assist?

*Answer:—*

"If breaches of the Traffic Regulations involving disobedience of the traffic control light signals by pedestrians or motorists are detected, appropriate enforcement action is and will be taken."

HOSPITAL VISITING HOURS

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

Further to my Question without notice on September 19 regarding the inconvenience experienced by persons visiting patients in the public wards at the Royal Brisbane and Princess Alexandra Hospitals by being restricted to evening visits only, will he have such discrimination ceased and allow public-ward visitors the opportunity of visiting in the afternoon the same as intermediate-ward visitors and, if not, what are the reasons for the continuance of the restricted visiting period?

*Answer:—*

"The extent of visiting hours at the Princess Alexandra and Royal Brisbane Hospitals is not determined by my Department. The South Brisbane and North Brisbane Hospitals Boards which administer these hospitals are responsible for the determination of such hours. I have been advised that in determining visiting hours the respective boards take into consideration such factors as ward routines and medical teaching requirements. I suggest that the Honourable Member raise these matters directly with the boards."

SCHEME FOR PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT  
OF MARRIED WOMEN

**Mr. W. D. Hewitt**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Development,—

(1) Has he seen an article in *The Courier-Mail* of September 20 headed "married mums at work", wherein it was reported that a Brisbane garment manufacturer had offered work opportunities to a number of housewives between 9 a.m. and 3.30 p.m.?

(2) Recognising the family unit as the basis of our society, does such a working arrangement allow women to re-enter the work force while discharging their primary responsibilities to their children?

(3) In these times of over-full employment, can an arrangement such as this be further encouraged?

(4) Have there been any in-depth studies of the scheme and, if so, with what result?

*Answers:—*

(1) "I have read the article."

(2 to 4) "The simple facts of the matter are that at the end of August there were, in the Brisbane metropolitan area,

many more jobs available for women and girls than were there people to fill them. To be precise, there were, according to the Commonwealth Department of Labour, 719 women and girls available to fill 2,787 jobs. It is as well perhaps that women are prepared to enter or re-enter the work force in the way they are doing. Recent Australian studies make points that have a particular bearing on our consideration of this matter. The studies indicate that there are fewer single women in the population as the popularity of marriage has increased, more young women continue their education longer and so enter the work force later, marriages are contracted at younger ages than they were contracted before World War II, young women are tending to have fewer children in a shorter term and since World War II, the tertiary sector of the economy which provides the largest number of jobs for women has expanded considerably. A close look at the work force statistics indicates that married women with children are the fastest growing group in the work force and that the number of single women in the work force is declining. The only major Australian study of the effects of maternal employment on children was carried out by Phyllis Scott in 1962 in the metropolitan area of Brisbane. This research was conducted in connection with her Ph.D. thesis in the Department of Psychology of the University of Queensland. The publication "Personality Development in Children of Working Mothers" is a study of pre-school children and a copy of this is available in the Library of the University of Queensland. The study showed that, amongst other things, in certain areas of behaviour, the child was affected more by the mother's attitude to the rearing of her child than by the mother's working or non-working status. The Brisbane garment manufacturer who is the subject of this question of course is not the only manufacturer who offers part-time employment to women. This has been going on for some considerable time and the way the manufacturing industry is expanding in Queensland today I should expect this demand will continue. Therefore, I encourage employers such as in this case to look at the realities of the labour market. If they cannot obtain people to work on a full-time basis, then it may well be that the best thing to do is to offer work of a part-time nature to women who are prepared to make themselves available during their busy domestic lives to work at times during the day when their children are absent at school. Another aspect which I feel plays a large part in the increasing entry into the labour market of married women is the number of modern household appliances available to her coupled with the modern design of residences which facilitate the completion by housewives of their household duties.

Consequently, they have more time available than was previously the case. In depth studies are proceeding all the time on the effects of women in the work force but I do want to emphasise that whether or not married women choose to enter or to re-enter the work force is a matter for their own free choice. It is not the Government's role to interfere. I feel I must also mention that the pattern of the work force is rapidly changing together with the departure from the recognised trend of having consistent commencing and finishing times of work."

REMOVAL OF VEHICLES ILLEGALLY  
PARKED IN QUEEN STREET,  
BRISBANE

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

- (1) Does the Police Department authorise private towing services to remove cars parked in Queen Street at night?
- (2) What towing services are involved and how are they selected?
- (3) Are the tow-truck operators authorised to charge car owners towing and storage fees and, if so, who sets the fees?
- (4) Is police action taken against the motorist concerned and, if not, what are the reasons?
- (5) Is he aware that tow-truck operators have removed vehicles without authority and, if so, what action will be taken to protect motorists from these operators?

Answers:—

- (1) "Members of the Police Force do engage private towing services to remove vehicles unlawfully parked in Queen Street at night. This action is taken under Section 44 of the Traffic Act."
- (2) "Towing services engaged have included Lyons, Always, Wizard, Pullens, City Towing, Barnes Auto, Hopes, Suburban and Humphreys. Selection of a particular towing service is at the discretion of the police officer concerned."
- (3) "Section 44 of the Traffic Act also provides that the costs of removal and detention of a vehicle shall be paid to the police (for subsequent payment to the towing operator) or to the towing operator concerned, before the vehicle is released. At the present time fees are not set by any governmental authority but are determined by the towing industry or the towing service concerned."
- (4) "Where a vehicle found unlawfully parked is removed at the direction of police, action against the owner in respect of that parking offence is taken, usually by way of traffic offence notice involving a penalty of \$2 if paid without Court proceedings."

(5) "I am not aware of any case where a tow truck operator has removed a parked vehicle without authority. If such a case came to the notice of police, investigations would be made with a view to establishing evidence of an offence of unlawfully using the vehicle. If evidence of such an offence was established action would be taken against the tow truck operator concerned. Should the Honourable Member be in possession of any evidence of such an offence such evidence should be furnished to the Police Department."

DEATH OF APPRENTICE FOLLOWING  
TRENCH CAVE-IN

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

(1) Further to the Answer to my Question on August 30 by the Minister for Mines that the fatal accident in the 20-feet-deep trench, as reported in *The Courier-Mail* of August 18, did not occur in a trench that came under the Mines Regulation Act, what Act or regulation covers industrial safety and timbering in such a trench?

(2) Has an investigation been undertaken to ascertain why this trench was not maintained in a safe condition?

(3) Was the lad killed an apprentice, and what was his occupation and his employer's name?

(4) Has consideration been given to launching prosecutions for criminal negligence against employers responsible for sending men into unsafe areas?

Answers:—

(1) "The *Construction Safety Act 1971-1973* and Regulations thereunder."

(2) "Yes. The circumstances surrounding this accident are still being investigated."

(3) "The deceased, James Francis Keegan was an apprentice plumber employed by Watson Plumbing Pty. Ltd."

(4) "Criminal negligence is a matter for the police."

CONSIDERATION OF NEW POWERHOUSE  
SITE BY MORETON REGIONAL  
PLANNING AUTHORITY

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

(1) Has the Moreton, or Number 3, Regional Planning Authority set up under the 1971 Act considered, investigated or recommended any action or site in relation to the proposed new power house?

(2) If not, have local authorities, whose citizens will be affected environmentally or whose water and power supplies may be involved, been consulted and asked to make submissions?

(3) If the Moreton Regional Committee has not been involved in the decision-making process, what body will be responsible for considering this proposal within a regional planning concept?

Answers:—

(1) "The Moreton Region has not yet been declared."

(2 and 3) "Responsibility for recommending a site for the new power house lies with the State Electricity Commission."

SEMESTER SYSTEM FOR EXTERNAL  
STUDENTS, QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY

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

Will the semester system to be introduced by the University of Queensland in 1974 include all external students and, if not, what is the reason?

Answer:—

"I am informed by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Queensland that the Department of External Studies will not be operating the same semester system as internal students; the principal difference will be that some final examinations will be conducted only at the end of the academic year, that is in November. Some external students face difficulties in securing necessary library books for assignments; some will have their study disrupted by transfers. Initially, it has seemed preferable to modify the semester arrangements in some ways for external students."

FEASIBILITY STUDY INTO WATER SUPPLY,  
MULGRAVE SHIRE

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

(1) Is a feasibility study to be carried out into the water supply in Division 4 of the Mulgrave Shire?

(2) In view of the serious position in regard to water supply, will he see that the survey is not delayed but is carried out as originally scheduled?

Answers:—

(1) "A request was received by the Department of Local Government from the Mulgrave Shire Council that an investigation be made and a preliminary report submitted on a proposed augmentation of the water supply to Division 4 of the Shire of Mulgrave. It was anticipated that such

investigation would be commenced this month. Due to the present staffing position in the Department it is now not possible to commence the investigation until mid November and the council has been advised accordingly."

(2) "In the event that the water supply position is becoming critical it would seem desirable that the council engage consulting engineers of whom there are several with offices in Cairns, to undertake the investigation."

SUGGESTED TROPICAL ECOLOGICAL  
RESEARCH LABORATORY, NORTH  
QUEENSLAND

**Mr. B. Wood**, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

(1) Is he aware of a resolution, arising from an Australian Conservation Foundation conference at Cairns on September 22 and 23, that a tropical ecological research laboratory be established in North Queensland?

(2) Is there any merit in this suggestion and will the Government further examine the proposition?

*Answers:—*

(1) "No. The report of the officer who attended has not yet been received."

(2) "The proposal will be examined but appears to be more suitable for establishment on a national basis."

SUGGESTED STEELWORKS, YARWUN

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

(1) Is he aware of speculation that a steelworks will be built at Yarwun, north of Gladstone?

(2) Is he also aware of persistent reports of heavy land speculation at Yarwun and that Labor Party officials at Gladstone are participating?

(3) In view of statements by the Commonwealth Minister for Minerals and Energy and other Labor Ministers about a steelworks for Queensland, will he have the reports checked to reveal whether anyone is acting with inside information?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 3) "I have no knowledge of the speculation and reports to which the Honourable Member refers. As he is of course aware, the State Government has been particularly active in its endeavours to attract a steel industry to Queensland. These efforts will be continued until such time as our objective is realised. Needless

to say, any assistance which the Commonwealth Government can give in attracting such an industry to Queensland will be most welcome. However, recent statements by Commonwealth Ministers regarding the inflow of overseas capital into Australia will, I am afraid, be more inclined to inhibit than accelerate the establishment of such a desirable project in Queensland."

PAYMENT OF VOLUNTEER WORKERS  
DURING INDUSTRIAL DISPUTE AT  
PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS

**Mr. Marginson** for **Mrs. Jordan**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Health,—

(1) In relation to the recent stoppage in special hospitals, what was the total amount paid for time worked by volunteer workers at Challinor Centre, Wolston Park and Baillie Henderson special hospitals, respectively?

(2) What was the rate per day paid to voluntary workers?

(3) What is the rate per day paid to permanent employees doing the same work?

(4) Who paid for the telecast on September 23 in which he thanked the volunteers and what was the cost?

*Answers:—*

(1 and 2) "I refer the Honourable the Member to my Answer to a Question in this House on September 20, 1973, when I advised that volunteers who worked in the psychiatric hospitals during the recent industrial dispute would receive a gratuity related to the pay of the people they replaced. No payment has yet been made as detailed information from the respective hospitals is awaited. The extent of the gratuity should be more than adequate to compensate volunteers for any financial outlay that they may have incurred in attending the institution."

(3) "Rates of pay for permanent employees are set out in the Mental Hospital Employees' Award—State."

(4) "The cost of the telecast which is regarded as an official announcement, will be met from consolidated revenue in accordance with usual practice in such matters. The cost involved has not yet been assessed."

PHYSIOTHERAPISTS, IPSWICH GENERAL  
HOSPITAL

**Mr. Marginson** for **Mrs. Jordan**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Health,—

(1) Is he aware that there is a severe shortage of physiotherapists at the Ipswich General Hospital and that patients requiring treatment have to travel to Brisbane?

(2) Will he ensure that physiotherapists are made available there as soon as possible?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) "The Medical Superintendent, Ipswich Hospital, has advised that the approved establishment for physiotherapists at Ipswich Hospital is three full time officers. The actual staff consists of:—one full time physiotherapist; one part time therapist working four hours a day; one part time therapist working one hour per week. Outside the metropolitan area physiotherapists are in short supply. I understand that the Ipswich Hospitals Board is continuing to advertise vacancies as they occur."

HOUSING COMMISSION OPERATIONS,  
ATHERTON TABLELAND

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

(1) How many Housing Commission houses were built during each of the years ended June 30 from 1969 to 1973, at Atherton, Tolga, Malanda, Kairi, Millaa Millaa and Yungaburra?

(2) How many applications were received from those areas for the same years?

*Answers:—*

(1) "One house at Atherton in 1971-72."

(2) "Applications on hand at June 30 each year were—

Year	Category	Ather- ton	Tolga	Mal- anda	Millaa Millaa	Yunga- burra
1969	Priority ..	1	..	..	..	..
	Nil priority	2	..	..	..	..
1970	Priority ..	1	1	..	..	..
	Nil priority	..	..	..	..	2
1971	Priority ..	3	1	..	..	..
	Nil priority	1	..	3	..	..
1972	Priority ..	3	1	1	..	1
	Nil priority	1	..	5	..	..
1973	Priority ..	4	..	..	1	..
	Nil priority	4	..	4	1	..

Returns are not furnished in respect of Kairi."

HEALTH AND HYGIENE STANDARDS,  
ISLANDS INCORPORATED IN  
LOCAL AUTHORITIES

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

(1) What steps will be taken to upgrade health and hygiene standards at islands which will come within local authority boundaries?

(2) Will local authority health inspectors have authority to visit islands for inspections and, if not, what provisions will be made?

(3) Will he consider having all areas treated in a manner similar to that for existing local authorities throughout Queensland, in so far as the regulations and inspections are concerned?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 3) "Matters referred to are being considered by the Department of Local Government and I suggest the Questions be re-directed to my colleague the Honourable the Minister for Local Government."

CATTLE-RAISING, WEIPA ABORIGINAL  
RESERVE; LAND RELINQUISHED BY  
COMALCO PTY. LTD.

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

(1) What is the present area of the Weipa community?

(2) What provisions are made for the grazing of cattle belonging to the community?

(3) How many cattle are on this holding?

(4) Is the land that was relinquished by Comalco to be returned to the Weipa and Aurukun communities and, if not, what are the intentions?

*Answers:—*

(1) "332 acres."

(2) "Permissive grazing rights are afforded the Department over agreed areas."

(3) "At June 30, 1973—2,588 head, including 223 bullocks since transferred to Bamaga."

(4) "Lands so far surrendered have reverted to Aboriginal Reserve Areas with one exception. This is an area of 18.2 square miles surrendered from Special Bauxite Mining Lease No. 1 on the North Coast of Port Musgrave at present held as vacant Crown Land under control of Department of Lands. By Order in Council of February 24, 1972 Aurukun Reserve R3 was increased in area from 2,610 square miles to 2,897 square miles."

PRE-SCHOOL CENTRE FOR HOME HILL

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

When will a pre-school centre be provided at Home Hill?

*Answer:—*

"A Pre-School Centre at Home Hill is included in the forward planning programme for the 1974-75 financial year. No indication can be given, at this juncture, as to when this Centre will be provided. However, the Honourable Member is assured that this project will be undertaken at the earliest date practicable."

GOVERNMENT AIR PILOT'S FARE TO  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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

(1) With reference to my Question without notice on September 19, is he aware that on August 23 the Premier said that all Miss Young's expenses were to be met by the Australian agents of the United States company which is selling the aircraft to the Queensland Government?

(2) In view of the apparent conflict between the Premier's statement and his statement, who is paying the extra \$350 involved in flying Miss Young to New York via Tokyo rather than direct?

(3) Who is paying the remainder of Miss Young's fare?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 3) "I would remind the Honourable Member that, when replying to his Question without Notice on September 19, I used the words 'to my knowledge Miss Young is paying her own fare' and what I said summarised my understanding of the matter at that time. I now find the actual position is that no accounts have yet been received by the Premier's Department in relation to the Honourable the Premier's current overseas visit. However, when these accounts are received, appropriate debits will be issued to anyone concerned should any of the charges not be the Department's responsibility."

NEW OFFICE ACCOMMODATION,  
MAIN ROADS DEPARTMENT,  
CAIRNS

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

(1) Have design plans been prepared for the proposed new office accommodation for the Main Roads Department in Abbott Street, Cairns, and, if so, has authority for tenders been approved?

(2) If not, when will provision be made, funds allocated and work on the new building commence?

*Answers:—*

(1) "Sketch plans have been approved and design is in progress."

(2) "It is planned to commence construction in the 1974-75 financial year."

PRESSURE FOR RELEASE ON PAROLE  
OF PRISONER R. D. MARTIN

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

In view of the publicity given in the Press and on radio and television regarding the case of Richard David Martin, who was convicted of murder in 1959, what are the circumstances of the case?

*Answer:—*

"It is a matter of regret that in the publicity that has been given to the case of Richard David Martin a number of inaccurate statements have been made. The question of the parole of this person is one for determination by the Parole Board and not by myself. The responsibilities of the Parole Board are determined by the Offenders Probation and Parole Act. However, I think it is necessary that the inaccurate statements that have been made be corrected. Martin and Leslie David Mummins were convicted of murder by a Supreme Court jury and sentenced to life imprisonment in August 1959. A subsequent appeal to the Court of Criminal Appeal was dismissed. Evidence was given at the trial by eye witnesses that the victim was viciously assaulted by the accused on two occasions. On the second occasion he was dragged along a street before being kicked about the head. A passer-by who went to his aid was also assaulted by the accused. It is therefore wrong to claim that the victim died as a result of a street brawl, particularly in view of the fact that evidence was given that he was so intoxicated that he could hardly stand up. The 12 man jury found both Martin and Mummins guilty of murder, not manslaughter. Prior to this offence, Martin had been convicted of assault in 1953, assault causing bodily harm in May 1954 and unlawful assault and stealing in August, 1954. The latter occurred while he was on a bond arising from the conviction in May 1954. These offences indicated an increasing tendency towards violence from a person who first appeared before a court at the age of 16. I am advised that the claim that Martin has been a model prisoner is untrue, in that he has been a most insulting and troublesome prisoner. This is despite the fact that he has made substantial progress in educating himself. It is true that the other person convicted, Mummins, was released on parole. His parole has since been suspended, and he has been returned to prison pending further determination by the Parole Board. I am also advised that Mummins had a good record of behaviour whilst in prison before his admission to parole. I regard the claim that Martin has not been admitted to parole because he is of aboriginal extraction as an offence to the Members of the Parole Board, all of whom are persons of high standing in the community. In

fact, most members of the Board would not have been aware of the fact that Martin was an aboriginal when his parole was first considered unless they had a personal recollection of the original crime. Because the colour of a person's skin is not taken into account when parole is being considered there is no accurate record of the number of aborigines admitted to parole. However, I am advised that a considerable number of prisoners of aboriginal extraction have been released on parole by the Board in the last year. The question of whether or not Martin is to be admitted to parole will be determined by the appropriate authority—the Parole Board. The large number of persons who have successfully completed parole vindicates the sound judgment which the Board has always displayed. I therefore deplore the distortions and false accusations made in relation to this case, particularly the unfounded allegations that have been made against the Parole Board of Queensland."

COMMONWEALTH-STATE RECIPROCITY,  
LONG SERVICE LEAVE

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

Is there any agreement or arrangement whereunder employees of a Commonwealth department transferring to a State department retain their rights as to seniority, long service leave entitlements and other job rights and, if so, will he inform the House as fully as possible on the matter?

*Answer:—*

"No. However, Cabinet has decided that the Public Service Board should make an examination of the question of the Queensland Government's recognising previous service with the Commonwealth Government for long service leave purposes."

PRESS REPORT ON I.R.A. ORGANISATION,  
TOWNSVILLE

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to an article in the *Sunday Sun* of September 23, wherein it was stated that there is a strong I.R.A. organisation based at Townsville?

(2) Has this organisation been investigated by the police and, if so, will he inform the House fully on the matter?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) "Yes. Matters such as this receive constant police surveillance. I do not propose disclosing the result of any investigation on matters of public security."

CONTROL OF PRICES

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

Further to my request for the resuscitation of the Office of the Prices Commission and the establishment of a Prices Justification Tribunal and his reply that the inflationary situation in Brisbane was the fault of the Commonwealth Labor Government—

(1) Is he aware that it was announced recently that R. M. Gow and Co. Ltd., food and detergent manufacturer, lifted its group net profit by 19.9 per cent. to a record \$179,974 in the year to June 30, and, similarly, Provincial Traders Pty. Ltd. lifted its group net profit by \$426,831 or 42.3 per cent.?

(2) As it is apparent that the profits of many firms involved in food and domestic lines are at an all-time high, what action has been taken by him to eliminate profiteering?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) "As one might expect the Honourable Member automatically considers the favourable trading results of two vigorous companies as 'profiteering'. While the Federal Government ignores the basic causes of inflation it would be foolishness to shackle companies which make a valuable contribution to the economy with artificial restraints. If the Honourable Member needs proof that price control is not a panacea for all economic ills he should consult his colleagues in South Australia, where it has proved an ineffectual weapon against inflation."

LAND-USE SURVEY, NORTH STRADBROKE  
ISLAND

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

(1) Has any land-use survey been carried out on North Stradbroke Island and, if so, when was it made and by whom?

(2) If there has been a survey, is it complete and, if so, will the report be made public?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) "I would refer the Honourable Member to the report entitled 'Survey of Major Islands of Moreton Bay, 1972' which was laid upon the Table of this House on March 6, 1973. Also I might add that copies of the Report are available to interested persons at \$10 per copy from the Co-ordinator-General's Department."

ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS FOR  
ENROLMENT, UNIVERSITY FACULTIES

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

(1) What is the expected enrolment in 1974 for each faculty in (a) the University of Queensland, (b) the Griffith University and (c) the James Cook University of North Queensland?

(2) If applications for enrolment exceed available places, what principles will be followed in selecting successful applicants?

Answers:—

(1) "(a) The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Queensland advises that the university has not yet prepared an estimate of expected new enrolments in each faculty or course for 1974. However, as a result of the abolition of fees, the effects of the 'Radford' system of assessment, the greater attractiveness and convenience of new courses introduced as a part of the semester system, the larger proportion of able women enrolling each year and additional higher degree and second degree students, a very substantial increase in new and total enrolments is expected in 1974. (b) The Vice-Chancellor of the Griffith University advises that, while the university will not enrol undergraduate students until 1975, a small number of post-graduate students, probably less than ten, may be enrolled in 1974. (c) The James Cook University of North Queensland advises that it has not prepared firm estimates of new student enrolments for each faculty in 1974. Because of the Radford program in secondary schools, more flexible matriculation provisions, the decisions of the Commonwealth Government to abolish tuition fees and to provide financial assistance to all students on a means tested basis and the success of recently introduced masters degree programs, an increase in student numbers is anticipated."

(2) "(a) First year quotas at present apply only in the degree courses in Architecture (50 places) and Veterinary Science (100 places); any matriculated Queensland student will be able to enrol in any other course. If it is necessary to choose among qualified entrants in Architecture and Veterinary Science, selection will be on the basis of scores on twenty semester subjects. If students are tied for the last place, account will be taken of scores in compulsory subjects or, if necessary, of the results of an interview. Nine of the places in Veterinary Science will be available to interstate and overseas candidates. (b) No quotas will apply at the Griffith University next year. (c) The James Cook University of North Queensland has never had occasion to apply quotas and it is not expected that the necessity will arise in 1974

ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS FOR  
ENROLMENT, COLLEGES OF  
ADVANCED EDUCATION

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

(1) What is the expected enrolment in 1974 for each of the colleges of advanced education, including teachers' colleges?

(2) If applications for enrolment exceed available places, what principles will be followed in selecting successful applicants?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "The Honourable Member no doubt realises that it is not possible to give a simple or direct reply to his Question. For one thing he has not indicated whether he is seeking information about tertiary course enrolments only or both tertiary and sub-tertiary enrolments. At present, colleges of advanced education enrol both types of students. Approved tertiary courses are supported by both Commonwealth and State funds. It is understood that from 1974 these courses will be fully supported by the Commonwealth. Sub-tertiary courses, however, are financed solely by State funds. The Third Report of the Australian Commission on Advanced Education and the Commission's Report on Teacher Education both contain some information about expected enrolments in tertiary courses at colleges in each State. These estimates were, however, compiled prior to the decision to abolish fees in tertiary education and to introduce a new student assistance scheme. In view of the developing situation it is clearly not possible to give, with any degree of confidence, an indication of the likely effect of the measures on enrolments in 1974. A great deal obviously depends on the extent of funds the Commonwealth actually provides. There have been suggestions that funds additional to those granted in the 1973-75 triennial allocations may be forthcoming. In passing I should probably remind the Honourable Member of his statement in the House on 8 March when he said he thought the Federal Minister recognised that the abolition of fees in all tertiary institutions would not mean a great influx of new students into those institutions. The second part of the Question refers to the principles likely to be followed by colleges in selecting successful applicants in the event of applications for enrolments exceeding available places. If the Federal Minister's judgment as interpreted by the Honourable Member is accurate, this situation is clearly unlikely to arise. If it does arise individual College Councils will, in exercising their powers under the Act, be required to determine policies. Being highly responsible and competent bodies, these Councils no doubt will implement just and equitable procedures. The Board of Advanced

Education, moreover, in performing its co-ordinating functions will, I am sure, offer appropriate guidance."

NEW PREMISES FOR WORKS DEPARTMENT, TOOWOOMBA; USE OF PRESENT SITE

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

What are the details of the new premises for the Works Department in Toowoomba and what is the future of the existing site in Hume Street?

*Answer:—*

"A two storey office block of reinforced concrete and brick construction is presently being erected on the existing depot site of the Department of Works at Toowoomba. This building will provide new accommodation for the staff of the Department's District Architect and District Supervisor of Works at that centre. No decision has yet been made on the future development of the Hume Street site of the present office accommodation."

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH CONTROL OF WORKING CONDITIONS

**Mr. LANE:** I ask the Acting Premier: Has he seen the announcement by the Prime Minister in today's Press that his current referendum proposals include the seeking of wide Federal power over all working conditions, and that this would include conditions of small contractors engaged in the distribution of milk and newspapers and of contractors working in the building industry? If so, will he indicate what effect this would have on quelling the individual initiative of small businessmen who, on their own initiative, strive to better their position through contract work?

**Sir GORDON CHALK:** I think it would be true to say that the Prime Minister of Australia is somewhat referendum happy. We all know that last week he made an approach to his own caucus with a view to having a referendum on a particular issue, and that he was defeated on this point. If the newspaper report is correct—and I have no reason to believe that it is not—the decision was reached yesterday to hold two referendums, one on prices and the other on incomes. Again, in this morning's Press the Prime Minister is reported as supporting a referendum to obtain Commonwealth control of working conditions. If the Press report is correct in its reference to milkmen, newsagents and others, it is a clear indication of the Prime Minister's determination to carry out his threat to get at the incomes of private contractors and other little men who work for themselves and do not employ labour.

A referendum on incomes would be a very wide one. If carried, it would mean that the Prime Minister, or his Government, would ultimately be able to control over-award and overtime payments.

**Mr. R. Jones:** You supported it.

**Sir GORDON CHALK:** A situation will arise where, with Federal control of working conditions, the present Queensland arbitration system, as well as its Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Commission, will no longer exist.

The honourable member for Cairns interjected that I supported a referendum. He is laughing like a jackass, but he will soon be aware of the true situation. He knows only too well that, if the proposed referendum is held and carried, the Federal Government will assume control of working conditions.

**Mr. R. Jones** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. R. Jones** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! When I call for order I expect the honourable member for Cairns to take notice of my call.

**Mr. R. Jones:** I thought you were calling the Acting Premier to order.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** It is a matter not of what the honourable member thinks but of what I think. He will take notice of my calls to order.

**Sir GORDON CHALK:** In reply to the honourable member's interjection that I supported the referendum, I remind him that at all times I have indicated my willingness to talk over with the Prime Minister and the other State Premiers the matter of referendums in relation to both prices and wages. But there is a vast difference between referendums on those two matters and the Prime Minister's attempt to hoodwink the people of Australia by referring to incomes. I would not support either referendum unless certain other factors that contribute to inflation were also included in them.

My answers to the honourable member's questions are: Yes, I have read the Press article referred to; and I can see that the Prime Minister is endeavouring to get at the little fellow who earns his own living and is responsible to no-one else.

SURVEY OF COMMUNITY PROGRAMMES AND NEEDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE

**Mr. LANE:** I ask the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Welfare Services: Has he read the report in this morning's "Courier-Mail" of an announcement by the Federal Minister for Tourism and Recreation (Mr. Stewart) that he has ordered a nation-wide survey to be conducted to ascertain what young people need in community programmes and facilities? Further, has it been announced that this survey will be carried out in

consultation with the respective State Ministers for Sport and Welfare Services? Finally, will there be any wasteful duplication of effort in this matter on the part of the Federal Government?

**Mr. HERBERT:** As is usual with most Federal Government moves, I first learned about this matter from a report in the Press. Many Government departments also gain such information only through the Press. After reading the article carefully, I concluded that this was just another of the numerous committees set up by the Commonwealth Government. I might say that we in this State have been seriously concerned lately about the number of committees wandering round the State and taking up the time of senior officers by asking them quite elementary questions. It seems to me that, to date, the only beneficiaries of the activities of these committees have been the luxury hotels and the airlines, which are doing very good business as a result. It is remarkable how many of these committees felt it necessary to go to North Queensland in the winter months, and I suppose they will visit Tasmania during the summer.

The survey in question will not cut across the State's interests. We have already made decisions in this particular field and are channelling finance and technical assistance to those areas where the need is greatest. We are not simply moseying around the countryside asking questions, the answers to which will be pigeon-holed and completely forgotten in the years that lie ahead.

#### FINANCE FOR BLUE NURSING SERVICE

**Dr. EDWARDS:** I ask the Acting Premier: In view of the address delivered by the Commonwealth Minister for Social Security (Mr. Hayden) to the annual meeting of the Blue Nursing Service held in Brisbane, will he inform the House of the correct position as outlined briefly by him in his Press statement last night? Would it be true to say that the statement released by Mr. Hayden indicates, as did the \$10,000,000 error in mathematical calculation admitted by Mr. Hayden recently, that a geographical error has been made, and that it is the Federal Government, not the State Government, that is depriving home nursing services of funds?

**Sir GORDON CHALK:** I read the statement attributed yesterday morning to Mr. Hayden in relation to the allegation that this State had lost \$1,500,000 because it had not provided the amount of money for the Blue Nursing Service that the Commonwealth was prepared to match.

I want to make the position quite clear. It is not a question of the Commonwealth providing a particular amount. From its available funds, the State has to decide that a certain sum of money will be made available for the Blue Nursing Service and the

Commonwealth will match that amount, dollar for dollar. The amount that can be provided by the State is limited by the money available to it for general purposes.

There is nothing whatever to prevent the Commonwealth from allocating additional funds to the Blue Nursing Service, if it so desires. That is the point that must be driven home. The State has stretched its finances to the limit, and has endeavoured to allocate sufficient funds to enable organisations such as the Blue Nursing Service to carry on. I am becoming sick and tired of Mr. Hayden's opportunism in this direction. In fact, we are "Blue Poles" apart. The Commonwealth can find \$1,300,000 to purchase the painting "Blue Poles", but money to assist Queensland or organisations of this type is not available.

#### PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

##### INITIATION

**Hon. A. M. HODGES** (Gympie—Minister for Works and Housing): 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 Professional Engineers Act of 1929 in certain particulars."

Motion agreed to.

#### INSPECTION OF MACHINERY ACT AMENDMENT BILL

##### INITIATION

**Hon. F. A. CAMPBELL** (Aspley—Minister for Development and Industrial Affairs): 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 Inspection of Machinery Act 1951-1971 in certain particulars."

Motion agreed to.

#### PAY-ROLL TAX ACT AMENDMENT BILL

##### THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Sir Gordon Chalk, read a third time.

#### ACTS REPEAL BILL

##### THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Sir Gordon Chalk, read a third time.

#### PUBLIC CURATOR ACT AMENDMENT BILL

##### THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Sir Gordon Chalk, read a third time.

## SUPREME COURT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

### THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Sir Gordon Chalk, read a third time.

## THE CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT BILL

### THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Sir Gordon Chalk, read a third time.

## APPEAL COSTS FUND BILL

### THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Sir Gordon Chalk, read a third time.

## EDUCATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

### THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Sir Alan Fletcher, read a third time.

## GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY ACT AMENDMENT BILL

### THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Sir Alan Fletcher, read a third time.

## JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY OF NORTH QUEENSLAND ACT AMENDMENT BILL

### THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Sir Alan Fletcher, read a third time.

## MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

### JAPANESE FINANCIAL AID TO WOOL INDUSTRY

Mr. AIKEN (Warrego) (12.10 p.m.): Unfortunately for the people of Queensland, the Labor Party has been out of office in this State for 16 years. In the past few years, people have been driven from their farms, from their homes and businesses, and out of their minds, by the sheer inability of the present Government to cope with the rural recession.

The miracle of rural recovery brings no credit to the Premier of this State or to the Government—the Premier who professes to be a leader and to possess Treasury qualifications, or the Government which, by its very lack of interest, served notice on agricultural interests that they had “had it”. Queensland wool-growers, in particular, will be shocked to learn that Japan has had a buoyant wool market for the past six years. This information was released by Mr. Ken Clarke, the newly appointed secretary of the International Wool Secretariat, in “The Sydney

Morning Herald” on Saturday, 28 July this year. How were we in Queensland ever to know that Japan had a buoyant wool market when we lack open government, as well as communication with those trading countries with which we do business?

Today we find that the Japanese wool interests are anxious to discuss with Queensland growers the future of the wool industry and to lend money generously to ensure the production of Queensland wool and an even flow to the market. Had we known in Queensland six years ago the wonderful information that Japanese wool-spinners were prepared to use the money that, apparently, is now so freely available for the aid of wool-growers, honourable members can imagine what that would have meant to the wool industry of two years ago. In the hideous days when prices were far below the cost of production, what a difference that information would have made to the people who have been hunted off their properties and lost their homes and businesses.

The Country-Liberal Government is responsible for that very fact, and I should like to remind honourable members opposite that they were the ones who wanted a private air service to Kingaroy for the Premier and who, despite the pleas of the Labor Party and the industries concerned, refused to establish overseas trade centres. The Premier was quoted as saying that it would cost \$80,000 to set up a trade centre in Japan and that, at that time, Queensland could not afford \$80,000. Only two weeks later the Government decided that it could afford to provide a private air service to Kingaroy for the Premier.

Having in mind the very important fact that Japan, as Queensland's major customer for merino wool, plays a vital role in the State's economy, I ask what steps the Government has taken to enter into discussions with Japanese wool-spinners on the future of this State in the world of wool. It should be remembered that this offer has come from Japan, which obviously is concerned about future wool supplies. If the Queensland Government has been interested, why have honourable members not been told about that fact in this Parliament? Is the matter so unimportant, as it has been in the past, to this mining-oriented, non-rural-thinking Government?

This Government has been guilty of a gross injustice in ignoring the State's primary industries. In their greatest hour of need this Government was no Government at all to the people so obviously distressed. Now the Government has a chance to rehabilitate itself, at least in the eyes of wool men, by showing the concern and interest that are warranted. What has the Government done about the Japanese proposals? Nothing! The Government's attitude is typical of its approach to all rural matters.

The Japanese offer is a fantastic opportunity for Queensland to explore completely the woollen industry of our major wool customer and to lay down for years ahead a relationship of understanding, with guide-lines for wool profitability and industry viability that could only be of benefit to this State. Look at the position we were in only two years ago because of the Government's lack of interest. We now have a situation hitherto completely unknown where a customer country offers advice and finance to an industry historically famous for its instability in not having a permanent price structure. The Government ignores that opportunity. Unfortunately for Queensland, because of the aloofness of our Premier and his Government—that was amply demonstrated in Japan the other day when the "anti-Prime Minister" of Australia had plenty to say against Australia and nothing for Queensland, and nothing about the problems of our wool industry—there has never been any close collusion between wool-growers and the principal users (the Japanese mill men and wool-handlers) or any understanding of how overseas wool was handled after it reached the shipping wharf.

I trained myself years ago as a sheep and wool classer. I trained with Japanese students. I wonder how many of this Government's leading officers have trained in Japan. Why, for so long, has this Government failed—"failed" is a familiar word to this Government—to realise that Japan knows everything that is to be known about the Queensland wool-producing industry? It is very apparent, according to Mr. Ken Clarke, that we know nothing about Japanese wool-development techniques.

What has this Government done about creating a favourable climate of understanding and a desire to gain knowledge of Japanese wants and requirements, not only in the field of wool but also in other fields of primary-industry production? Where are our trade centres, which are so necessary? Are they in the minds of Government members? Are they in the future or will they never eventuate? Where are our trade centres to track production from the farm gate to the eventual user and to inform our producers of consumer trends and desires? We must maintain public relations with premier customers such as Japan, or somebody else will.

Knowing that the Japanese are a proud race, and probably the most cunning traders in the world today, I should say that they have humbled themselves in confessing their anxiety about the future supplies of our wool.

(Time expired).

PROPOSED MULTI-PURPOSE PARK AND RECREATION RESERVE, MT. COOT-THA—MT. NEBO AREA

Mr. LICKISS (Mt. Coot-tha) (12.20 p.m.): The matter of public interest that I wish to raise this morning is of very great interest to

the South-east Queensland complex generally, and more particularly to the citizens of Brisbane, Ipswich, the Moreton Shire and the Pine Shire. I refer to the concept of a multi-purpose park and recreation reserve comprising somewhere between 30,000 and 40,000 acres, lying generally west and north-west of the Mt. Coot-tha Reserve and including that reserve.

This land falls in the major part within the Greater Brisbane area, partially within the Pine Shire and partially within the Moreton Shire.

At the outset, let me say that this proposal is very strongly supported by all my Liberal Party colleagues, who have devoted a great deal of time and consideration to the matter. Let me also say that there is sufficient land in this area, without resorting to the resumption of any private land, to provide a multi-purpose park which, under proper management, will be a tremendous asset to the region now, and for posterity as well.

The status of the land in question is variable. Presently it is held under a reserve vested in the Brisbane City Council, freehold land of which the Brisbane City Council is the registered proprietor, and land set aside and reserved for public purposes such as State forests and water catchment.

Because of the complicated status of the land and its several uses, it would be difficult indeed—and even inadvisable—to declare the area an environmental park. I suggest, therefore, that special legislation would be desirable and necessary to set aside this very valuable area for the enjoyment of the public and also to provide for its planning, development and management. It is true that much of the area is State forest and I can see no conflict of interest if the limited forestry operations were to continue under sound management. Apart from providing a source of raw material, which is a scarce commodity in this area and in Queensland generally, it would also provide a safety factor for people using the area.

In addition, it will provide for the retention of the forests in perpetuity. The area is rich in flora and fauna, which should not only be protected but preserved, too. It will be necessary to protect the water-catchment areas. However, the magnitude of the area, well located, as it is, in close proximity to the capital city—it is approximately 3½ miles from the G.P.O. at its nearest point—would provide a tremendous facility and tourist attraction for the citizens of Brisbane and its environs. This, in fact, could be one of the first applications of regional planning in determining a regional strategy. It is capable of being integrated with local strategic planning concepts for development, both inside the metropolitan area and also within the Pine and Moreton Shires.

If we turn to the priorities of the future, with the obvious provision of increased leisure hours for our people, it is important

that the matter of recreation, the preservation of areas of natural environment and the ability of and provision for people to relax with nature, should be placed high on the Government's priority list. I therefore suggest that this proposal, which I know is already acceptable to many sections of the community, is one that should be given early consideration by our Government.

Let me say at this point that I think the matter could be handled in two distinct stages. First, I recommend that an inter-departmental committee comprising a representative of each of the Co-ordinator-General's Department, the Lands Department, the Forestry Department and the Department of Irrigation and Water Supply, with appropriate local government representation, be set up to determine the potential and the ways and means of making this project a fait accompli and to submit such recommendations as may be thought fit on planning, development and management, as well as the type of legislation best suited for this purpose.

Stage two, I suggest, would be the constitution of a board of trustees representing the State Government, local government and the public generally which would be vested with authority for the planning, development and management of what cannot but be a tremendous asset and a major planning concept in the development of the South-east Queensland area. It cannot be stressed too often or too strongly that sound planning must not only refer to present needs but must also give vital consideration to the future. This is a project in planning that will fulfil that need.

Land is a very scarce commodity. The Liberal members of this Parliament have recognised the ready availability of the area in question, which is strategically placed close to the heart of this city and is of such a character as to provide relaxation and closeness to nature for its population. We strongly recommend that this matter be given careful consideration by the Government with a view to making the project a reality.

**Mr. Davis:** You had better get in before the developers do.

**Mr. LICKISS:** We will certainly have to "get in", as the honourable member says, before the Federal Government makes an even bigger mess than it has already made in relation to planning generally. All we hear from members of the Labor Party, in both the Federal and State spheres, are meaningless words. I challenge the honourable member who interjected to disagree with the proposal that, after careful consideration, the Liberal members of this Parliament have put forward as one that will serve the interests of the community and will benefit both this and future generations in South-east Queensland. I commend this proposal to the House, and trust that appropriate action will be taken in due course.

#### GRIFFIN, ANDY'S AND WOOGOOMPAH ISLANDS

**Mr. D'ARCY (Albert) (12.27 p.m.):** I was very pleased to hear the honourable member for Mt. Coot-tha admit just now that land is a scarce commodity. In the very portion of the State to which he has referred, his Government has given away special leases to developers at great cost, financially and otherwise, to the people of Queensland.

**Mr. Armstrong:** That's a lot of rot!

**Mr. D'ARCY:** I shall cite some instances of the giving away of leases to illustrate that what I have claimed is not a lot of rot. In 1969 a special lease of an area of 150 acres on islands near Paradise Point was sold by the Government for \$7,500. Recently it changed hands for the huge sum of \$2,500,000. In selling special leases on the Gold Coast, the Government has revealed its complete lack of knowledge of the area's ecology. The Government as a whole, and particularly the Departments of Lands and of Harbours and Marine, must stand condemned in the eyes of the people of Queensland. Those two departments are reported to have made recommendations in favour of the development of special leases of 150 acres on Andy's and Griffin Islands, as well as a lease of 510 acres on Woogoompah Island.

These islands lie in a prolific fish-breeding area. Even prior to 1969 biologists had warned of the destruction of fish habitats by estuary development. For years the local amateur and professional fishermen have been reaping large harvests of fish, and the older residents of the area claim that it contains the best fishing grounds in South-east Queensland. But, in spite of that, the Government, through the Lands Department, has permitted the areas to be pumped up, thereby destroying not only their recreational value but also their tourist potential.

Future members of the boating fraternity and the public in general should be able to use the Southport Broadwater as a playground. However, they will find the level of the islands has been raised by pumping and the land has been rezoned for regional and urban development. The hundreds of thousands of people who will eventually live in urban areas between Brisbane and the border of New South Wales will not be able to enjoy these recreation areas that are available today simply because the Government failed to shoulder its responsibilities. The Government has a duty to safeguard the heritage of the people of Queensland, but this area, which is part of their heritage, is being ruined and virtually given away to greedy land developers.

On the facts, it is obvious that the Government is allowing the ecology of the area to be destroyed by development, which will mean that it is not available for posterity. It seems that the Government's actions are

premeditated in that it is permitting these leases to continue. The leases granted over Andy's, Griffin and Woogoopah Islands state that the developers must commence work within 12 months. I point out to the Minister for Lands that inquiries from the Department of Harbours and Marine about dredging permits revealed that the company concerned with Griffin and Andy's Islands, according to a memo placed on the file—and goodness knows when that happened—started work a week before the year elapsed. However, I can get statutory declarations from people in the area, including professional fishermen and J.P.'s, that the work did not commence at that time.

I call on the Minister to cancel immediately the Woogoopah lease because it embodies a similar provision. That lease should have been cancelled on the ground that work did not commence within one year of 1 April 1969. Work is commencing now—in 1973—but no previous reclamation work was done in this area. I demand that the Minister cancel special lease No. 32896 held by Broadwater Marina Estates over 510 acres at the north end of Woogoopah Island.

The land covered by the lease over Andy's and Griffin Islands came up recently for rezoning by the Gold Coast City Council. When this lease was granted on 1 April 1969, the Department of Harbours and Marine, which was involved in granting it, according to the Department of Lands, was consulted and agreed to its being granted, saying that it took into account the fact that the Gold Coast City Council fully agreed to the granting of the lease. It is interesting to note that the present mayor of the Gold Coast City Council did not even know that the lease had been granted while he was a member of the council. He claimed, in front of five Labor Parliamentarians of this House, that it was granted by a Labor Government! It is important to remember that the lease was granted on 1 April 1969. On 6 June 1969, scarcely two months later, the Gold Coast City Council, when examining its action plan for this area, passed this resolution—

“Minor islands, including Griffin, Ephraim and Crab, mudflats and swamps should be protected from development to preserve their indigenous wildlife and fisheries value.”

It is strange that the same council, within almost two months of recommending a lease (according to the Government) could pass a resolution saying that the islands should be protected for their value to the area.

The council is now faced with a bill for compensation. A fortnight ago the council had on its agenda an item referring to this special lease, saying that it was granted by the Government on 1 April 1969 for 15 years and that at the end of 15 years the company could purchase the area, in fee simple, for \$50 an acre. The land, according

to a letter from a purchasing company, is now worth more than \$2,500,000, or about \$20,000 an acre. This very area is now coming up for rezoning. The council had sufficient foresight in the intervening period to make sure that it was zoned as “Public open space”. In other words, although the Government intended to ruin the area, it is at least to be preserved for use by the people in the area. What has happened is that the company has submitted a case for rezoning. It is attempting to bamboozle the council with a lot of figures, which are possibly false. They are being flaunted in front of the council, indicating that an amount of \$2,500,000 is involved.

This requires an investigation by the Minister for Local Government and Electricity into the council's handling of this rezoning application. The area has never been zoned as anything but “public open space”. Yet Coastal Reclamations, the company which holds the lease, is demanding, under the threat of blackmail, that the area be rezoned. In a letter to the council, the company states—

“They alternatively advised that we could make a claim for compensation for injurious affection under Local Government Act. As we would expect such compensation to exceed two million dollars and do not expect that the Council could afford such an amount for park land in this area, we hereby apply for rezoning of this land to ‘Residential Medium Density’.”

That is outright blackmail of the Gold Coast City Council. The company is saying, “You can't afford it so let us build houses all over it and establish waterfront industry on it.” While it is zoned as public open space, it cannot be worth \$2,500,000.

The chairman of the Health Committee of the Gold Coast City Council has said in both the Press and the council that he is not willing to risk going to court on this issue. What a statement for him to make! This Parliament has a responsibility to ensure that councils and local authorities have the necessary powers to act honourably and without intimidation.

Will the Minister for Local Government consider the appointment of some officers of his department to investigate all the dealings and aspects involved in the matter of Andy's Island and Griffin Island? Will he examine the proposal to rezone these two Broadwater islands and the threat that, if the council makes a decision not to the satisfaction of the applicant, he will sue the council for loss of possible capital gain?

The chairman of the Health Committee is reported as saying that the islands would have been better left as they were. Yet he is endeavouring to justify rezoning, which will increase the value of this 150-acre site

from \$7,500 to \$2,500,000. As I have said, he has stated that he is not willing to run the risk of going to court.

(Time expired.)

COMMUNIST PARTY BROCHURE DEPICTING  
WESTERN FREEWAY, BRISBANE

**Hon. R. E. CAMM** (Whitsunday—Minister for Mines and Main Roads) (12.38 p.m.): I rise to express the concern I share with the honourable member for Ithaca about the brochure issued by the North-west Branch of the Communist Party of Australia to show the route of the Western Freeway. Because of his question today, I know how interested he is in all the details set out in the brochure.

Some years ago the Government decided that, because of traffic congestion in some parts of Brisbane and the anticipated traffic growth, some investigation had to be made into upgrading the road system and increasing the number of crossings over the Brisbane River. As a result, a survey was made by Wilbur Smith and Associates. Various maps and plans were submitted to the Government.

The Government agreed to a modified version of Stage I in the recommendations by Wilbur Smith, and that is as far as the Government has gone. It is true that suggested route lines were superimposed on aerial photographs of Brisbane. They traversed residential areas, with their streets and houses. People have become very concerned that their homes will be affected by the building of a particular freeway at some time in the future. The Main Roads Department has been quick to inform them that at present we have only lines on a map and that an engineering survey has to be carried out. Affected residents will be given ample notice before the final alignments are established and construction by the Main Roads Department is commenced.

This Communist Party brochure regenerates fear in the minds of people in this part of Brisbane. The information shown on the map is very misleading especially in the case of the Western Freeway, and many people are being needlessly disturbed. Several inquiries have been received, and the degree of concern is very marked. An arterial upgrading was shown in this general area by the Brisbane Transportation Study, but not a freeway. I repeat that what was shown was an arterial upgrading.

The recommendations in respect of the western road have never been adopted by the Government, and I doubt if any Government would ever agree to the route outlined in the brochure. In the case of the North-west Freeway as outlined in this brochure, investigation and planning is taking place, but the location shown is grossly misleading over at least 30 per cent of the route. Before any decision is made to proceed with the construction of a road

in this locality, ample notice, by way of a brochure, will be given by the Main Roads Department.

The charge made in the brochure of "Government reticence" could be answered by pointing to the effects of premature announcement, such as those that are being created by this document. The department recognises the problems associated with the effects of freeways, and, by careful planning, design and construction, does everything reasonably possible to minimise those that are harmful. It cannot hope to solve transport problems overnight. A policy committee has been formed comprising the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, the Minister for Transport, the Commissioner for Transport, the Commissioner of Main Roads, and myself as Minister for Main Roads. This committee meets regularly and considers the recommendations made by a technical committee consisting of technical officers of the Main Roads Department and the Brisbane City Council, and by a transport committee consisting of officers of the Transport Department and the Brisbane City Council.

Freeways form a vital part of a transport system, including public transport, which must be implemented in an orderly way having regard to available funds. The major embarrassment will occur when transportation of people and goods becomes so congested and costly that new facilities will be demanded at what will then be prohibitive expense. It should be realised that freeways are used by working-class people just as much as by others, and that the road transport industry, which provides substantial employment, will rely on them for cheaper operating costs, and greater competitiveness with other forms of goods transport. In a number of cases, the matters raised in responsible representations to the department have brought about some change in freeway location and design.

The Commonwealth Bureau of Roads did not in fact recommend that no further freeways be built; rather it recommended that new proposals be reconsidered before work commenced. The planning of freeways is integrated with comprehensive land-use planning. This was the basis of the original Brisbane Transportation Study, as it was in subsequent reviews and updating studies. Many alternatives have to be examined before a location for a freeway is found that is suitable from environmental, social and transportation view-points. Brisbane's planned freeway system is not a system on the scale of overseas plans, but a minimum system, and it will operate as part of a total system of all modes of transport. Not only is market value paid for properties resumed, but allowances for other consequential losses are made. These should permit the affected owner to obtain a comparable dwelling. Should difficulty be experienced in obtaining houses at comparable prices, the Government has made loans available to some

categories of persons so that they can bridge the gap. The department is not aware that persons who have actually had their claims settled are a source of complaints on the amount of compensation.

Protest groups have created this issue almost entirely on their own, and have caused distress to persons who have yet to negotiate with the department. Arrangements have been made on a number of occasions for tenants to be given priority consideration by the Queensland Housing Commission.

The Main Roads Department has sought to rent properties it has purchased to avoid premature reduction in the total amount of housing available. There is never a shortage of persons desiring to rent the large pool of houses.

When construction is imminent, the houses are quickly demolished and the site prepared for construction. During construction, every effort is made to avoid disruption to nearby residents and to urban streets.

Contrary to the claims of the brochure, the department is spending about \$300,000 to restore playing fields in Ekibin Reserve and Esher Street. It is the department's policy to provide replacement facilities, and this has been adopted in the case of the freeways in question.

Freeways cater for the movement of goods by commercial vehicles, and not only for private commuters. A freeway must also be looked at in the light of the service it provides to the region and to interstate traffic. To regard freeways only as commuter facilities is far too narrow an outlook. It should be pointed out that job opportunities are widely dispersed, particularly in blue-collar industries, and that employees will be relying on freeways to get to their jobs. Public transport cannot hope to service adequately this wide spread of employment locations.

Again, it is not the department's experience that there is large-scale dissatisfaction with amounts of compensation among people with whom settlement has been reached. Residents' action groups which are genuinely concerned with the prospects of a freeway are welcome to discuss their fears with the department through their local member. Genuine concern will be given full consideration. It is doubtful, however, if the feelings of the group producing this brochure or of the squatters at present occupying houses in Brisbane amount to genuine concern for people displaced; rather they are political in nature.

The department is willing to make persons available to discuss its freeway programme, and any specific inquiries are also welcome. It is hoped that those concerned persons will seek the advice of the department and not continue to worry about the possibilities raised by the brochure.

To sum up, the brochure "New Freeways Menace Our Suburbs" of the North-west Branch of the Communist Party is completely misleading and has disturbed a large number of people needlessly. The brochure indicates that the authors are completely ignorant of the role of freeways and the actions being taken to date to implement the freeway system in Brisbane. It also indicates a complete lack of knowledge on their part of the recent report of the Commonwealth Bureau of Roads, and a complete lack of understanding of the attitude adopted by the Main Roads Department, in co-operation with the Brisbane City Council, towards not only planning of freeways but also the people affected.

It should be pointed out that in this brochure, for the first time, the Brisbane Freeway Protest Compensation Committee and the Communist Party are associated in the open in misleading the people of Brisbane.

(Time expired.)

#### PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES, ROCKHAMPTON

**Mr. YEWDALE** (Rockhampton North) (12.48 p.m.): I enter this debate to raise a question of great interest to the community—health. In the field of health facilities and medical services, a great deal needs to be done throughout the State. There is a definite requirement for the modernisation of hospitals and for the development of community health services and preventive health programmes. Despite what the Minister for Health continues to tell the people of Queensland about health facilities, medical services, etc., all services in Queensland must be updated as a matter of urgency. Facilities at public hospitals are overcrowded, doctors are in very short supply, and dental services must be increased greatly.

Let me describe what is happening in Rockhampton. Dental fillings, according to an answer given by the Minister in the House, are on a 12 to 23 months' waiting list. That means that children, in particular, who have to use the services provided by the dental clinic at the Rockhampton Base Hospital are now waiting from 12 to 23 months for that service. Further, the hospital has no psychiatric treatment. Consequently, anyone requiring psychiatric treatment is expected to travel to Brisbane or, alternatively, to attend the private surgery of the one and only psychiatrist in Rockhampton. The Minister confirmed that statement in answer to a question asked by me in the House yesterday.

I believe that the formula relative to the need for psychiatrists in the community is based on the fact that about one psychiatrist is needed for every six general practitioners. In fact, there are 18 G.P.'s practising in Rockhampton, but only one psychiatrist. On those figures, at least two more psychiatrists are needed in Rockhampton; more importantly, one is needed to give psychiatric service at the Rockhampton Base Hospital.

Psychiatric illness is so distinct from other types of illness that it is vitally important that proper treatment be given at the correct time instead of being deferred because of the unavailability of qualified psychiatrists. I do not know now what the Minister or the Health Department has done to obtain a service of this type for the Rockhampton Base Hospital, but I implore the Minister to make every effort to have a psychiatrist employed at the hospital.

One other particularly acute area in health services lies in the shortage of nursing sisters available to cater for the schools in the community. In some instances, even in the large provincial areas, children are seeing a nurse only once every three years—if they are lucky. That statement can be backed up by evidence from the principals of schools in the area.

With the national A.L.P. Government making available grants totalling \$250,000, in 1973-74 finance will be forthcoming for Queensland towards site acquisitions and the planning of a further hospital in Brisbane. Under the States Grant (Nursing Homes) Act, for capital costs of approved nursing homes on a matched dollar-for-dollar basis with the States, Queensland will receive \$146,000 in 1973-74. Following the acceptance of the first report of the Hospital and Health Services Commission, provision has been made for \$17,500,000 to be made available for such programmes. Estimated grants for community health facilities for Queensland in 1973-74, with recurrent expenditure and capital combined, reach a figure of \$2,300,000.

Let us look briefly at the allocation by the Federal Labor Government for dental care. With the concurrence of the State Governments, the A.L.P. Federal Government will provide financial support in the following manner:—

1. The total capital cost of providing additional training and accommodation facilities for dental therapists;
2. The total operating costs of training all dental therapists, including their remuneration while training;
3. The total capital cost of building and equipping school dental clinics and of providing mobile units where needed; and
4. Three-quarters of the operational costs of providing the services in the clinics.

The Queensland Government has agreed to participate in the scheme, and each State in the Commonwealth will be assessed when specific proposals are submitted. I stress the point that in this instance the Queensland Government has agreed. Apparently it is one of the few things proposed by the Federal Government to which it has agreed. This is such a lucrative offer from the Federal Government that the State Government did not have much option but to agree

if it did not want to stir up public opinion against it. This is the first time in some 23 years that this type of assistance has been forthcoming from a Federal Government. Previous Federal Governments have made no offer that would anywhere near match this type of assistance.

At this stage I should like to raise a matter relating to a community need in my own electorate of North Rockhampton. The present situation is that there are in Rockhampton three private hospitals and the Rockhampton Base Hospital, all situated on the south side of the city. In addition, in that part of the city there are a Q.A.T.B. centre and a number of old people's homes, including "Eventide". My call is for the early planning and subsequent establishment of a community health centre in North Rockhampton. I believe this provision is entirely justified as the population of North Rockhampton exceeds that of Rockhampton South, and no hospitals or health services operate in the area. Such a health centre would provide—

1. Personnel providing primary health and welfare services in a neighbourhood;
2. Organisations providing or arranging services of various types as determined by the needs in the area;
3. Specific facilities such as sheltered workshops and a day centre, which would include personnel providing services to people in need of such services;
4. Personal welfare services, health education and environmental health activity; and
5. Dental and mental health rehabilitation, family planning and, where necessary, adequate follow-up programmes.

It is quite obvious, not only in my own area but throughout the various areas of the State, that public hospitals are in a chaotic condition, particularly in regard to the availability of medical services in out-patient clinics. I have personally observed the situation in the Rockhampton Base Hospital out-patients' area, and have discussed the matter with the hospital superintendent. He agrees that the system is completely out-moded and inadequate, and that something should be done urgently to rectify the position. I refer in particular to old people who travel some distance from the city to the base hospital only to find that they have to sit there for hours on end waiting for service. On occasions it is necessary for them to return the next day because they have not been able to consult their doctors on the first visit.

As I pointed out earlier, doctors qualified to provide psychiatric treatment are in short supply. At the present time in Rockhampton there is only one practising psychiatrist. He was at one time servicing the hospital on a

part-time basis, but that practice was discontinued some time ago. Yesterday the Minister indicated that the doctor has now agreed to return for one session to handle these patients. There is one ward in the hospital to cater for psychiatric patients. Before the psychiatrist agreed to return to the hospital, patients had to wait a certain time before being transferred to Brisbane for psychiatric treatment.

The area of Central Queensland served by the Rockhampton Base Hospital is very large indeed. Honourable members will agree that the hinterland and the coal-mining areas contain thousands of people, more and more of whom are suffering from some type of nervous disorder and are thus in need of psychiatric treatment. The present situation is entirely unacceptable in a city the size of Rockhampton and an area the size of Central Queensland.

Personally, I do not know how psychiatrists can be induced to come to a centre such as Rockhampton. I believe that the department is at present advertising for a psychiatrist. The one practising private psychiatrist has a full book in his private practice. Apparently, in an effort to overcome the serious situation existing there, he has been induced to return to the hospital. I commend him for going back, because it is a situation about which most people in the area are very concerned. A personal friend of mine is very concerned about his wife, who is in need of psychiatric treatment and who, in recent weeks, has not been able to get it at the base hospital. Apart from that, the lack of services at the dental clinic at the base hospital is such that, as the Minister indicated yesterday, there is a waiting list of some 12 to 23 months for fillings and other dental attention.

This situation has to be overcome. The Minister should look at the situation in both the psychiatric and dental areas, and also at the very important aspect of nursing sisters attending the schools. I know that in one school particularly the children have not seen a nursing sister for three years. This could be substantiated by the school principal who informed me of the situation.

If this service could be supplied to the children at schools it would assist in avoiding the backlog of children in need of dental and other services as they proceed through their school years. If these troubles are detected early, they can be rectified. This would accordingly reduce the backlog of children requiring certain types of treatment. I call on the Minister to give serious consideration to the establishment of a community health centre in the electorate of North Rockhampton, and also to relieving the shortage of specialists in the area to cater for such a large and widely spread population as we have in Central Queensland.

The House adjourned at 12.58 p.m.