

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 10 OCTOBER 1973

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

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table, and ordered to be printed:—

Reports—

Comptroller-General of Prisons, for the year 1972–73.

Builders' Registration Board, for the period 10 March 1972 to 30 June 1973.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Orders in Council under—

Medical Act 1939–1973.

City of Brisbane Act 1924–1972.

Regulations under—

Health Act 1937–1973.

Apprenticeship Act 1964–1972.

Statement of Income and Expenditure and Balance Sheet of the Coal Mine Workers' Pensions Fund for the year 1972–73.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE**NOISE NUISANCE FROM NIGHT OPERATION OF HEAVY MACHINERY AND VEHICLES**

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

(1) Has he recently received complaints concerning the noise emanating from compressors, concrete trucks and other machinery, some of which are operating as early as 4 a.m.?

(2) As there are a number of firms which have a blatant and arrogant disregard for the feeling, safety and well-being of citizens, what safeguards and corrective action may be taken by aggrieved persons to obtain relief from these nuisances?

Answers:—

(1) "No."

(2) "A number of local authorities have made by-laws dealing with noise nuisances and persons affected could make representations to their local authorities in the matter. It could also be that they would have a civil remedy but this is a matter which they would need to discuss with their legal advisers."

DOCUMENT LODGMENTS AND SPECIAL FEE,
TITLES OFFICE

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

(1) How many documents of all types were lodged in the Titles Offices at Brisbane, Rockhampton and Townsville in each of the months of July, August and September in 1972 and 1973?

(2) When was the special fee on certain transfer documents introduced into the Titles Office, what was its purpose and what are the details?

(3) Does the special fee still apply and, if so, what were the amounts collected during 1966-67 and 1972-73?

Answers:—

(1)—

“—	July	August	September
BRISBANE—			
1972	18,799	19,939	19,173
1973	30,994	25,256	27,419
ROCKHAMPTON—			
1972	955	1,036	989
1973	1,280	1,485	1,432
TOWNSVILLE—			
1972	2,750	2,860	2,877
1973	4,029	3,479	3,805

(2) “The special fee was introduced on November 1, 1956. Its purpose was presumably for extra revenue by a levy on transfers of lands of higher value. Extract from Schedule of Fees is as follows:— ‘Where the value of land and improvements passing under any Memorandum of Transfer exceeds \$20,000, a special fee of \$10 for every \$10,000 or part thereof by which such value exceeds \$20,000 shall be payable in addition to the above entry and memorial fees.’”

(3) “The special fee still applies. The information requested is not available.”

RENEWAL OF MOTOR VEHICLE DRIVERS’
LICENCES, METROPOLITAN AREA

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

May a Brisbane motorist, whose driver’s licence has expired or is about to expire, call at any metropolitan police station to have it renewed?

Answer:—

“A Brisbane motorist may renew his driver’s license at the police station in the police division in which he usually resides or is employed within one month prior to the expiry date. Where a license has expired for a greater period than 12 months, application may be made only at one of the three Driver License Testing Centres where the applicant must pass all tests as prescribed by the Traffic Regulations.”

INQUIRY INTO ALLOTMENT OF SURRENDERED LAND, CORINDA, UANDA AND RAINSBY HOLDINGS; MARIE DOWNS HOLDING

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

(1) Further to my recent Question in regard to the allocation of additional land areas in the Aramac district, if the 25,163 acres of property known as “Marie Downs”, with all its disadvantages, is regarded as a living area, why are adjoining properties, which already enjoy an advantage in sheep capacity, receiving additional areas which, by amalgamation, will give each an area of between 50,000 and 100,000 acres?

(2) As Commissioner Imhoff is sufficiently capable and experienced to realise that any other land held by Mr. and Mrs. Schulz was more in the nature of a liability than an asset and as the foregoing must appear grossly anomalous even to the least prejudiced of observers, why have the owners of “Marie Downs” been so discriminated against?

(3) Did his Department in the last few months issue any letter, directive or statement to the Director of Stock Routes in regard to the depasturing of stock in the Jabiru Lane, which bisects this area and, if so, what are the particulars?

(4) If there was such a directive, was it in accordance with the legislation and regulations dealing with stock routes and, if not, what was the reason for such a departure?

Answers:—

(1) “Marie Downs is situated within the Barcaldine Land Agent’s District. The approved living area standard for that Land Agent’s District extends up to 12,500 sheep. The District Land Commissioner’s assessment of the carrying capacity of the lands held by the applicant for the additional area, together with the land held by Mr. Schulz’s wife, exceeded 14,000 sheep. The applicant was therefore not competent to apply for an additional area and according to law was not eligible to receive the offer of an additional area from the Corinda-Uanda-Rainsby lands. In fact, the applicant showed that he was actually running at the time in excess of 14,000 sheep equivalent on the lands held by the applicant which exceeds the maximum approved living area standard. In effect, therefore, the information submitted to me by the applicant and the District Land Commissioner ruled out any possibility of granting assistance to these people by way of the grant of an additional area. I have checked back into the carrying capacities of the blocks held by the successful applicants for additional areas and I find that the carrying capacities of the

blocks held by them are substantially less than the carrying capacity of the lands then held by J. J., J. A., and E. Schulz."

(2) "My administration is not based on discrimination and in fact I find the inuendo most offensive. I and my Commission share the Honourable Member's confidence in the District Land Commissioner and in fact my decision in this case is in full accord with the recommendation of those officers. As stated in my Answer to (1), the living area standard for the region extends up to 12,500 sheep and the papers submitted by the applicant, as verified by the District Land Commissioner, showed that the carrying capacity of the lands held and the stock actually carried on those lands exceeded that number. Consideration of applications for the grant of an additional area must conform to law which prescribes that an applicant who holds a living area is not eligible to receive an offer of the grant, of an additional area. As stated previously, the information submitted to me by the applicant and the District Land Commissioner rendered the application ineligible according to law."

(3 and 4) "No."

PAROLE OF PRISONERS

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

- (1) How many persons were paroled during 1972-73?
- (2) How many parole orders were cancelled and how many were suspended?
- (3) How many persons successfully completed their parole during 1972-73?

Answers:—

- (1) "135."
- (2) "29 cancellations; 7 suspensions."
- (3) "59."

BUILDING PROGRAMME, MACKAY BASE HOSPITAL

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

- (1) Has Stage 1 of the reconstruction of the Mackay Base Hospital been completed, what has been the delay and when will the new building be ready for occupancy?
- (2) Has the planning for Stage 2 been completed? If so, when will tenders be called and, if not, what is causing the delay?
- (3) In view of the rapid development of the Mackay district in the last few years and the large increase in bed occupancy at the hospital, will he upgrade the status of the hospital?

Answers:—

(1) "The Manager of the Mackay Hospitals Board has advised that the new maternity ward and the new operating theatres at the Mackay Hospital have recently been completed. The Board anticipates that the Maternity Ward will be occupied on October 22, 1973, and that the operating theatres will be utilised in the near future."

(2) "Schematic plans for the proposed second stage development are presently under review. Invitation of tenders will be dependent on the time taken in the preparation of working drawings and specifications after an approved sketch plan has been prepared and also upon the availability of loan finance."

(3) "An application by the Mackay Hospitals Board for an increased classification for the Manager is at present receiving consideration."

HARBOUR DUES AND PILOTAGE CHARGES, HAY POINT

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

- (1) What amount of harbour dues has been paid into the Harbour Dues Fund by the operators at Hay Point since the commencement of operations?
- (2) What amount of money has been received by the Harbours and Marine Department from pilotage and other associated charges?
- (3) What proportion of these receipts has been used in conjunction with the Central Queensland Coal Associates Agreement Act and what proportion has been put into Consolidated Revenue?

Answers:—

- (1) "From inception to June 30, 1973, harbour dues collected have amounted to \$360,568."
- (2) "Pilotage and conservancy charges collected under the Marine Act to June 30, 1973, amounted to \$342,965."
- (3) "All harbour dues collected have been paid to a trust fund and used in accordance with the provisions of the Central Queensland Coal Associates Agreement Act. All pilotage and conservancy dues collected under the Marine Act have been paid to Consolidated Revenue Fund. This is the practice in all Queensland ports."

ODOUR FROM SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS

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

- (1) Is he aware that the odour emanating from sewage treatment plants in Queensland is causing considerable concern to local authorities and the public?

(2) Is he aware that, apart from the age of the sewage reaching sewage treatment works, part of the problem arises from the standard trickling-filter system which is extensively used throughout Queensland?

(3) Is he aware that in the United States of America a major world-wide chemical organisation, which is represented in Queensland, has devised a method of covering these trickling filters by using a reinforced latex modified cement plastic foam to form a dome, which is strong enough to withstand extremely high winds, has no moving parts to replace, is not affected by moisture, rot or erosion and is not in need of constant repainting, and that this has been responsible for the almost complete removal of odours from the sewage treatment plants where it has been used?

(4) Will he have this new form of cover investigated to see if it could be used in Queensland conditions, with a view to overcoming this problem at sewage treatment plants?

Answers:—

(1) "I am aware that certain sewage treatment plants in Queensland have been the subject of complaint by citizens to the local authority in their area regarding odours."

(2) "A trickling filter system will release odours to the atmosphere, especially if sewage is stale and septic. I am informed however, that filters are not the only source of odour in the treatment of sewage. Open sedimentation tanks, channels, areas subject to agitation such as inlet chambers and changes of direction in channels and overflow weirs can also release odorous gases from the sewage."

(3) "Covering filters to contain odours is not a new proposition. It needs however to be accompanied by a forced ventilation system to remove the gases and reduce humidity, so that the distributor equipment is protected from corrosion. Access to the distributor for daily maintenance is also a problem with covers."

(4) "Yes, I will have the suggestion examined. I advise that the Department of Local Government is very anxious that odour problems at certain treatment plants in Queensland be overcome. It has encouraged Councils to make every effort to avoid septicity in sewage delivered to the plants, which is the basic cause of odorous treatment. In some cases this is being achieved by chlorination at the sewage pump stations. Experimentation with aeration of sewage in pressure mains is also being done in several local authority sewerage systems. This has proved successful in a number of cases where sufficient air has been introduced. Even where the air has been insufficient some reduction in odour volume has been achieved. In new plants where proximity

to development cannot be avoided, activated sludge treatment is being encouraged to reduce the risk of odour. Even then other sites of possible odour generation, as mentioned earlier, still require attention and in two new designs special covering of inlet works, forced ventilation and odour absorbing devices have been included. (Gold Coast at Elanora and Redcliffe treatment augmentation)."

DOOR-TO-DOOR AND STREET COLLECTIONS, CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS ACT

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

(1) How many permits for door-to-door collections and street collections were issued to charities registered under the Charitable Institutions Act in 1972-73 and in the previous year?

(2) How many charities and community-purpose organisations are registered at present?

Answers:—

(1) "Door to door collections—50 in 1971-72 and 102 in 1972-73. Street collections—105 in 1971-72 and 282 in 1972-73."

(2) "At October 9, 1973, 608 charities were registered and 2,480 community purposes sanctioned."

SITE FOR STATE HIGH SCHOOL, GOODNA

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

Further to my Questions of March 10 and October 14, 1970, and October 27, 1971, regarding the construction of a high school at Goodna—

(1) Has the purchase of the land at Queen Street been finalised?

(2) When will a high school be established?

Answers:—

(1) "The acquisition of land has not yet been finalised. Negotiations by the Land Administration Commission are proceeding."

(2) "The establishment of a high school at Goodna has not been included in the Works Program for 1973-74 and consideration has not yet been given to the program for 1974-75."

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS ON BUNDAMBA CREEK BRIDGE—BLUNDER ROAD SECTION, CUNNINGHAM HIGHWAY

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

(1) How many traffic accidents have been recorded on the Cunningham Highway between Bundamba Creek Bridge,

Bundamba, and the intersection of the highway with Blunder Road at Oxley, (a) during 1972 and (b) during 1973 to date?

(2) How many fatalities occurred as a result of the accidents during those periods?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "During the calendar year 1972, 399 accidents are recorded, including six accidents in which six persons were killed. For the period January 1, 1973 to October 8, 1973, 207 accidents are recorded, including five accidents in which seven persons were killed."

LODGMENTS OF BUILDING UNIT PLANS,
TITLES OFFICE

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

(1) How many building unit plans were lodged with the Titles Office during the last financial year?

(2) How many were lodged at (a) Brisbane and (b) Townsville?

(3) Regarding the plans lodged at the Brisbane office, approximately what percentage relates to Brisbane and what percentage to the North Coast and the Gold Coast?

Answers:—

(1) "230."

(2) "Brisbane, 230; Townsville, nil."

(3) "43.5 per cent., Brisbane; 6.5 per cent., North Coast (including Redcliffe); 50 per cent., Gold Coast."

PLANS FOR DEVELOPMENT, FORMER
WOOLLOONGABBA RAILWAY YARDS

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

What plans are in hand or contemplated for the development of that area of Woolloongabba, formerly known as the Railway Yards, now that the freeway project in that area is completed?

Answer:—

"Present proposals envisage the re-establishment of the Government Printing Office on a part of the site at a later date. However, in the meantime, the future use of the area will be re-examined when the expressway contractor's camp is removed from its location."

ALLOCATIONS FOR ADULT EDUCATION

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

(1) How much money was allocated for adult education in 1971-72 and 1972-73?

(2) Will additional funds be made available and, if so, what amount will be allocated for trade union education?

Answers:—

(1) "1971-72, \$307,289; 1972-73, \$370,241."

(2) "Yes—\$74,236. Whilst trade union education is not seen as a function of the Board of Adult Education, trade unions are informed of the courses available at Adult Education Centres and their members are free to, and encouraged, to enrol in any course which is of interest and value to them. They are also at liberty to make suggestions regarding courses and lectures which they consider would be of value to them and their families and also to the general public. There is no definite allocation of funds to specific areas of instruction or interest but funds are directed to those areas where there is a demonstrable need and demand."

KINCHANT DAM, ETON IRRIGATION
SCHEME

Mr. Newbery, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Conservation,—

As the Commonwealth Government has agreed to subsidise the construction of the Kinchant Dam at Eton following a request by the Queensland Government three years ago and as the Queensland Government has included funds in this year's Budget towards the Eton Irrigation Scheme—

(1) What mill areas or parts thereof in the Mackay region will receive water?

(2) How many farms will get supply, at what estimated cost per acre foot and in what quantity?

(3) At what date will construction start?

(4) At what date will the scheme be in operation?

(5) Where will the construction camp be sited?

Answers:—

(1) "The Eton Irrigation Scheme as originally envisaged provided for supply to 13,645 acres of cane land on 132 existing farms assigned to the North Eton, Marian, Pleystowe and Racecourse Sugar Mills."

(2) "In addition to the 132 farms above the scheme also provided for supply to an additional 5,700 acres of sugar (when extra assignments become available) and pastures. The possibility of extending the scheme to supply more existing farms by reducing the supply to new areas is currently being investigated. Until such time as these proposals are submitted to the farmers concerned it is not possible to be precise as to the number of farms which will finally get supply. The charge for

water supplied through the channel system will be \$8 per acre foot and the basic allocation will be 1.2 acre feet per acre of gross assignment (equivalent to 18 inches per acre on 80 per cent. of gross assignment)."

(3) "It is anticipated that a start will be made on the construction camp for Kinchant Dam early in 1974 and that construction of the dam itself would commence in the latter half of 1974."

(4) "No firm date for the completion of the scheme and the commencement of operation can be given. Completion of the scheme will depend upon the availability of State funds for the construction of Mirani Weir, pumping station, rising main and diversion channel to Kinchant Dam and irrigation and ancillary works. At this stage it is unlikely that any such funds will be available for at least two years."

(5) "No firm decision on the site for the construction camp has yet been taken. Investigation of this aspect is currently in hand."

NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT, PUBLIC CURATOR OFFICE SERVICES

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to an advertisement appearing in provincial newspapers extolling the services of the Public Curator, the statements therein being not strictly in accordance with fact?

(2) If so, in certain intestate estates, particularly where illegitimacy of the children is an issue, can there be a forfeiture of the estate to the Crown?

(3) Why is this advertisement, which is an encouragement to people to die without having made a will, being inserted when it should have stressed the delay, inconvenience, expense and distress resulting from a person dying intestate?

(4) In view of the tremendously good job done by the Public Curator, who cannot die or abscond, will he endeavour to have the services of that department displayed in simple, straightforward terms?

Answers:—

(1) "I am aware of the advertisement to which the Honourable Member refers."

(2 and 3) "The advertisement is intended to dispel a view which appears to be still fairly widely held that if a person dies intestate his estate automatically is forfeited to the Crown and his relatives receive no benefit. It is true that in certain circumstances which occur very rarely when an illegitimate person dies intestate without leaving relatives entitled under the law of succession to receive his estate such estate escheats to

the Crown. However, the advertisement is designed to concentrate on the general effect of a person dying intestate and not to deal with rare exceptions. I do not agree that the advertisement would encourage persons to die without making a will."

(4) "The advertisement is the first of a series in which the public will be informed of the services available from the Public Curator office."

WEEKLY PAYMENT OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION AT S.G.I.O. OFFICES

Mr. Aikens, pursuant to notice, asked The Treasurer,—

Could the practice of paying weekly compensation cheques over the counter on Friday afternoons be reverted to, as the posting of these cheques, many of which are not received by the worker until the following Tuesday, imposes hardship and distress?

Answer:—

"The system currently operating in relation to the payment of weekly workers' compensation is that cheques due for payment on the Friday of each week are despatched from the office on the previous Wednesday. It is felt that this ensures the cheques are in the hands of the claimant earlier than if collected at the counter on Friday afternoon. I will be prepared to investigate any delays in receipt of cheques should the Honourable Member bring such to my notice."

SOUTH-EAST PERIPHERAL BUFFER ZONE, BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL

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

(1) Is he aware that land proposed to be incorporated in the South-Eastern Peripheral Buffer Zone comprises some land within the Leslie Harrison Dam catchment area and some land outside that area?

(2) Is the land within the catchment area and zoned non-urban now further restricted in use in that it may not be subdivided into ten-acre parcels, which is permissible under the City of Brisbane Town Planning Act and ordinances?

(3) What is the purpose of including land in the buffer zone which is outside the catchment area when it is purported that the purpose of the buffer zone is to protect the catchment area of the dam?

(4) Will he consider taking such action as is necessary to cause the creation and implementation of a buffer zone to be treated as a major amendment to a Town Plan, in this instance the City of Brisbane Town Plan, as is provided for in the

legislation for (a) the major revision of the Town Plan at five-yearly intervals; or (b) the provisions required for an application for re-zoning of land as presently required?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "The subdivision of land in the City of Brisbane is subject to the approval of the Brisbane City Council pursuant to ordinances made by the council and approved by the Governor in Council under the *City of Brisbane Town Planning Act 1964-1971*. These ordinances provide that, with certain exceptions, the minimum area of any proposed allotment in the non-urban zone is 10 acres. The resolution passed by the council on December 5, 1972, which dealt with the use and development of land in the defined buffer area stated that, as a matter of policy, it is not proposed to allow any subdivision for residential or other purposes other than exchanges of land or reductions in the number of parcels or for some use which in the opinion of the council would not cause any pollution of the dam. Any person who applies to the council for approval to subdivide land and is dissatisfied with the council's decision on such application would have a right of appeal to The Local Government Court under the Act."

(3) "I have written to the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor on two occasions regarding this matter but to date have not received the information sought."

(4) "The creation of the buffer area does not involve an amendment of the Brisbane Town Plan within the meaning of the Act. I am, however, considering an amendment of the Act that would require a proposal for the creation of such areas to be advertised for objections by interested persons."

POLICE AT MISS OPAL QUEST JUDGING

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

(1) Is he aware that on October 5 a police vehicle, commonly known as the "paddy waggon", was parked in front of OPAL House in Ann Street, Brisbane, during the judging of the Miss OPAL Quest and that another police vehicle was parked in the vicinity and at least seven police officers were standing outside the building?

(2) Is he also aware that two of these officers entered the building and walked among the crowd for a short period during the judging?

(3) As there was no disturbance of any kind, what was the reason for the presence of so many police and the "paddy waggon" outside OPAL House?

(4) Is it normal practice for police to park the "paddy waggon" outside buildings whenever quests such as Miss Queensland or Miss Australia are being held?

Answers:—

(1) "I am advised that a police vehicle commonly known as a 'paddy waggon' stopped in Ann Street in front of St. John's Cathedral at about 8.45 p.m. on October 5, 1973, for the purpose of a routine check with two police officers who had been engaged by the organisers of the Miss OPAL quest to perform special duty from 8 p.m. to 12 midnight at and in the vicinity of OPAL House. The vehicle departed at about 8.46 p.m. The police officers report that they are unaware of any other police vehicle stopping in the vicinity of OPAL House at about the time referred to."

(2) "The police officers on special duty state they were not within the building of OPAL House during the course of the judging of the Miss OPAL quest. However, they did, during the course of the evening, at the invitation of Senator Bonner, enter the building in company with the Senator to view an elderly male aborigine playing a didgeridoo and also a display of dancing by Torres Strait Island dancers. They viewed this display from a passageway allowing access to the dance floor."

(3 and 4) "It is routine police patrol activity for members engaged on motor patrol to visit police officers engaged on special duty at places of entertainment irrespective of the reason for the function."

REFUND OF WAGERS ON DISQUALIFIED PLACED RACEHORSES

Mr. Davis, pursuant to notice, asked The Treasurer,—

As a horse which was first past the post at a recent Victorian race meeting was subsequently disqualified because the weight carried was found to be four kilograms less than the original handicapped weight and consequently all who had backed the horse lost their wagers, will he, in the light of this unfortunate occurrence, consider amending the Racing and Betting Act to provide that a placed horse found to have carried insufficient weight be declared a non-starter and that all wagers be refunded, thereby assisting to prevent any malpractice and at the same time helping to protect the punter who, after all, is the backbone of racing?

Answer:—

"At first glance the suggestion has real merit, however, if I legislate to declare the disqualified horse a non-starter and refund wagers on it. It would also be necessary to prescribe that winning bets

on that race be adjusted by a scale of deductions determined by the stewards—this would cause consternation among the winning punters. You are probably aware that these happenings are extremely rare occurrences. In all the circumstances I do not consider any change is necessary.”

BEAUTIFICATION OF TOWNSVILLE RAILWAY
AREA FOR PACIFIC TRAVEL ASSOCIATION
WORKSHOP

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

Is he aware that the Pacific Travel Association Workshop, which will comprise travel agents from all the countries bordering on the Pacific and Indian Oceans, will be held in Townsville in March, 1975? If so, will he give consideration to a beautification scheme for the railway area in the central city so that trees and shrubs will be at an attractive stage of development when these officials arrive?

Answer:—

“Following a visit to Townsville towards the end of 1972, I arranged for beautification of the railway land contiguous to Flinders Street to be undertaken. There have been discussions with the Deputy Chief Engineer and the Curator of Parks, Townsville City Council, in regard to the type of beautification to be adopted. Approval has been given for the acceptance of a quotation for erection of a suitable fence.”

WHITE PAPER ON INFLATION PRECEDING
DEPRESSION

Dr. Scott-Young, pursuant to notice, asked
The Premier,—

(1) As Queensland has been most economically and efficiently managed since the present Treasurer, Sir Gordon Chalk, has had control of the finances of this State, will he instruct his departmental officers to prepare a White Paper in depth on the causes and solution of the marked inflation of the early 1920's which preceded the great depression of the thirties?

(2) If this is possible, will the document be circulated to all Members of this House and forwarded to the Commonwealth Treasurer so that he can learn from it and so not lead the country to financial chaos?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) “I do not think that the exercise would be pertinent in the present situation. Economic theory and practice of today are much more enlightened and experienced than they were in the nineteen-twenties and nineteen-thirties. My one fear is that the Federal Government is not so enlightened and experienced, and may disregard the advice of its economic experts and apply political considerations to its management of the national economy.

The boom of the nineteen-twenties was uncontrolled by the economic tools we now have at our disposal. With subsequent enlightened thinking, which has brought the Australian economy through the Second World War and the rapid development of the nation during the last three decades, there should be no need for a similarly uncontrolled situation in the nineteen-seventies. Neither should we fear a following depression as was experienced in the thirties, provided of course we can instill into the new Federal Government a sense of responsibility in its management of the national economy.”

SOCIAL WORKERS, DEPARTMENT OF
ABORIGINAL AND ISLAND AFFAIRS

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

(1) How many social workers, male and female, are employed by the Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs?

(2) At what towns or communities are they stationed?

(3) How many vacancies exist and have they been advertised? If so, on what dates?

(4) Is a training scheme operating for prospective social workers and, if so, how many are at present receiving training?

Answers:—

(1) “Nil. However, the Honourable Member is informed that the Department has an establishment for eight training officers whose preferred background is a degree in social work and whose duties involve the training of liaison staff.”

(2) “Training officers are unattached but two are stationed at Brisbane and Cairns.”

(3) “Six advertised as recently as June 20, 1973.”

(4) “Training of students for social work degrees is the responsibility of the appropriate University faculty.”

REPAIR OF PORTLAND ROADS WHARF

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

(1) Will he consider repairs to the Portland Roads Wharf to enable it to be used by shipping? If not, what is the intention so far as the existing structure is concerned?

(2) If finance is the reason for closing this wharf to shipping because of needed repairs, has he made any approach to the Commonwealth Government for financial assistance and, if so, with what result?

Answers:—

(1) “No. The estimated cost of necessary repairs is in excess of \$150,000. Notices have been erected on the jetty

declaring it to be derelict and advising the Department will not accept any responsibility for its use."

(2) "The jetty has been closed because it is unsafe and beyond economic repair. No approach has been made to the Commonwealth Government for financial assistance to repair or replace the jetty, the costs of which are estimated at about \$150,000 and \$500,000 respectively. A replacement facility to serve the region has been built at Quintell Beach."

ELECTORAL ENROLMENT OF 18-YEAR-OLDS, ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES AND ISLAND RESERVES

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

(1) What steps have been taken to ensure that 18-year-olds residing in communities or on island reserves are enrolled on the State Electoral Roll and the Commonwealth Roll?

(2) Have any officers been employed to travel through these far distant areas to encourage and assist enrolment?

(3) Has any request been made by the Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs to give some special attention to these areas so far as enrolments are concerned?

Answers:—

(1) "To augment the current publicity programme, a general circular has been prepared by the Principal Electoral Officer for circulation to Chairmen of Island and Community Councils and Managers of Reserves, requesting—(a) their co-operation to publicise the necessity for enrolment on Queensland rolls of the recently qualified 18 to 20 years old group; and (b) their assistance in having claims for enrolment completed and forwarded to the appropriate State Electoral Registrars."

(2) "As on previous occasions, when amendments to the Elections Act have been made prior to a General Election, consideration will be given for officials to visit the various communities and reserves to explain, first hand, the qualifications for enrolment and voting procedures."

(3) "Close liaison exists with the Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs to ensure that special attention is given to enrolments in these areas."

SPRAY ADHESIVES

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

(1) With reference to my Question of August 30 concerning spray adhesives, has any further information been forwarded to him from the Commonwealth Health Department?

(2) Is the danger of contamination common to all spray adhesives or to the one brand only?

(3) What is the name of the brand which is known to be dangerous?

(4) Has there been a satisfactory return of the line under recall?

(5) Are there special precautions which the general public should know about?

Answers:—

"The attention brought to spray adhesives was based on the suggestion by an American doctor that there was a relationship between exposure to these products and birth defects in certain subjects. He based his suggestion on the fact that the parents of deformed babies had used these adhesives in hobbies. The persons involved were two infants, their parents, and four other individuals."

(1) "Since the Honourable Member asked his previous question the Director-General has received advice from the Commonwealth Health Department that the importers of Krylon spray adhesives have been informed of the doubt expressed concerning their product and also that further information was being sought from the United States. The Director-General has asked for the subject to be discussed at the Public Health Advisory Committee meeting of the National Health and Medical Research Council next week."

(2) "As far as is known there has been no incrimination of any particular ingredient in the adhesives but I would point out that all products of this type have very similar formulae."

(3) "The original statement referred to the products of the Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company who manufactured Foil Air spray adhesives and Scotch Brand spray-ment."

(4) "Enquiries indicate that the 3M products are not available in Brisbane shops."

(5) "Until the outcome of the enquiries by the National Health and Medical Research Council are known, no recommendations are being made."

CALOUNDRA HOSPITAL

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

(1) What is the present position regarding the provision of treatment at the Caloundra Hospital?

(2) Is there a medical superintendent in residence?

(3) Are there any other staff shortages and, if so, what are they?

(4) What was the average daily bed occupancy in the public, intermediate and private wards respectively in the six months ended August 31, 1973?

(5) Are the facilities of the private and intermediate wards being used as a private hospital by private practitioners?

(6) What action is being taken to provide full or even adequate hospital facilities for residents of the Caloundra area?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) "The manager of the Maroochy Hospitals Board has advised that a recently appointed medical superintendent is anticipated to commence duty on December 3, 1973. Pending assumption of duty by the appointee, arrangements have been made for outpatients' sessions to be conducted by a private medical practitioner on five days of the week and for any public patient requiring hospitalisation to be admitted to the Nambour Hospital."

(3) "I am advised that, apart from the position of medical superintendent, the board is employing its full approved staff establishment."

(4) "Public wards, 2.47; private and intermediate wards, 7.05."

(5) "The private and intermediate wards at the Caloundra Hospital are being utilised in accordance with normal practice."

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

HOSPITALS INQUIRY BY W. D. SCOTT & Co., PTY. LTD.

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

(1) What are the terms of reference of the inquiry into Queensland hospitals which is being conducted by W. D. Scott and Co.?

(2) Which hospitals are included in the inquiry?

(3) Has the company commenced its inquiries?

(4) Will any interim reports be presented and/or tabled?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) "The firm of W. D. Scott & Co. Pty. Ltd. Management Consultants, has been engaged by the North Brisbane and South Brisbane Hospitals Boards to carry out studies at the Royal Brisbane Hospital complex and at the Princess Alexandra Hospital over the next two years. The object of these studies is to endeavour to raise the overall performance of hospital management and productivity within all departments and help contain costs by developing new outlooks and procedures and introducing flexibility at all management levels. Control of the quality of patient care and efficiency in the area of nursing activity will also be studied."

(3) "Yes."

(4) "Reports will be furnished during the course of the studies for consideration by the respective Hospitals Boards."

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

(1) With reference to the investigation by management consultants into the Royal Brisbane and other hospitals, when will the first report be received?

(2) Will the findings be tabled in the House and printed to allow public scrutiny?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "The management consultants have been engaged by the North Brisbane and South Brisbane Hospitals Boards. Reports will be furnished during the course of the studies to the respective hospitals boards for their consideration and any action deemed necessary. I am not in a position to indicate when the first report will be presented to these boards."

OFFICE HOLDERS, MILL SUPPLIERS' COMMITTEES

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

Is it constitutionally correct for a member of a mill suppliers' committee to hold both the offices of committee secretary and committee deputy-chairman simultaneously?

Answer:—

"Yes. This is constitutionally possible. The secretary of a mill suppliers' committee may be any person appointed by the committee. However, the deputy chairman must be a member of the committee itself."

NATIONAL PARK PROPOSALS, FRASER ISLAND

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

(1) What steps are being taken to ensure that the whole of the area defined in map IV, the schematic plan for Fraser Island, will become a national park?

(2) When will the next additional area be proclaimed as a national park on Fraser Island?

(3) Will the 160 acres of freehold land at Wathumba Creek, which is entirely encircled by national park, be resumed for inclusion in the national park?

Answers:—

(1) "61,300 acres of the area proposed for national park on the schematic plan included in the interdepartmental report on Fraser Island have been dedicated as national park. Action is currently being

taken to secure the consent of this House to the excision of approximately 22,000 acres from the Fraser Island state forest with a view to its addition to the national park. Action to dedicate the remaining area of approximately 20,000 acres shown on the schematic plan as proposed national park awaits the termination of authorities to prospect held over the area. The Department of Forestry will not permit any timber-getting operations on any part of the area proposed for dedication as national park."

(2) "Within a period of two months."

(3) "No. This area, portion 2, parish of Wathumba, has been included in a list of areas being considered for purchase for national park purposes in Queensland. However, it has been given low priority in this regard."

HAMILTON INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

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

(1) What area of land has been allocated for the industrial estate at Hamilton and what is the nature of the land titles?

(2) Have all sites on the estate been allocated and, if so, to whom have they been let and what type of industry is to be established?

(3) Should there be a vacant site available, what conditions apply for obtaining a site?

(4) How many applications are presently held by his Department for land in this estate, how many areas have been held for a period and not utilised and what is the longest period?

(5) Have there been any unsuccessful applicants and, if so, how many and what was the reason for the refusal in each case?

Answers:—

(1) "The Hamilton Crown industrial estate covers an area of approximately 1,100 acres. The land under the administration of the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development comprises some 620 acres. The balance area, being the majority of the land between Curtin Avenue and the Brisbane River, is under the administration of the Department of Harbours and Marine. As with all other Crown industrial estates under the control of the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development, the initial tenure over sites allocated by my Department is a special lease issued under the Land Act. With the exception of those estates located in mining areas the special lease may, upon compliance with the agreed developmental conditions, be converted to either perpetual lease or freehold."

(2) "Dealing with the land under the control of my Department, the only areas not specifically allocated, or provisionally reserved pending the completion of negotiations, are four sites totalling about 14 acres the major part of which is either not serviced or requires substantial filling. As the Honourable Member will appreciate, once an industry has obtained the freehold of a site it is no longer subject to the requirements of my Department. Therefore no register is kept by it of the current occupiers of land at Hamilton other than those who are leasing allotments from the Crown. I would add, for the Honourable Member's information, that more than 150 individual industries are established on the Hamilton Crown industrial estate. These cover a wide range of industry from food processing to the production of diesel electric locomotives."

(3) "To be eligible for the allocation of a site on that section of the estate administered by my Department a project must be either a manufacturing operation or a processing industry and for this purpose assembly on a substantial scale is accepted as manufacturing. All industries are of course required to conform to the ordinances of the Brisbane City Council in relation to zoning and other related matters."

(4) "There are currently six applications being processed by my Department in respect of the allocation of land on the Hamilton industrial estate. These are expected to be finalised shortly. All leases granted in respect of Crown industrial estates provide for staged development. Whilst the precise periods vary according to the particular industry, generally speaking the practice is to allow up to two years for establishment of an approved industry. This as the Honourable Member will appreciate is designed to help particularly the small manufacturer to raise his finance, draw up plans and specifications for his proposed building, invite tenders and have his building constructed. There are of course some areas of land at Hamilton that are not occupied and which are not available at this stage for allocation to industry. This would include an area of approximately 40 acres which could be required in the future for approaches in connection with a possible cross-river bridge. Clearly it would be absurd for the Government to allocate this land to industry with the full knowledge that it could well be required in the space of a few years for public purposes."

(5) "Having regard to the lengthy period the Hamilton estate has been in operation it would be difficult to answer this part of the Honourable Member's Question precisely, but if he has a particular case in mind if he cares to let me have details I will look into the matter."

MILK PRICES PAID BY VENDORS

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

(1) Is he aware that prior to October 1 milk vendors paid 73·6 cents per gallon for bottled milk and 69·6 cents per gallon for bulk milk?

(2) Why are vendors now required to pay 84·62 cents per gallon for bulk milk and bottled milk?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "Alterations to milk prices fixed for all country centres in Queensland generally conform with the pattern of prices and margins for the Brisbane milk district. In its recent deliberations, the Brisbane Milk Board considered it desirable to eliminate the use of cans for the supply of bulk milk as soon as practicable. Accordingly, the gazetted wholesale and retail prices for bulk milk operative from October 1, 1973, include an amount of four cents per gallon with a view to the provision of non-returnable containers for bulk milk. Wholesale vendors in Brisbane have taken steps to have non-returnable containers for bulk milk in use in the near future and pasteurisation factories elsewhere in Queensland will be encouraged to do likewise as soon as possible. The use of non-returnable containers will assist in maintaining a high quality bulk milk and will make the handling of bulk milk much easier for vendors delivering from vehicles, for shops and for bulk milk buyers."

LOW-COST RESIDENTIAL LAND

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

(1) Did he see the findings of the Gallup poll which were published in *The Sunday Mail* of September 9, in which a majority of Queenslanders considered that the Commonwealth Government should have the power to control residential land prices?

(2) In view of the Acting Premier's admission in *The Australian* of September 25 that land prices had got out of hand and young home buyers were suffering, what steps are being taken by the Government to stamp out speculation in land in South-East Queensland?

(3) What attempts are being made by the Government to make available Crown land for residential purposes?

(4) Has he any intention of pursuing his cheap-land programme which was publicised last June, following the rebuff of his commendable scheme by the Premier, or is he content to let the issue rest and the profit harvesting continue?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) "I am in agreement with the opinion of the majority that prices being asked today for residential land are excessive. However I still need to be convinced that the cure for this malady is price control. I still have vivid memories of the fiasco arising out of land sales control as it was administered some years ago by the Australian Labor Party when in office. The issues run much deeper than price control. Prices for serviced lots will not come down until the supply of serviced allotments is sufficient to meet the demand. Price control on land is easy of circumvention and the application of this type of thinking will return us to those times when this type of legislation encouraged people into dishonest practice. I feel that a competitive market is the best method of reducing prices and this will be achieved if the supply of serviced home sites is rapidly expanded. Supply can be improved by reducing the time factor in the town planning field, the preparation and acceptance of engineering designs and specifications, and by expediting processes in title work. This will release for sale many privately serviced lots and will place the real estate industry on a more effective and efficient basis. The supply situation might also be improved if the Government expands its operations both in the Department of Lands and in the Housing Commission. Any expansion in these fields will require the provision of special funds of some magnitude and, as the Honourable Member knows, this is presently the subject of negotiation between the State and Commonwealth Governments. As the problem is common to all States of Australia, and because of national implications, the outcome of negotiations between the State and Commonwealth must be awaited."

GRANTS AND ALLOCATIONS, TEMPERANCE
EDUCATION ACCOUNT

(a) **Mr. Burns**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Education,—

(1) Will he list in detail all items of expenditure from the Temperance Education Account for 1972-73?

(2) What is the present balance of this account?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "I table the information sought by the Honourable Member."

Paper.—Whereupon Sir Alan Fletcher laid upon the Table of the House the information referred to.

(b) **Mr. Burns**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Justice,—

(1) In relation to the grant for temperance education, a health programme in relation to alcoholism and a publicity programme in relation to users of the road, what is the present total grant contributed to (a) the Department of Education Temperance Education Account, (b) the Department of Health and (c) the Department of Transport, by liquor licence fees in the Liquor Act Fund?

(2) As revenues from the Licensing Commission have almost quadrupled since section 47 was inserted in the Liquor Act in 1960, why has not the present allocation of funds for the purposes mentioned under this section been commensurate with the increase?

Answers:—

(1) "The grants made during the 1972-73 financial year were:—(a) \$45,000; (b) \$45,000; and (c) \$30,000. Total \$120,000."

(2) "Sub-section (2A) as originally inserted in the Liquor Act by amending legislation in 1959 provided for payment from the Liquor Act Trust Fund of a maximum of \$60,000 in each year for the purposes stated therein. A new sub-section which was inserted by amending legislation in 1970 provided for payment of a minimum of \$100,000 per annum. Payments made totalled \$100,000 in 1970-71 and \$120,000 in 1971-72. Approval has been given for payments totalling \$135,000 in the current financial year. The grants made have more than doubled since the limitation of \$60,000 per annum was removed and are assessed from time to time in the light of the programmes prepared by each of the participating Departments."

POULTRY INDUSTRY, NORTH QUEENSLAND

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

(1) In view of assurances given during the introduction of legislation concerning quotas on egg production, what protection will be afforded to northern producers and consumers against domination by southern suppliers?

(2) What consideration will be given to northern egg producers who are not in an egg-board area but who have customers to satisfy?

(3) What formula will be adopted to allow northern producers to expand so that they can eventually supply the local demand?

Answers:—

(1) "There is not, nor will there be any question of domination of the Northern or Central Queensland egg industries by

southern suppliers. The Hen Quotas Act makes specific provision for consideration to be given to the requirements of the various regions of the State. The hen quota committee which has just been appointed consists of one representative from North Queensland, one from Central Queensland and two from South Queensland, despite the fact that 85 per cent. of the egg industry in this State is located in South Queensland. The constitution of this committee alone will ensure that adequate consideration is given to the interests of the industry in North Queensland and Central Queensland."

(2) "The application of hen quotas has no relation to whether or not a producer is within or without an Egg Board area. All producers no matter where they live will be given equitable treatment."

(3) "The hen quota committee which has just been set up is currently examining this question and you may rest assured that I will closely examine the recommendations of the committee before introducing regulations governing the allocation of hen quotas."

BUILDERS' REGISTRATION BOARD

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

(1) How many persons were employed by the Builders' Registration Board as at June 30, 1973, in all categories in (a) permanent staff and (b) temporary staff and, of this number, how many were employed as at October 1, 1973?

(2) In view of the credit balance held by the board as at June 30, 1973, will fees be reduced for the 1973-74 financial year?

Answers:—

(1)—

“—	30th June, 1973	1st October, 1973
Permanent Staff—		
Registrar	1	1
Administration Staff—		
Administration Officer	1	1
Clerks	3	3
Typists	5	8
Inspectors	3	5
Temporary Staff—		
Typists	2	1
Total	15	19

(2) "It is not proposed at this juncture to reduce the annual roll fee. The credit balance will be required to establish regional offices and to increase inspectorial staff. Furthermore consideration is being given to the possibility of the Builders' Registration Board assisting with the advancement of Education in the Building Industry in Queensland. The Honourable

Member will appreciate that the credit balance shown as at June 30, 1973, includes a 'once only' registration fee paid by registered builders."

DOCUMENT LODGMENTS, TITLES OFFICE;
IN-SERVICE STAFF TRAINING, PUBLIC
CURATOR OFFICE

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

(1) With regard to his statement in this Assembly on September 12, concerning delays and errors relating to documents lodged at the Titles Office, that additional staff is being appointed for training, will he give details of the type and period of training and the number of staff involved?

(2) Has he received union representations relating to alleged statements by him on in-service training in the Public Curator Office?

(3) Have the representations requested him to state the source of his information, particulars of the specific courses, including the dates on which they were held and the date, time and venue of future in-service training courses so that employees of the Public Curator Office may be informed of this development?

(4) Will he also make the information requested in these representations available to the House?

Answers:—

(1) "The training presently obtaining consists of courses of training lectures for junior officers, supervisors examiners division II, and officers in the distribution section. All lectures are each of approximately one hour's duration and the number of lectures in a course varies with the type of officers involved. In addition on-the-job training is being conducted concurrently with the above, by the supervisors in charge of various sections."

(2) "No."

(3 and 4) "See Answer to (2)."

ERADICATION OF HYACINTH, FITZROY
RIVER; RESEARCH INTO USE AS
FERTILISER OR STOCK FOOD

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

(1) Has a request been made to him to confer with Commonwealth and State Ministers and local authorities to consider ways and means of resolving the hyacinth problem in the Fitzroy River?

(2) Has he been requested, in co-operation with these authorities, to carry out a planned research programme to ascertain (a) the chemical content, (b) the cost of harvesting, (c) the benefits, if any, of using hyacinth in dried form as a

fertiliser or mulch or as a component in a composite stock food and (d) whether it has any effect on the control of plant pests and disease when used as a factor in a properly prepared soil compost?

(3) Has he any evidence presently at hand to establish or otherwise disprove the value of hyacinth as a mulch or fertiliser and, if not, will he consider this request for a planned research programme?

Answers:—

(1) "I have received a copy of a letter from the Capricornia National Park and Wildlife Preservation Association relating to this matter. It is understood that copies of the letter are being sent to all State and Federal Ministers and authorities concerned."

(2) "The letter mentioned raises these matters."

(3) "No, but the evaluation of this proposition would not be a matter falling within the scope of my administration. I might mention that the Rockhampton City Council and Fitzroy and Livingstone Shire Councils recently made a joint submission to the Honourable the Treasurer for financial assistance towards the cost of implementing a scheme to eradicate water hyacinth from the Fitzroy River by aerial and manual spraying, and a subsidy offer was made to these councils on October 2, 1973, subject to certain conditions. This scheme, of course, would be incompatible with any proposal to utilise hyacinth for purposes of stock food or fertiliser. Research of the type suggested would seem to be more appropriate to a situation, if such existed, where growth of water hyacinth was to be encouraged as a product to be harvested on a regular basis, and not to a situation where complete eradication was the objective for the prime purpose of protecting a public water supply."

BIRRALEE CHILDREN'S HOME,
ROCKHAMPTON

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

(1) In view of his statement, as reported in *The Morning Bulletin*, Rockhampton, on June 29, that more than \$300,000 would be spent on rebuilding the Birralee Children's Home in Rockhampton, is he now able to advise when it is anticipated that construction of this proposed complex will begin?

(2) What action has been taken by his Department to improve the existing home in the interim to meet the need for accommodating uncontrollable girls who are committed by the courts?

Answers:—

(1) "The commencement of this complex will not be this financial year."

(2) "A special security room as an addition to the "Birralees" buildings has recently been completed and is now available for use. This will serve to reduce substantially the number of occasions when children, particularly girls, will require to be held in the Rockhampton watchhouse."

FIRE PRECAUTIONS, STATE SCHOOL BUILDINGS

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

Because of the concern and anxiety of parents following the recent school fires in the metropolitan area and further to his Answer to my Question on September 12 regarding a special review of schools and the appropriate action taken—

(1) What is the number of schools where action has been taken?

(2) At which schools have works been carried out?

(3) How many schools still require works to be carried out under the review commenced in July, 1968?

(4) What is the nature of the works carried out to minimise fire risk?

(5) Which schools have a type of fire-alarm system in operation?

Answers:—

(1 to 4) "As previously advised, statistical information of this nature is not readily available and would require considerable time to be spent by departmental officers in searching files of individual schools. As such information, when finally obtained would be solely a statistical record of past actions already undertaken, I do not propose to incur considerable expenditure in obtaining same."

(5) "It is not the practice of the Department to install fire alarm systems in schools. Most fires in schools occur outside normal school hours and the principal of a school adopts a fire warning system, for use during school hours, which he considers appropriate for that particular school."

POLICE MOTOR-DRIVER TRAINING UNIT

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

(1) With reference to his Answer to a Question on August 2 that the police motor-driver training section was temporarily disbanded in December, 1971, has the unit been re-formed and, if so, on what date?

(2) If this unit has not been re-formed, who authorised the lodging of advertisements in newspapers throughout the State which show a photograph of a police driver-training team?

(3) Will he investigate the matter in order to find who was responsible for this false advertising?

Answers:—

(1) "No."

(2 and 3) "Although the police motor driving training unit was disbanded in 1971, it was supplemented by training at the Police Academy, Oxley, carried out by some former members of the unit. This supplementary training is still continuing. Funds have been set aside for rental of a suitable training area and the Commissioner is at present inquiring into driver training overseas. On his return the police motor driving training unit will be remodelled having regard to his observations overseas."

FIRE HYDRANTS, STATE SCHOOL GROUNDS

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

(1) How many State schools have located within the school grounds one or more fire hydrants serviced by at least a three-inch main?

(2) What is the distance between the nearest fire hydrant and (a) the Grovely State School, (b) the Newstead Opportunity School and (c) the Brisbane Central State School?

(3) How many hydrants available were used during the recent fires at those schools?

(4) What is the location of the hydrants and what is the distance from the schools?

Answers:—

(1) "Generally, hydrants are not located within school grounds. A survey of schools connected to a reticulated water supply is now being undertaken by the Department. The information requested is not yet available."

(2) "(a) 40 feet; (b) 100 feet; and (c) 300 feet."

(3) "(a) two; (b) four; and (c) one."

(4) "(a) Dawson Parade, 400 feet; and Madsen Street, Grovely, 400 feet. (b) Agnes Street, 100 feet and 150 feet; and Amy Street, Newstead, 100 feet and 130 feet. (c) Rogers Street, Spring Hill, 300 feet."

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

USE OF LIVE "KILLS" IN TRAINING GREYHOUNDS

Mr. R. JONES: In directing a question to the Acting Premier, I refer him to a report in today's newspaper in which it is stated that an officer of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty in Brisbane yesterday seized 10 rabbits that were being used as live "kills" for greyhounds. Will he, as

Minister in charge of racing, now recommend to the Greyhound Racing Control Board that the strongest possible action, such as suspension or disqualification, be taken against owners and trainers found engaging in this inhuman practice?

Sir GORDON CHALK: I read the account of the incident in this morning's Press. I have already taken action to discuss the matter with the chairman of the Greyhound Racing Control Board, and appropriate action will be taken.

SLAUGHTERING REGULATIONS, COUNTRY CENTRES

Mr. F. P. MOORE: I ask the Acting Minister for Primary Industries: Will he supply honourable members with the regulations and conditions pertaining to slaughter-yards in country centres which apply under the new Act, which have been formulated by the Department of Primary Industries, and which come into force next year?

Mr. CAMM: I remind the honourable member that, upon promulgation, all regulations are tabled in the House.

ADDITIONAL SITTING DAY
SESSIONAL ORDER

Hon. Sir GORDON CHALK (Lockyer—Acting Premier): I move—

“That during this session, unless otherwise ordered, the House will meet for the dispatch of business at 11 o'clock a.m. on Friday in each week, in addition to the days already provided by Sessional Order, and that Government business do take precedence on that day.”

Motion agreed to.

GROUP TITLES BILL
INITIATION

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

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

Motion agreed to.

CENSORSHIP OF FILMS ACT
AMENDMENT BILL

INITIATION

Hon. H. A. McKECHNIE (Carnarvon—Minister for Local Government and Electricity): 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 Censorship of Films Act 1947–1971 in a certain particular.”

Motion agreed to

PICTURE THEATRES AND FILMS ACT
AMENDMENT BILL

INITIATION

Hon. H. A. McKECHNIE (Carnarvon—Minister for Local Government and Electricity): 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 Picture Theatres and Films Act 1946–1971 in certain particulars.”

Motion agreed to.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST
MR. KEVIN CAIRNS

Hon. F. A. CAMPBELL (Aspley—Minister for Development and Industrial Affairs) (12.5 p.m.): In the Matters of Public Interest debate three weeks ago, the honourable member for Archerfield set a new low for slander and inaccuracy. He chose to vilify a former Federal member for Lilley and Federal Housing Minister, Mr. Kevin Cairns, now employed in my department as an economist and adviser.

Generally, the outpourings of the honourable member are regarded as being of little consequence. This is not surprising because of their lack of substance, but, when he reaches a pinnacle in personal abuse in an area which concerns me, I feel I must reply. I suppose the honourable member's character assassination struck a responsive chord in the Queensland Central Executive of the Labor Party, but I feel that, even there, there is an appreciation that abuse is no substitute for constructive argument. The honourable member was not only wrong in what he advanced as facts, but he prostituted the protection of the law that this House offers.

Let me say at the outset that Mr. Cairns is completely entitled, as is every citizen, to comment on the shortcomings of the Federal Labor Government. He is completely free to express his own views, in his own time. My only wonder is that he has not run out of breath, for Kevin Cairns—and here lies the biggest of the honourable member's galaxy of inaccuracies—is employed outside Public Service conditions. I might add that very rarely can a State Government call on the experience of a person who combines both academic and ministerial qualifications in the Federal sphere. I say, without hesitation, that Kevin Cairns has been instrumental in analysing many aspects of Federal-State financial relations, which would have been difficult without intimate association, and in researching platforms for departmental policy. The results have been most beneficial to Queensland.

It is very easy for the honourable member to substitute invective for constructive argument. He knows no alternative. But I know

how Mr. Cairns's quite unusual academic and political qualities have contributed to greater awareness of the deviousness of the Canberra socialists. I do not expect the honourable member either to appreciate or acknowledge this.

What he fears I will do, I am sure, is talk in the same vein as he did. So I will, but only to a very moderate degree, for surely he would not want me to say that restraints should be imposed by the Police Department on public statements by A.L.P. Senate candidate, Dr. Colston; or that Dr. Patterson should not have had publicity about himself and his candidacy for the A.L.P. while an active member of the Federal Public Service; or that Mr. Hayden's staff should not barnstorm around Australia making highly political comments on the national health scheme; or that the Prime Minister's principal private secretary, Mr. Wilenski, should not recently have told an Australian National University gathering that the French nuclear tests were harmless and that the Federal Government campaign against them was largely emotion and hysteria; or that Lord Mayor Jones should not have wanted to sack a draftsman who distributed C.M.O. how-to-vote cards.

It cuts both ways, and it all gets back to the freedoms on which democracy depends, as most people except the honourable member for Archerfield know. The big difference is that, whereas Kevin Cairns, whether employed under the Public Service Act or not—and he is not—apparently is entitled to be abused, any actions, words or attitudes of A.L.P. members within the Public or Civil Service are entitled to be regarded as being beyond reproach. Surely this is the ultimate in hypocrisy.

I refuse to deal at length with the "jobs for the boys" record of the Federal Government. I would exceed my time, so I will give only one illustration. Last December, Norm Foster was defeated in the South Australian seat of Sturt. Subsequently he was appointed by the Federal Government as "industrial troubleshooter". "Stormy Normie", as he is familiarly known, was a former watersider and union official, and he has applied himself so diligently and enthusiastically to his job that in the first nine months of this year strikes cost Australian workers a total of \$37,800,000 in wages!

Finally, I make this point: Kevin Cairns has the necessary qualifications, and he is doing a job of value. He is not circumscribed by the Public Service Act, and is quite entitled to speak his mind.

Mr. K. J. Hooper interjected.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Lickiss): Order! I will not warn the honourable member for Archerfield again. If he continues to try to shout the Minister down, I will deal with him.

Mr. CAMPBELL: As I say, Kevin Cairns is quite entitled to speak his mind. For this he has been accused unjustly by the honourable member for Archerfield, who, in doing so, denigrates his own party. I, this House, and the people generally, are totally unimpressed.

DISMISSAL OF FIREMAN KEOGH BY ROCKHAMPTON FIRE BRIGADE BOARD

Mr. WRIGHT (Rockhampton) (12.11 p.m.): Having heard the views expressed by the Minister for Development and Industrial Affairs on democracy and individual rights, I ask that he remain in the Chamber while I make my speech.

The fight to establish the rights of the individual, economically, socially, politically and industrially, has been very much to the fore in the history of this nation, to such a degree that it would not be exaggerating to say that in the past Australia has led the world in the struggle for human rights.

It is part of the Australian ethos to give the other bloke a fair go. Our whole social system has been built on the right of the individual to obtain justice in any just and worthy cause. Yet, for all this, I have begun to wonder just how valid this Australian characteristic is today.

In August 1970 a dispute arose involving the Rockhampton Fire Brigade Board and members of the United Fire Fighters' Union. The issue has never been resolved but, instead, has been drawn out over a period of three years, to the financial detriment of the 25 firemen involved as well as to the city of Rockhampton. I suppose that many people would have forgotten about the dispute if it had not been for the recent action of the Rockhampton Fire Brigade Board in illegally dismissing the last-remaining member of the U.F.U. at the station, Fireman Dan Keogh.

Whilst I do not intend to regurgitate the history of the original dispute, which arose in 1970, I think it is important to make chronological reference to the specific incident involving Mr. Keogh. On 17 July 1973, A.W.U. members at the Rockhampton Fire Station resolved at a meeting to call on the board to dismiss Fireman Keogh and decided that if the board did not do so they would engage in a sit-down strike. Next, on 3 August a compulsory conference was held in Rockhampton to discuss this resolution. The conference was chaired by Industrial Commissioner Gibson, and the result was that Fireman Keogh was transferred to Yeppoon station. On 15 August Mr. Keogh received a letter from the Rockhampton Fire Brigade Board stating that his services would be terminated as from Friday, 24 August.

On 20 August, before the termination of his services, Mr. Keogh, by complaint and summons, took action against the board complaining that on 15 August 1973 his employer, the Rockhampton Fire Brigade

Board, dismissed him from his employment "by reason of the circumstances that he is a member of an association, namely, the United Fire Fighters' Union (Queensland Branch) that has applied to be registered as an industrial union, contrary to the Acts in such case made and provided."

On 31 August the hearing of the complaint by Industrial Magistrate E. N. Loane, S.M., began, and on 4 October the following decision was handed down by him:—

"I am satisfied that this element of the complaint has been proved to my satisfaction beyond any reasonable doubt.

"I am not satisfied on the balance of probabilities that the defendant board has discharged the onus on it. Accordingly, I am of no other conclusion than that the guilt of the defendant board has been proved to my satisfaction beyond any reasonable doubt."

Subsequently the board was fined \$50 and ordered to pay costs and expenses amounting to \$470.70.

However, although Mr. Keogh enjoyed a legal victory, the industrial magistrate abstained from directing that he be reinstated, apparently because he was not a member of a registered industrial union. So, I ask: has justice been done?

In the evidence given at the hearing, the actions of the board, Chief Officer Eves, and some of the A.W.U. firemen, against Mr. Keogh were shown to be nothing less than inhuman and must turn the stomachs of all decent Australians.

Mr. Loane's decision also reads—

"From the second day of his return to duty after recreation leave in 1970, it was apparent to Keogh that the full impact of the A.W.U. resolution was brought to bear upon him, for from thereon, to the date of his dismissal, Keogh's working life is projected against a backdrop of animosity, hostility, antipathy, vilification, intimidation, abuse, assault to his person and general ostracisation by some more suggestively militant (and I use the term reservedly) members of the firemen personnel."

He continued—

"This treatment meted out to Keogh in my appreciation of the evidence and its acceptance by me was well within the knowledge of officer members of the Brigade, certainly Chief Officer Eves. The Chief Officer was heard to remark, 'I don't blame them. He is a bloody scab.' Clearly to me an indication of the Chief Officer's concurrence with the designed plan of those perpetrating the abuses to goad Keogh into retaliating or taking voluntary action to terminate his services by making his life as a fireman as wholly intolerable as possible."

During these three years, Fireman Keogh has been kicked while bending down rolling hoses and punched while in the confines of

the mess room—all without provocation. He has been spat at, bombarded with balls of paper and tempted verbally to "have a go" and retaliate, which would, of course, have brought about his dismissal. He has been ridiculed and belittled, and his working life has been made a living hell. From a working point of view, A.W.U. employees have refused to ride in a fire appliance with him. He has been given fire drill on his own while the remainder of the employees have been standing about watching. He has been given duties to carry out by himself which, normally, are performed by two men. He has been victimised at every turn. All this has been known to Chief Officer Eves, and his actions have aggravated the issue. To use the words of Industrial Magistrate Loane, "The Board must accept responsibility for these actions."

Mr. Loane leaves no doubt as to his beliefs. He said in his decision, "Keogh was the sole remaining member of the firemen personnel to survive the purge of 1970." He said that there were 12 positive instances of physical and mental violence on Keogh. Mr. Loane further stated—

"This treatment meted out to Keogh in my appreciation of the evidence and its acceptance by me was well within the knowledge of officer members of the Brigade."

Certainly Chief Officer Eves was aware of what he termed the "black ban" and its implications, as imposed on Keogh.

The decision proves that there was written condonation dated 9 September 1970 of this ostracisation, and that Chief Officer Eves failed to take appropriate action against major breaches of discipline.

The Industrial Magistrate asked how a supposedly responsible officer could permit such conduct as that displayed by certain firemen against Keogh. The cases against the board, Chief Officer Eves, and some A.W.U. firemen have been proved beyond any reasonable doubt. They have been guilty of participating in, and condoning, activities against a human being—against an employee and a fellow worker—that can only be described as despicable, depraved and Mafia-like.

Mr. Loane is to be commended for his forthrightness and plain courage in bringing down the decision that he did. But Fireman Keogh has still been dismissed—unjustly and illegally. The matter should not be left there. Dan Keogh should not become simply another industrial casualty.

This Parliament is the supreme body in the State, and it has a responsibility to see that justice is done to all its citizens. This "political ducking" by the Government and the Minister must end. I therefore call on the Minister for Development and Industrial Affairs to dismiss immediately the Rockhampton Fire Brigade Board. It has been incompetent and irresponsible, and its actions and inactions are indefensible. I also call for

the suspension of Chief Officer Eyes. He gave no quarter to Dan Keogh, but two wrongs do not make a right. I believe he should be given an opportunity to disprove the charges laid against him in the industrial magistrate's decision.

Finally, I ask that Fireman Keogh be reinstated. Only then will justice be done in the eyes of all fair-minded Queenslanders.

PRIVATE NURSING HOMES

Mr. LANE (Merthyr) (12.19 p.m.): The matter of public interest I wish to raise is the callous and heartless handling of a delicate and emotional situation by the Commonwealth Department of Social Security, which could have been avoided by sane and reasonable negotiations. I refer to the needless crisis that has arisen over private nursing homes. For many years, these nursing homes have provided very homely situations for many aged people in this country.

Queensland presently has 96 nursing homes with bed accommodation for 3,922 inmates. Australia has a total of 1,215 homes. Those figures indicate a degree of acceptance by the public as well as by aged people and their families of this great facility made available by private enterprise. Approximately 90 per cent of these nursing homes throughout Australia are privately owned, and have beds for more than 36,000 patients. When records were last taken, these homes had attracted an annual subsidy of approximately \$36,000,000. They provide a necessary service, good facilities and care, which can be done only by private enterprise conforming to a strict set of rules and regulations laid down by Government legislation.

There are 11 of these homes in my electorate. At the moment, they are occupied by a frightened population of elderly people who have already been whipped into fear by the fanaticism of the Minister for Social Security (Mr. Hayden) and his socialist department in their plan to socialise all medical services. Mr. Hayden wants to pin numbers on everyone and regiment the public of Australia under a national health scheme which has no concern for people. He is not satisfied with "shaping up" to the medical profession through his manifesto on national health, which was drawn up by two of his economic philosophers. He is now taking on the elderly citizens of this country for a few rounds of sparring.

He has turned the expected happy time of retirement of these people into a battle for survival. They do not know when they will be turfed out of their homes. And they do call them their homes because that is what they are. Many of these people have occupied them for many years, and live there with their friends in happiness and harmony.

The nursing-home proprietors have said that they are prepared to meet all new and necessary or reasonable standards that may be laid down. This is not to say that the

homes are sub-standard at the present time. Many of them have been built with traditional Queensland materials. This in itself does not make them substandard. Most honourable members probably occupy private homes constructed of timber or other traditional Queensland building materials, as I do.

I would be interested to know if the honourable member for Belmont is opposed to further construction in timber and whether he believes that the carpentering trade should be phased out in this State.

Mr. Hayden has conveniently levelled this fact as a need for the closure of these homes. To be consistent, does he advocate that the construction of all private wooden homes in Queensland be abandoned?

The proprietors would meet all additional standards, provided they are given a guarantee on the future of the nursing-home industry. It is the uncertainty as to the future that has caused the trouble. This has caused some homes to close.

In June this year, "The Courier-Mail" reported that six homes had been closed up to that time. The most recent closure of a nursing home was one operated by Mr. Laing at New Farm. When asked why he found it necessary to get out, he said—

"It is a tragedy for our old people.

"We just don't know what is going to happen to them. But the Federal Government has made it completely impossible for us to carry on.

"The Social Services Minister (Mr. Hayden) is trying to blame the State Government for imposing tighter fire precautions on nursing homes.

"This has nothing to do with it. The fixed fees have caused the trouble.

"There are other aspects. For instance, Mr. Hayden might say nursing homes can apply for increases.

"These increases, if they are granted, are too little and they come too late."

They would come too late to save the homes and the future of the elderly people who live in them.

At the beginning of the year, Mr. Hayden lost his fight with the doctors over enforcing his department's policy of determining who did and who did not go into these homes. That was a scandalous example of the dictatorial attitude of this man with his craze for power to implement his socialist schemes. Now he picks on the defenceless, aged people in our community and is bullying them. It is the young, swinging voters whom his party cares for, not the elderly citizens who have built this country and lived to see it crumble under centralist control.

Mr. K. J. Hooper interjected.

Mr. LANE: The honourable member who interjects is, of course, the campaign director for this ranting, socialist Hayden who wishes to destroy the free hospitals system in this

State. We could talk here about the integrity of the honourable member for Archerfield, and one day perhaps we will.

Mr. Hayden has pegged the fees that can be charged in an effort to force private nursing homes out of business, and prevent them from updating their premises. By spreading a degree of uncertainty throughout the nursing home community, he is ensuring that no further homes will be opened or built. Mr. Hayden stated early in his mammoth sales campaign, paid for with taxpayers' money, that there are too many nursing-home beds in Australia. What a way to thin them out—close them down overnight and tip their residents out into the street! Or, as he would desire, tip them into the public hospitals system in this State. Could he not have delayed the spending of \$8,000,000 on the Social Security Department's special computer, or even the \$250,000 that he injected into his public campaign to sell the national health scheme, which obviously is not in the interests of Australians, in order to organise accommodation for these old folk who, after all, deserve a bit more than the paltry \$1.50 handed out in the Federal Budget? Like the rest of us, they are being crippled by the inflationary spiral, and they are being given the "willy-willy" treatment by the centralist-oriented Canberra crowd.

The poor old pensioner now cannot afford to smoke many cigarettes, nor can he have a couple of nips of Scotch in his time of retirement. He certainly will not be able to drive a car. And if he earns a little extra income, he, with all other salary-earning Queenslanders, will for the first time have to pay a tax levy to finance a health scheme that is now in operation, and free, in this State.

Mr. Hayden and his pricey super-sales team will not be able to brainwash Queenslanders as they have members of the Opposition, who merely fall in line behind them because of the power Mr. Hayden wields inside the A.L.P. party machine. I am interested to see that his campaign director has now fled from the Chamber. The people of Queensland know that they will be paying an extra 1.35 per cent of their taxable incomes in the first year of the scheme. But what about following years? Mr. Hayden admits that in one set of his figures there was an error of 10 per cent. His bribe to "buy off" Queensland has ranged from \$20,000,000 to \$50,000,000. No wonder there is no Bill before the Federal Parliament.

The national health scheme is changed every week to satisfy new crises that arise. It is full of holes. The Department of Social Security test public reaction to new points by Press leaks, and, if they receive a favourable reaction, they are "in". The concept of open Government in Canberra is Government by trial and error, through Press leaks. This is because all the A.L.P. policies are full of holes, and empty promises. No wonder

Mr. Hayden's super-salesman up here, the honourable member for Lytton, and his campaign director, the honourable member for Archerfield, do not say too much about the scheme to destroy the private hospitals system in this State.

Back in September of last year Dr. Moss Cass made very plain what he, on behalf of the A.L.P., thought about the private hospitals scheme. He said, as reported in the "Sunday Telegraph" of 18 July last year, "Private hospitals and private nursing homes are irrelevant to the Labor Party's health policy." Now that attitude is being applied by the arch villain in this State, Mr. Bill Hayden, who has the hide, after enjoying a free hospital system in this State, to go to Canberra and plot with the southern socialists to take away Queensland's free hospitals.

It has been left to the State Government to try to calm the situation of chaos created by the thoughtless and impetuous actions of the Social Security bureaucrats. The Minister for Health and officers of the State Health Department are the only positive and enlightened thinkers that we, and the old citizens of Queensland, can be thankful for. When forced into the present intolerable position, they have at least moved to provide bridging accommodation. They have done their best at short notice, and I think that the Minister for Health deserves congratulations for his swift action in announcing that the new Wynnum home for aged people would be opened on 1 October this year. He said that stage I, which was costing \$560,000, would provide accommodation for over 80 aged people.

(Time expired.)

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL, MOUNT ISA MINES LIMITED

Mr. BURNS (Lytton) (12.30 p.m.): It is a pity the honourable member for Merthyr forgot that Senator Anderson, a former Federal Liberal Health Minister, in the 1972 Commonwealth Budget introduced the provisions that created all the financial problems for nursing homes. He said at the time that he could not allow an uncontrolled nursing-home system to continue because some homes were bludging on pensioners, taking from them their full pension, and holding them to ransom.

It also is a pity the honourable member forgot that the fire problem at nursing homes arose because the State Government had refused to take any action relative to fire precautions and had allowed a situation to develop in which old people could have died in those homes.

It is a pity he forgot that Mr. Hayden offered \$1,200,000 to the Queensland Government for assistance to nursing homes, yet the Country-Liberal State Government has done nothing about it for this State.

It is a pity he forgot that a tribunal has been set up to which nursing homes may make application on financial grounds, and that only one home that is to close has made such an application.

However, I did not rise this morning to answer the tripe just delivered by the honourable member for Merthyr. I rise on behalf of many thousands of Queenslanders who have expressed their concern about the need to protect our environment and who have been misled by the number of environmental Acts—the Clean Air Act, the Clean Waters Act, and so on—and the Press statements handed out by Ministers in an effort to suggest that this Country-Liberal Government is interested in the environment. I do not think it is really interested at all.

Citizens who take an active interest in environmental matters have accepted with regret the half-hearted prosecutions against ships and firms that have discharged oil into the rivers and harbours of this State. They were angered when Cabinet overrode air-pollution experts to save millions of dollars for the proprietors of the Greenvale nickel project, even though that Cabinet decision affected adversely the health of the workers there. They were stunned when the Water Quality Regulations were designed to protect the polluters from the public, not the public from the polluters.

Home-owners whose property values, home environment and health have been affected adversely by chimneys spewing foul odours, filth, dust and dirt, have waited patiently for 14 years—from 1959, when Parliament instituted an inquiry, until 1973—for the first prosecution of a firm under the Clean Air Act. Could you imagine their shock, horror, and dismay, Mr. Speaker, when they discovered that a miserable \$50 fine and only \$2.50 costs of court were imposed on the giant multi-million-dollar, foreign-owned and controlled Mount Isa Mines Limited—a \$50 fine on a foreign-controlled company whose net earnings in 1972 were reported to be \$26,000,000! You can imagine, Mr. Speaker, the directors of Mount Isa Mines Limited quivering in fear of the Country-Liberal Government's action to protect the environment when fines can be paid out of petty cash and are less than the cost of a board-room morning tea.

The case was heard not in Brisbane but in Mt. Isa. We had to pay to send Government officers to Mt. Isa although both the company and the Air Pollution Council have their headquarters here in the capital city. It is my view that the case was heard in Mt. Isa to reduce the publicity and to protect Mount Isa Mines Limited, which strongly supports the Country Party and the D.L.P. financially.

This miserable \$50 fine was levied as a result of a breach of section 27 of the Clean Air Act of 1963. Both the 1971-72 and 1970-71 annual reports of the Air Pollution

Council of Queensland make special reference to section 27 of the Clean Air Act, which requires prior approval of new plant. Each report states—

“The real underlying strength of the Clean Air Act undoubtedly lies in this area of prior approval.”

So section 27 is our main hope; yet a prosecution under that section, in which Government-appointed experts place their major hopes, results in only a \$50 fine. The return air fare alone to Mt. Isa is three times the amount of the fine, and costs of court allowed were only a lousy \$2.50. I ask: who is pulling whose leg when Country-Liberal spokesmen say they are “fair dinkum” on pollution and conservation?

This is not the first time that the Government has shown a desire to place the welfare of overseas investors above the welfare of the citizens of Queensland, and I shall make further references to pollution at Mt. Isa to prove my point. Let me take as an example the Mt. Isa Mines Power Station at Mica Creek. According to the last annual report of the Air Pollution Council, this power station will have a smaller chimney-stack height than any listed in the report. It has the lowest efflux velocity of those set out in the report, but it has the highest dust burden. So a Country Party-dominated Government is saying that residents of North-west Queensland will have to put up with conditions worse than those applying at Gladstone, Collinsville, Bulimba ‘B’ or Tennyson Power Stations. Anyone who knew of the problems at Tennyson will be aware of what these citizens will face. The Country Party is not protecting the residents of the North-west; it is condemning them to additional dust and dirt problems.

Let me refer now to a committee set up by Cabinet to examine the environmental aspects of the Mount Isa Mines Limited expansion programme. It is a rather remarkable committee. I cannot find any record of its existence in public statements of Ministers, but I have been able to get hold of a copy of a set of its minutes. It has been suggested that the committee was set up as a result of the very adverse figures for Mt. Isa shown in the last annual report of the Air Pollution Council.

Sulphur dioxide readings at Mt. Isa were clearly above the U.S. standards, which are now becoming accepted in Australia. They were above the U.S. primary standards which, by U.S. Health Department findings, make them capable of affecting human health. Both mean and maximum readings for sulphur dioxide had shown alarming increases in the past 12 months, nearly doubling previous figures, namely, mean 87 to 140, maximum 771 to 1,540. Remember that this U.S.-dominated company would not have been allowed to endanger lives in this manner in the United States. But it was doing so in Mt. Isa.

Mount Isa Mines Limited rang a senior Government Minister disputing these alarming figures, and the Air Pollution Council's senior chemist (Mr. B. R. Thiele) was sent to Mt. Isa to investigate. He reported on his visit to Mt. Isa in late February-early March of this year. Immediately before his visit, Mount Isa Mines Limited operated an instrument that was situated some yards from the machine operated on behalf of the Air Pollution Council. The discrepancy between the figures from these two instruments was alarming. Both instruments and analysis methods were substantially the same, except that Mount Isa Mines Limited used sodium hydroxide in its titrations, although it is laid down in BS 1747, Part 3, that sodium carbonate or sodium borate must be used.

No-one could disagree with the State Government's Director of Water Quality (Mr. Leon Henry), who told the committee that, without implying dishonesty on the part of Mount Isa Mines Limited, a consideration in the matter was whether one could trust any company which itself would be monitoring the emissions for compliance with the ambient standards and responsible for taking remedial action when the standards are exceeded, and he suggested that a bond might be the solution. Mr. Henry noted that adherence to promises by other mining companies with respect to water pollution in many cases had not been satisfactory.

In addition, at the same meeting, Mr. H. Hart, the Acting Director of Air Pollution Control, said he did not believe that Mount Isa Mines Limited had the equipment to effectively measure particulate emissions. In the face of this opposition from the two senior pollution control officers, Mount Isa Mines Limited then proceeded with its demands that the system be altered to suit that company.

This Cabinet-appointed committee was told that Mount Isa Mines Limited had previously refused to comply with the normal application methods after the former Air Pollution Director (Mr. Gilpin) had taken a hard line with the company. But this did not deter the Mines Department representative, supported by the representative of the Department of Industrial Development, from forcing through the March meeting of the committee a motion to allow Mount Isa Mines Limited to again set its own method of application. The voting was four to two, with two abstentions, Dr. M. H. Gabriel, chairman of the Air Pollution Council, and Mr. Hart, Acting Director of Air Pollution, abstaining. Mr. Henry, Director of Water Quality, spoke against the motion.

I submit that this is a matter of major concern. Are companies to be allowed to vary Government procedures to suit themselves? Will all companies, or only Mount Isa Mines Limited, be allowed to monitor their own emissions and be responsible for taking remedial action when standards are exceeded? Are we to accept suggestions that committees are to be set up and be dominated by

company representatives and Government departmental nominees with a vested interest against environmental controls?

For example, on this committee the Mines Department representative seemed interested only in opposing or altering pollution controls. In March he submitted that "the Clean Air Act might be waived in this case." He also suggested changing the period for lead sampling from the world-wide accepted three-day, high-volume basis to a 28-day period, adding that high-volume sampling was unsuitable for Mt. Isa. He did not indicate whether he meant the town of Mt. Isa, the people of Mt. Isa or the company, but he was working for the company all along the line and against the people.

This sad and sorry story of company manipulation of our environmental protection Acts leaves a nasty taste in the mouth, a smell in our nostrils and dust and dirt in our eyes and lungs. On behalf of our citizens and our environment, I ask that our Acts be enforced without fear or favour and that the strongest possible measures be taken against the wilful polluters of our national estate.

REFERENDUM ON CONTROL OF PRICES AND INCOMES

Mr. HINZE (South Coast) (12.39 p.m.): Why is it that speaker after speaker on the Opposition side continually attacks Queensland's greatest industry? A couple of weeks ago the honourable member for Lytton resigned from the Opposition front bench because he wanted to get out of the limelight. But almost immediately we saw him getting back into the limelight. Indeed, he had himself effectively chucked out of the House yesterday and today he attacks Mount Isa Mines Limited, a company that has done so much for this wonderful State. But I suppose that is what we have come to expect from honourable members opposite. They have a distinct hatred for any successful Queensland company.

What I wish to speak about today relates to matters that are of some concern to all Queenslanders and all Australians. I refer to industrial strikes, the shortage of materials, the nation's loss of confidence and the loss of wages because of strikes. We see the effect of it all in Canberra, with the sacking of various Ministers. We ask ourselves: where has this nation been going since December 1972?

The Government in Canberra is now suggesting a referendum. It proposes to ask the people of Australia to vote "Yes" in respect of control over prices, as well as wages, salaries and incomes. I suggest to Australians that the theme song for 1973 is—

"No, no, a thousand times no! You cannot buy my caresses.

No, no, to both of the questions, I would rather die than say 'Yes'."

This is what Australians will have to say when Whitlam puts us to the expense of a referendum, because he has proved within the very short period of 8 to 10 months that he cannot govern. Cabinet Ministers have been reshuffled. Frankly, I thought Bryant should have been sacked six months ago. Then, Connor hates Queensland because we can produce coal cheaper here than he can in New South Wales. Apparently the Ministers have been given an instruction that as soon as a head bobs up they should try to knock it off. It does not matter whether it is a doctor, an industry or whatever it is, Ministers have apparently been instructed to get "stuck into" them all and give them a good belt behind the ear. Apparently that is the attitude of the present Australian Government. Consequently, we are shortly to vote in a referendum because, behind the scenes, there is a power struggle between Whitlam and Hawke. I am not a betting man; however, I do not mind a bit of a punt now and again and I would give anyone the odds at 5 to 1 that Hawke will eventually put the skids under Whitlam. The Prime Minister will not last another two years, because the power struggle is on in no uncertain manner.

Mr. Marginson: Were you one of the people who tried to put the skids under the Premier a couple of years ago?

Mr. HINZE: I have had my bit of political intrigue, but it is nothing compared with what happens in the A.L.P. Can't they teach some things! We will soon see it brought out into the light. It is only just starting to raise its head. It is only becoming public now. About two months ago the A.L.P. boys were all at Surfers Paradise holding hands, and they elected Hawke as their leader. How can he serve two masters? I do not want to name the person concerned, but one Opposition member just said, "That is right." Of course it is right. If all Opposition members were honest they would admit that it would have to be right. How can anyone serve two masters? Hawke will not serve two masters—he will sack Whitlam, for sure.

The Prime Minister is in a position where he just does not know where to go. Of course, there is a bit of footwork going on. There is a reference to him in today's Press as "Waltzing Whitlam". He first takes a couple of steps to the left, and then a couple to the right.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: He would not go to the right.

Mr. HINZE: He has to, as he is forced to back-pedal. He waltzes around and around, and he does not know where to go next. It is all very interesting.

Mr. Jensen: And very amusing, too.

Mr. HINZE: It is amusing.

Mr. R. Jones: You ought to see him pivot on the corners.

Mr. HINZE: Hawke will make him pivot on the corners; there is not much doubt about that. R. J. Hawke will give him something to pivot about.

This week I had the experience of travelling to another State, and I was caught up in the present strike by airport technicians. What a tragedy it is to see young children stranded at an airport because of this strike, with no-one to look after them, nowhere to go, and without accommodation or anything else. There is no way in the world that anyone who has been stranded at an airport terminal during this strike will ever forget the experience. Why doesn't Whitlam go before the people now and have a double dissolution of Parliament? He hasn't the guts to do it. Why don't we have an election instead of a referendum? This is what the people of Australia want. We would then soon see what would happen to this 10-months-old Australian Government.

We hear talk about price control, wage and price fixation, incomes control, land-price fixation, and so on. The only way to reduce prices is to put the commodity onto the market. The only solution is hard work. Anyone who thinks that the problem can be obviated by dilly-dallying is labouring under a misapprehension. As soon as I get on the hustings I will be saying, "No, no! A thousand times no!" There is no way in the world that sensible Australians will support such a referendum.

Those of us who remember the years of World War II, when black-marketing was rife, fully realise that wage and price fixation will not solve the problem that confronts Australia. What is needed is good government. Australians knew that, when Labor came to power in Canberra, certain changes would be made. After 23 years of Liberal-Country Party Government changes could be expected. However, nobody dreamed that within the brief period of nine months the confidence of the people in the Australian Government could be reduced to its lowest ebb.

Recently a contractor on the Gold Coast who is erecting a \$2,000,000 bridge at Currumbin asked me if I could get some cement for him. I sought the assistance of the Minister for Development and Industrial Affairs, who has the matter in hand. I never thought I would see the day when, in peacetime, Australia was faced with shortages of a whole host of commodities. The sole reason for all the shortages is industrial chaos.

One of the Labor Party's election promises was a happier relationship between the Government and the trade unions than under the Liberal-Country Party Federal Government. But what has happened? The position is about 50 times worse than it was under the previous Government, and it is deteriorating even further.

The only solution to the problem is a Federal election, and the sooner the better. I challenge Gough Whitlam to forget all about his referendum and hold a Federal election.

FIRE PRECAUTIONS IN STORAGE OF CELLULAR PLASTICS

Mr. LEESE (Pine Rivers) (12.47 p.m.): Whereas the honourable member for South Coast fully supported wage control, he is frightened of a referendum on income because of the inherent control on profit that would follow its passage. However, I rise not to counter the remarks of the previous speaker but to warn the people again of the hazards associated with the use of polyurethane.

The community should be made fully aware of the hazards that they face from what appears to them to be quite an innocuous material, namely, the cellular plastic padding used in furniture.

As I pointed out during my Address-in-Reply speech, a large number of furniture stores both in the metropolitan area and throughout the State are potential death traps. On 26 August this year the Metropolitan Fire Brigade chief, Mr. Dowling, condemned many high-rise buildings in Brisbane as potential death traps. I would go further and claim that many furniture stores also are potential death traps.

The entire metropolitan area has only six fire prevention officers. They are quite unable to inspect all buildings under their jurisdiction to ensure that adequate fire precautions are being observed. I very much doubt that many furniture stores have been inspected in the last five years. This problem is not tackled because there is only a probability that it will arise. However, we know what has happened to certain schools recently, and the problem could well confront us. If a fire should break out in one of these stores during peak shopping hours, there would be pandemonium.

I think I pointed out quite clearly in my Address-in-Reply speech what happens when cellular plastics catch fire. I said that they burnt at a very high temperature and gave off dense, black smoke, and referred to the dangers and hazards created by the smoke. To highlight the danger a little further, I point to this recent statement by the National Transportation Safety Board in America—

“... several recent airline crashes show that some of the passengers survived the impact, but died when they inhaled the smoke billowing through the cabin from burning seats and plastic fittings.

“Traces of cyanide found in the bodies of the victims could have come from cyanide vapors released in smoke as the fire burned the plastic and acrylic materials.”

The board stated that it had known of the problem for some years, and at one stage had decided to set down standards on smoke emission, but four years ago the proposal was set aside because of cost.

Mr. Lane: Are you trying to do away with all matches?

Mr. LEESE: Certainly not, but that is the type of interjection I expect from the honourable member for Merthyr.

I pointed out that, normally, cellular plastics cannot be set alight by cigarette butts or sparks. This material is stored in huge quantities in furniture stores because it is used in the padding of almost all furniture. In furniture stores there are many types of packing in which a fire could break out. It appears that somewhere around Brisbane there is an arsonist. If a fire should break out in a furniture store, I suggest that many people could be killed.

Some time ago, I directed a question to the Minister for Development and Industrial Affairs about what steps he would take to control the storage of cellular plastics. He said that no explicit precautions were laid down, and that the chief inspector of fire services considered there was no apparent need for new legislation. I suggest that there is urgent need for new legislation. It has been proven beyond shadow of doubt that wherever cellular plastics are stored, manufactured or used, they should be in a separate, well-ventilated building. Instructions to firemen in other countries—not necessarily in Queensland—stipulate that, if a fire occurs in a building where cellular plastics are stored, they should not enter it unless it is absolutely necessary, even if they are wearing breathing apparatus, because the smoke penetrates the skin and can cause many disorders, particularly nervous, respiratory and heart diseases.

If it is stressed that firemen should not enter buildings where cellular plastic is on fire, surely we should do something to ensure that all retail stores in which this plastic is stored in huge quantities should provide adequate fire-escape facilities to ensure that, in case of fire, people will have ample opportunity to evacuate the building quickly. When I say “ample opportunity”, I stress that I have in mind a maximum period for evacuation of two minutes. Within two minutes of a fire involving this type of material being noticed, the flames and smoke are such that people 12 metres from the fire cannot see the direction in which they are going, and many would be overcome by the fumes.

No strong legislation exists covering the industries that manufacture this material. They do not have to install high-density sprinklers. This decision is left to the companies concerned. They do not have to carry out fire-drill or any other regular fire-evacuation procedures. Surely these precautions should be mandatory and I make the plea

that they be so made. It is no use saying, after a tragedy occurs, "We knew all about the dangers but, because of cost and lack of man-power, we were unable to introduce or enforce the necessary legislation to ensure that the maximum safety precautions were taken."

I have done my utmost to warn the House of the fire dangers inherent in polyurethane. I hope that the Government will take the necessary steps to fully protect the people of Queensland from the lethal hazards of this material. I do not suggest that we should discontinue production of polyurethane. It has revolutionised industry, including the building trade, and will further revolutionise it. But until a genuine flame retardant is evolved, people should be made completely aware that they could be under a misapprehension in assuming that their furniture is fireproof. Many people do believe this.

All householders should be informed that, if furnishings such as bed mattresses or padded articles catch alight, and the fire starts to emit smoke, they should leave the building as soon as possible. By fighting the fire, they could possibly save their homes but, in doing so, they could irreparably impair their health or even die. The public must be educated as to the real hazards concerning this material.

[Sitting suspended from 12.58 to 2.15 p.m.]

REVOCATION OF STATE FORESTS

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

"(1) That this House agrees that the proposal by the Governor in Council to revoke the setting apart and declaration as State forests under the Forestry Act of:—

(a) All that piece or part of State Forest 779, Parish of Gregory, described as Area 'A' as shown on plan FTY.503 made and prepared by the Surveyor-General and deposited in the office of the Conservator of Forests and containing an area of about 1 784 hectares—and,

(b) All that piece or part of State Forest 840, parishes of Bingera and Gregory, described as Area 'A' as shown on plan FTY.640 made and prepared by the Surveyor-General and deposited in the office of the Conservator of Forests and containing an area of 1 425 hectares, be carried out.

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

Honourable members who have perused the notes and illustrating map which I had tabled with the formal proposal will be aware that this motion deals with two State forests in the Isis district, which is centred on the town of Childers. Isis is predominantly a sugar-producing region, though forestry and, to a lesser extent, beef production are increasing in importance.

Following representations to the former Minister for Primary Industries by the Isis Central Mill, the Isis Shire Council and the Queensland Cane Growers Council, the Government in 1969 established the Isis Land Use Study Committee for the purpose of making recommendations concerning the most desirable future development of the Isis District, with special reference to its usage for sugar-cane, softwood timbers, pastures and beef production. In the representations I have referred to, it was emphasised that stability in the sugar industry depends on a regular output of greatly increased tonnages of cane, produced under conditions of maximum economy, commensurate with good agricultural practices.

Mr. TUCKER: Who were the members of that committee?

Mr. RAE: I cannot say at the moment. I shall obtain that information and let the honourable member have it.

To achieve this stability, it would be important to overcome drought by the implementation of wide-scale irrigation of cane so that the majority of cane lands supplying the mill in the future can be assured of a good crop, and to grow, harvest and transport cane at the minimum of cost to the industry so that it can compete successfully on the world "free" market against overseas low costs. The main difficulties faced by individual growers at present are lack of irrigation, loss of fertility due to soil erosion, and the difficulty, on account of the terrain, in applying recent advances such as mechanical harvesting.

The committee, in its report to the Government, listed drought and soil erosion as major factors influencing past and present production of sugar-cane in this district, and stated that land with slopes in excess of 8 per cent should not continue to be used for cultivation, largely because of the erosion hazard but also because of the limitations imposed by mechanical harvesting.

With a view to stabilising sugar production, the committee recommended, amongst other things, that high priority be given to the provision of finance for the early construction of the Isis system of the approved Bundaberg irrigation undertaking; that land unsuitable for cane-farming be no longer used for cultivation; and, where such lands are presently assigned for cane, landholders be offered substitution areas. These proposals were accepted in principle, and detailed investigations were undertaken to locate suitable land close to the proposed irrigation channels, tramways, etc. to guarantee the success of such a substitution scheme. The necessity to retain sufficient land for softwood plantations was not overlooked in this exercise.

As a result of these investigations, it became apparent that the bulk of the land which could be regarded as satisfactory for the purpose was located in existing State forests. This could be supplemented with

smaller areas of vacant Crown land, with perhaps some resumption of freehold and leasehold lands. An area of vacant Crown land suitable for softwood plantations was located on the eastern boundary of State Forest 840, and it is proposed that it be added to State Forest 840. This will result in the addition of 4 715 hectares to the area of State forest.

It is now proposed that about 1 784 hectares be excised from State Forest 779, parish of Gregory, and a further 1 425 hectares be taken from State Forest 840, parishes of Bingera and Gregory, for the purposes which I have just outlined. The extent of the areas to be excised has been determined after careful consideration and negotiations between the interested parties, taking into account the convenient location of these lands in relation to existing facilities and the proposed irrigation system.

The Conservator of Forests is in full agreement with the proposal to partially revoke these two State forests on the understanding that the area of vacant Crown land adjoining State Forest 840 is made available for softwood plantations. I mention here for the information of honourable members that, concurrent with the excision action, an area of 4 715 hectares of vacant Crown land is being added to State Forest 840.

The future management of State Forest 779 will not be affected by the proposed excision, as the retention area will be in a compact block. In the case of State Forest 840, which will be truncated by the excision, it is appreciated that the proposal will impose some difficulties on the management and protection of the State forest. To lessen these difficulties, arrangements have been made for the construction of at least two crossings over the proposed irrigation channels to be located on the excised land, as well as essential roads to provide ready access between the severances.

The implementation of the over-all scheme involving the exchange of State forest and vacant Crown land, the transfer of assignments to more suitable farming land and the construction of the Isis system of the approved Bundaberg irrigation undertaking will ensure the stability of the cane industry in being largely independent of the effects of drought, provide for future expansion of the cane industry due to increased production from irrigation, and enable action to be taken to implement measures for the control of erosion on the steeper undulating red soils of the Childers area.

As well, provision has been made through the exchange of lands to ensure that land is available for the extension of the softwood plantations being established on the retention areas of the two State forests involved.

I am in complete agreement with this proposal, and commend it for the approval of the House.

Mr. BOUSEN (Toowoomba North) (2.22 p.m.): After listening to the reasons advanced by the Minister for throwing open for the production of sugar-cane this part of the forest reserve, I do not think one could oppose the motion.

All honourable members are aware, I am sure, that the Bingera and Isis districts are well known for sugar production, but forestry and beef production are also becoming important to them. It is known that the Isis Central Mill, the Isis Shire Council and the Queensland Cane Growers' Council made representations to the Government for future development in the Bingera and Isis districts, as the Minister pointed out. However, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, by interjection, asked a question that I intended to raise—who were the members of the Isis Land Use Study Committee, and what was the basis of the committee's findings? The committee made certain recommendations, and it referred particularly to increased production of sugar-cane and also to pastures for beef production and softwood forests.

The Opposition believes that the alienation of Crown land, particularly softwood forests, must be watched very carefully. Very good reasons must be given for alienating for primary production, or some other purpose, land used for this purpose. We are aware, of course, that because of droughts year after year, soil erosion, and the absence of a permanent water supply, cane farmers in these two districts have had a very trying experience and have faced many difficulties over the years. With new areas being opened up in close proximity to a permanent water supply that can be used for irrigation, it appears that the future supply of sugar-cane to the Isis Mill will be assured. This is very important to the people of the Isis and Bingera districts.

Are we to understand that the forestry land to be opened up will be made available only to the cane-growers referred to in the report, or is it going to be thrown open to everybody who wants to make application for it? If so, that prompts another question. What will become of the land that is vacated? The Crown should buy it back from these farmers when they transfer to the new land that is being thrown open to them. At this stage we do not know what is going to become of this land. Surely the farmers in question will not have the best of two worlds. In the first instance they will want new land on which to grow their cane, but are they going to retain the land they leave behind them and use it for other purposes? I hope that is not the intention.

I suggest to the Minister that it is the Crown's right and prerogative to buy back the land from these farmers so that it can be used for forestry purposes. I hope it will be used for the planting of timber for future State forests or reserves. I emphasise that the land should be taken over by the Crown. The point I make is that doubtless it could be planted with timber for future reserves.

Honourable members on this side are very concerned about giving away any forestry land. Virtually, that is what is to happen. We do not believe that it should be given away without some other suitable land being made available to the Crown for the development of softwood plantations, forestry reserves and the like.

In this instance, some 3 209 hectares of forestry land will be opened up in the two areas mentioned by the Minister. He pointed out that some 4 715 hectares will become part of State Forest 840. Despite the fact that we are going to get 4 715 hectares of land included in a State forest, it is already Crown land, so we are not getting any extra land to take the place of the area that is being opened up for farming purposes. From this side, we stress the importance of ensuring that forestry land is not alienated to freehold tenure for some productive purpose. We should like from the Minister an assurance that the land to be vacated by the farmers will be taken over by the Crown for the purpose I have mentioned.

I hope that what is being done now will not be taken as a precedent for the future opening up of forestry land for farming purposes. All our softwood and forestry land must be preserved for the beautification of the State.

Having regard to the importance of the use of this land for the growing of sugarcane—it is apparently regarded as essential by the people in the Bingera and Isis districts—we on this side of the House will not oppose the motion.

Mr. WHARTON (Burnett) (2.30 p.m.): I shall speak only briefly because the more time we save, the quicker the proposal will be approved and passed. It is a matter of some urgency. I support the Minister's submission and shall try to allay the fears held by the honourable member for Toowoomba North. I know that this matter has been fully investigated by officers of the Department of Primary Industries. The scheme has been the subject of a really thorough survey over a long period. The move is very important indeed for the proposed irrigation scheme in the Bundaberg, Burnett and Isis areas, and I am sure the honourable member for Isis will agree that it is essential to give farmers in these areas the opportunity to benefit from irrigation of their cane crops. This is a very fine cane-growing area but is subject, of course, to the whims of the seasons.

Mr. Jensen interjected.

Mr. WHARTON: The honourable member should go and see his Federal colleagues. They might want to "chip" in some money. The State has already said it is prepared to put in \$12,000,000 if the Commonwealth is prepared to contribute \$18,000,000. We received money from the Federal Government when our colleagues occupied the Treasury benches.

However, the point I want to make is that the scheme has been thoroughly investigated. It is an essential one that will provide substituted areas for the cane-growers so that, instead of having to grow cane on hillsides and eroded fields, they will be able to move to more workable areas and enjoy the benefit of irrigation. This will bring stabilisation to the whole area and will enable an extension of the irrigation scheme, which is so important to the Burnett, Bundaberg and Isis areas.

The proposal is timely and proper, and has been well considered. I hope I have allayed all the fears that might have been held by Opposition members. It is good for the people and the region, and therefore, for Queensland.

Mr. BLAKE (Isis) (2.32 p.m.): I rise to support the motion. It will allow the implementation of a scheme that was born of necessity, is fully justified by experts, and, I hope, approved and adopted with commendable co-operation and common sense on the part of everyone concerned. As the Minister outlined, certain lands in the Isis district were eroded to such an extent that they had a quite low production level. Some of it had a large proportion of slopes—in excess of 8 per cent—and it was determined by the Isis Land Use Study Committee that land of that particular soil type having in excess of 8 per cent gradient was not suitable for irrigation and, as well, presented a problem to the present practice in the area of almost 100 per cent mechanical harvesting of sugar cane. Therefore, the land for which substitution is proposed was mostly unsuitable for irrigation and mechanical harvesting.

It is important to note that most of this land is situated at the southern end of the Isis District, whereas irrigation water from the Bundaberg and district irrigation scheme will enter the district from the north. The fact is that the land either astride the proposed irrigation channel or in close proximity to it has been determined, by expert opinion, as eminently suitable for cane-growing. The sensible thing to do, of course, was to utilise this land in substitution for the now unsuitable and mostly distant cane areas.

The land in question is situated in either State Forest No. 779 or State Forest No. 840; hence the need for the revocation proposed today. The Isis Land Use Study Committee, which was headed by Mr. Jasper Ladewig, had on it experts from the Departments of Primary Industries, Forestry, Irrigation and Water Supply, and the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations, and, as they fully support the proposal, there can be no doubt about its desirability. The spirit of co-operation that prevailed between all departments is to be commended.

I suggest that this investigation was used as a commendable exercise in determining the suitability of land utilisation. Nobody, whether he be a conservationist, economist,

or member of any other profession, could find fault with the proposal to substitute these areas for the unsuitable lands.

Our shadow Minister (Mr. Bousen) has stated that in principle the Labor Party is opposed to the alienation of Crown land unless some counter measures are taken to set aside additional areas. I remind the House that a large area of Crown land in Queensland has already been alienated. However, this proposal does not present any cause for alarm, because I know that the possible imposition of conditions on the land from which substitutions will be made is still a matter for debate. I believe it is quite competent for the Government to legislate for the use of these lands, for example, for forestry purposes. I do not intend to use the word "resume", because it would paint an inaccurate picture of the utilisation by the Crown of these lands. It does not intend to resume the areas that are involved in the substitution.

A large proportion of this land is held under freehold tenure and represents the collateral or the capital that the people will require for the development of the new lands. It is not a case of saying, "We are taking this land from you; get over on yonder piece and develop it." The transfer has to be made in transitional stages. I believe that a firm decision on the part of the Government is neither necessary nor practical at this stage, but I appreciate the principle enunciated by our shadow Minister that when land is alienated provision should be made to regain ownership by the Crown of a similar area.

As the Forestry Department will have a greater area allocated to it than that taken from it, I am sure that the department will not oppose the proposal in any way. Finally, I understand that the Government has open to it the avenue of acquiring land after substitution is effected. I commend the motion.

Mr. B. WOOD (Barron River) (2.38 p.m.): The Minister has indicated that the net loss of Crown land will be approximately 1416 hectares. Whatever the area, it is quite clear that Crown land is being lost. I think the Minister was a little less careful than he should have been in explaining the proposal to the House. He has said that the area of Forestry Department land will be increased, which is correct, but he did not deal fully with the other aspect of the proposal. I would like to see the cane land that is to be relinquished acquired by the Crown for its own purposes.

The Minister also indicated that, perhaps, there would be some resumption of freehold or leasehold land, but he did not offer any further explanation. His comments were rather vague, and I assume that the vagueness means there will be no other resumptions. Perhaps he may care to explain what areas he has in mind.

I was interested in that part of the Minister's speech in which he indicated that, to some degree, a land-usage survey had been carried out into the future use of this area of land, and that various organisations and bodies had looked into what might best be done with it. He claimed that the whole area of the land is to be put to the best possible use. I do not doubt that; perhaps we are now correcting a mistake that was made very many years ago. I am interested in this matter of deciding on the best use for land in a given area. In the past, insufficient attention has been devoted to this feature. In fact, I am unaware of its being done on other occasions in rural areas of Queensland. Perhaps this is the first time it has been done. I hope that the Minister and his colleagues will note what has happened and that this practice will be followed throughout Queensland. For many years proper rural land usage has been neglected.

In dealing with this matter, I wish to refer to Victorian legislation, namely, the Land Conservation Bill, which was introduced in October 1970. Some sound remarks were made in the debate on that Bill, and I shall quote from the speech of the Minister in introducing it. I point out that the Bill relates only to Crown land, but I suggest that its coverage could be extended. The Victorian Minister said—

"The Government is determined that, in future, the use of Crown land shall be determined on the basis—

(i) Of properly collected, collated and assessed technical information about land, and in particular, the ecological features which make it useful for one purpose or another, and with a knowledge of the critical interactions between the various features such as soils, topography, hydrology and flora and fauna, which maintain the stability of the system;

(ii) that none of the many uses of land required by a community for different purposes shall be neglected from consideration;

(iii) that so far as it is technically feasible each of these needs for land will be satisfied in the best possible way, in the long-term public interest;

(iv) that decisions will be reached without regard to narrow political and parochial pressures, in such a way that the community can participate."

I commend to the Minister consideration of that legislation and its intentions.

I believe that, following the passage of that legislation in Victoria, there is now a scientific approach, still perhaps in its early days, by qualified people to what is the best use for land. Since the days of the first settlement, emphasis has been placed on the alienation of Crown land for productive use. In the early days, the most pressing need would have been for land to be converted to productive use to maintain the new

colony. There was little concern then for the maintenance of the habitat or wildlife. However, that attitude persisted for too long. We have generally no shortage of productive land but much of it is not as productive as it should be. In many regions there is an inadequacy of land for the preservation of plant and animal life as well as of bushland recreation spaces for our urban population.

The time is well past when we should more vigorously attend to the non-productive uses of land needed by the community. I suggest that some of these are: firstly, the retention of areas that are ecologically significant; secondly, the conservation of areas of natural interest, beauty, or historical interest; thirdly, an increase in areas for the creation and preservation of reserve forests and national parks; fourthly, the creation of areas for leisure and recreation, especially areas close to the cities; and fifthly, the creation of reserves for fish, wildlife and natural plants.

The Minister no doubt will say that all of these things are being looked into and done. During the time that I have been in this House, I can remember various pieces of legislation under which steps are being taken to do this. I instance the proposal for the establishment of marine national parks, about which we have not heard much lately, the proposal in the last session of Parliament for the establishment of smaller recreation areas or parks, and, of course, the long-standing policy on national parks. We have all of those.

But we are doing too little too late. We should be doing a great deal more than we have done in the past. Our action should not be taken only accidentally, or when pressure is exerted in certain communities or by interested groups. The Government needs to decide to take an interest now and provide the necessary added legislation and administrative action, particularly relating to land usage.

I shall comment briefly on northern needs. My immediate concern today is for the creation of another national park or parks in rain forest land and, in particular, for the acquisition of what little rain forest country on flat land now remains. The present national parks containing rain forest country are almost entirely in mountainous regions. The Department of Lands has received approaches in the past seeking the declaration of a park in the area between Daintree River and Cape Tribulation, and, specifically, a tract of forest land immediately north of Noah Creek and extending along its watershed. This area is very suitable because it is, as yet, untouched and contains several different types of rain forest and soil at different altitudes—from sea level to mountain top.

Many other areas north of Mossman have been recommended as national parks. Dr. Webb of the C.S.I.R.O. has recommended

most of them, particularly in the area south of Cooktown. Some of his recommendations have been accepted; others, including the area close to Noah Creek, have not. The former Minister for Lands and Forestry indicated that this land was required for settlement purposes.

I refer to my earlier statement on land usage, and ask the present Minister to look more closely at the area around Cape Tribulation and then decide what is most desirable. True, it will be taken up for agricultural purposes if that is permitted, for it is good land, and many people are anxious to acquire it. I suggest that the community at large would be better served if this area were gazetted as a national park. I have been through it again recently, and I assure the Minister of the need to take action to hold it. To delay is to say that he proposes to do nothing about it. The rain forest will not wait; it will be gone. Action must be taken in this case, as in all others, immediately.

Mr. F. P. MOORE (Mourilyan) (2.50 p.m.): I, too, commend the Minister on the revocation of portions of State Forests 779 and 840. However, I must say that his action is rather a singling out of a particular area, in the parishes of Gregory and Bingera, for attention. Since I have been in this House I have made recommendations to the previous Minister for Lands for the revocation of certain areas of State forests adjoining Mt. Tyson, extending towards El Arish, in my electorate. I believe that cane-growers, particularly those with small assignments, deserve some consideration to enable them to achieve peak production. In the present revocations, it seems to me that the Minister is singling out for attention this specific part of Queensland and is not considering my representations on behalf of cane-growers along the ridges of the Great Dividing Range.

I can say in all honesty that I have made approaches for the opening of the ridges along the Great Dividing Range, to include a requirement that fire breaks be provided. I may say that I have yet to see this State forest on fire. I have seen the side of Mt. Tyson burn once in the 18 years I have been in the district, and that fire was not caused by a cane-farmer. Although I am a conservationist at heart, I realise that it is not desirable to become over-emotional about ridges of the Great Dividing Range that could be used for the benefit of small cane farmers in that area. If the Minister checks back through correspondence and questions that I have asked in this House, I feel sure he will see that I have made representations on behalf of the cane-growers in this area.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I think the honourable member has made his point. I gave the previous speaker some latitude, too. I now ask the honourable member to return to the matter before the House.

Mr. F. P. MOORE: In matters of forest revocations, I believe that we must also consider reforestation. I have also requested reforestation of some of the State forest I mention on behalf of a man engaged in the timber industry in the Tully area. When I made representation on behalf of this person, who, incidentally, is not associated with Foxwood, the monopoly in North Queensland that is today headed by Mr. Covacevich, a solicitor who is also a director of most companies in North Queensland—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I think the honourable member has by now convinced the Minister. I have given him some latitude, and I ask him to return to the matter before the House.

Mr. R. E. Moore: You have nothing to say. Why don't you sit down?

Mr. F. P. MOORE: The "wizard from Windsor" has nothing to say at any time.

The Forestry Department is now apparently allocating land for irrigation purposes. I have no fears of irrigation in my area, because this year up till now it has had 180 inches of rain. There are, however, problems in the rural areas today. They are occurring in the Isis area, and I must commend the Minister for Local Government for saying in Innisfail last Friday that he fears a serious situation may develop from the subdividing of rich agricultural land.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member has made his point. I ask him to return to the motion or resume his seat.

Mr. F. P. MOORE: The Honourable H. G. Chandler, Minister of Agriculture in the Victorian Parliament, said on 13 October 1970—

"Different kinds of land have varying degrees of stability, and this determines how they can be modified by man for any particular use."

I am associating this motion with other parts of Queensland, and I think I am entitled to do that.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I do not think the honourable member is entitled to do that. He has made his point. I ask him to come back to the motion before the House, because he is just wandering around. I have given him quite a lot of latitude.

Mr. F. P. MOORE: I thank you for giving me that latitude, Mr. Speaker. The Minister is dealing now with the parishes of Bingera and Gregory. But what happened in the case of the forest reserve adjoining the country club at El Arish? The trustees were not informed—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I have been very tolerant with the honourable member, but I think he is abusing my tolerance. I ask him to make up his mind what he intends doing.

Mr. F. P. MOORE: If you want me to continue, Mr. Speaker, I will oppose the motion to show the extent to which I think it singles out one part of Queensland. I am in favour of the motion; but if you are asking me to stop speaking about my electorate, I believe that I must continue presenting the case as I have presented it in the 4½ years that I have been here.

Mr. Frawley: You are procrastinating. Sit down.

Mr. F. P. MOORE: If I were an ignoramus like you, I would not appear here.

Mr. Frawley interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. F. P. MOORE: As time goes on, Mr. Speaker, it will be realised that the honourable member for Murrumba is a stirrer like Mr. Bob Santamaria, who appears on North Queensland television on Sunday nights and with whom he is associated.

In his introductory remarks, the Minister said—

"... it was emphasised that stability in the sugar industry depends on a regular output of greatly increased tonnages of cane produced under conditions of maximum economy, commensurate with good agricultural practices."

Am I not entitled, therefore, to speak on behalf of the cane farmers in my electorate on that statement by the Minister? I believe that I am.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member may proceed, but I assure him that my patience is running out. I ask him to come to the point. He is abusing my tolerance.

Mr. F. P. MOORE: I would never abuse your tolerance, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Well, this is the first occasion, and the honourable member will not argue about it. I ask him to proceed with his speech.

Mr. F. P. MOORE: I think you are reliable and a man of integrity, Mr. Speaker.

Reverting to the subject of increased tonnages of cane, I point out that I have asked for an excision from or a revocation of State forests for increased tonnages of cane, not for the big farmer but for the small farmer. I again exhort the Minister to reconsider the representations I have made regarding the State forest adjoining Mt. Tyson and running towards El Arish and the Tam O'Shanter Range. I would appreciate it if he would do that.

Hon. W. A. R. RAE (Gregory—Minister for Lands and Forestry) (2.59 p.m.), in reply: It is very pleasing to know that all honourable members are in agreement with the basic proposal.

My introduction was sufficiently wide to enable honourable members to talk about various matters associated with land and its use. I was impressed by the question posed by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in an interjection. He asked who the members of the Isis Land Use Study Committee were, and I am happy to tell him their names. I believe that the honourable member for Toowoomba North (Mr. Bousen) also wanted this information. From the Department of Irrigation and Water Supply, there was Mr. D. Beattie; from the Department of Forestry, Mr. J. Muir; from the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations, Mr. O. Sturgess; from the Department of Primary Industries, Mr. J. Ladewig; and from the Department of Lands, Mr. V. Dendle. Quite frankly, I believe that these men have come up with a very wise decision about the cane lands in the Isis Shire. It is a good decision, and I am glad to have acceptance of it by the House.

I do not propose to dwell at any length on some of the questions posed. I think they would all come within the concept of good land management, which is one of the responsibilities of the department. The Land Administration Commission in this State is very much in tune with what is essential for wise and progressive development. Being a landowner myself, I follow its activities very keenly.

I am not going to provoke a quarrel with my friend opposite about the areas involved in the substitution.

Mr. Tucker interjected.

Mr. RAE: In the main, wherever possible this will be softwood plantation.

Mr. Houston: Who is going to own it? Is the Crown going to buy it back?

Mr. RAE: It is not going to be done in five minutes. It will take some time. Areas have to be established. There will have to be negotiations and a measure of understanding about the transition from point A to point B.

Mr. Bromley: Subject to my advice.

Mr. RAE: It is encouraging to me to have that, too.

Mr. Houston: At some point in time will the Crown be buying the land back from the landholders?

Mr. RAE: There will be compensation in every respect. We will be planting the areas taken back.

Motion (Mr. Rae) agreed to.

The House adjourned at 3.2 p.m.