

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 24 OCTOBER 1973

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

ASSENT TO BILLS

Assent to the following Bills reported by Mr. Speaker:—

Education Act Amendment Bill (No. 2);
 Griffith University Act Amendment Bill;
 James Cook University of North Queensland Act Amendment Bill;
 Acts Repeal Bill;
 Public Curator Act Amendment Bill;
 Appeal Costs Fund Bill;
 Supreme Court Act Amendment Bill.

CIRCULATION AND COST OF “HANSARD”

Mr. SPEAKER announced the receipt from the Chief Reporter, Parliamentary Reporting Staff, of his report on the circulation and cost of “Hansard” for the session of 1972-73.

PAPERS

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

Reports—

Public Service Board, for the year 1972-73.

Queensland Fish Board, for the year 1972-73.

State Fire Services Council, for the year 1972-73.

The following paper was laid on the table:—

Order in Council under the Constitution Acts Amendment Act 1971.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

DIVISIONAL VAN, BUNDABERG POLICE DISTRICT

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

Will he consider supplying a police “divvy van” for the Bundaberg Police District, as they have been supplied to other less needy districts?

Answer:—

“The supply of a divisional van to Bundaberg Police District has been approved and the necessary alterations are now being carried out to the vehicle.”

**BAIL GRANTED ON RAPE CHARGE;
INCONSISTENCY IN PRISON
SENTENCES**

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

(1) As the magistrate did not grant bail to a Mr. Schloss, who was charged with the rape of a six-year-old relative of his, why did Mr. Justice Kelly allow bail to Schloss on his own security of only \$200 when the case went to the Circuit Court?

(2) As Schloss was remanded to the next sitting of the Circuit Court in Bundaberg instead of Brisbane, will precautions be taken to ensure that he does not leave either the State or the country in the meantime?

(3) As four youths, who were charged with the rape of a 14-year-old girl, pleaded not guilty to rape but guilty to unlawful carnal knowledge and attempted unlawful carnal knowledge and Mr. Justice Kelly stated that unlawful carnal knowledge carried the same maximum penalty of five years' gaol with hard labour, whether attempted or otherwise, and as the evidence indicated that the girl was forced into a car, why was the judge so lenient in giving two of the youths a year's gaol and the other two probation for two years?

(4) As our way of life has changed over the past generation or so, has justice also changed to the extent that breaches of the Traffic Act are now more serious offences than theft, carnal knowledge and rape and are gaol sentences for traffic breaches more common than for serious criminal offences?

(5) Will he confer with the Minister for Police to ascertain if the sentences which are now handed out for theft, carnal knowledge and rape are a major reason for the discontent in the Police Force?

Answers:—

(1) "The Magistrate did allow bail to Ronald Ernest Schloss which was a recognizance of self \$500 and a surety of \$500 or two of \$250. Mr. Justice Kelly has a discretion to allow bail to Ronald Ernest Schloss under the Criminal Code of Queensland."

(2) "One of the conditions on which Ronald Ernest Schloss was granted bail was that he report every Saturday to the Officer in Charge of the Bundaberg Police Station between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m."

(3) "The two youths who were sentenced to one year's imprisonment had criminal records not of a sexual nature while the other two youths had no previous convictions."

(4) "No. Punishment in every case depends on its own particular circumstances."

(5) "This Question should be directed to the appropriate Minister."

**BUDGET PROVISION, YOUTH
ORGANISATIONS**

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

With reference to the Budget provision of \$150,000 for assistance to youth organisations—

(1) What are the age limitations of qualifying organisations, what type of activity must they be engaged in and what other requirements are placed on organisations in order to qualify?

(2) Will support be on the basis of a like or proportionate subsidy on moneys raised or spent, or by direct grant?

(3) What will be the method of application for grants?

(4) Will church-based youth organisations, such as the Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., Y.C.W. and P.F.A., qualify for support?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) "Guide lines have not yet been laid down in connection with the Budget provision of \$150,000 for assistance to Youth Organisations."

**BUDGET PROVISION, DEVELOPMENT OF
TOURIST ATTRACTIONS**

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

With reference to the Budget allocation of \$200,000 for the development of tourist attractions, who are eligible to apply, what are the eligibility requirements and what other guide-lines have been established for disbursement of the fund?

Answer:—

"The criteria for the allocation of these funds is currently a matter of consideration."

**TESTING ORGANISATION, MOTOR VEHICLE
DRIVERS' LICENCES**

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

As the 1973-74 State Budget makes provision for the establishment of an organisation, comprising 92 persons, to cover the issuing of drivers' licences under the Traffic Act—

(1) When will it be established?

(2) Where will the testing officers be located?

(3) What will be the necessary qualifications for acceptance as a testing officer?

(4) Will the testing centres be attached to police stations and will they be the only places at which drivers' licences will be issued? If not, will drivers' licences still be issued at all police stations, particularly remote country stations?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) "The Budget provision is merely a preliminary step in the transfer of responsibility for the administration of an existing organisation of civilian staff engaged in the driver licensing area from the Police Department to the Department of Transport, with the replacement of some police officers at the main testing centres by civilian staff. The transfer does not at this stage extend to any changes in the procedures presently applying to driver testing and license issuing, the location of testing facilities including existing police stations, or qualifications of testing officers. Whether or not any changes will be necessary can only be determined in the light of further examination by the Department of Transport in conjunction with the Public Service Board."

COMPLAINTS TO CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BUREAU, PYRAMID-SELLING
ORGANISATIONS

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

(1) How many complaints relating to pyramid-selling practices have been received by the Consumer Affairs Bureau during 1973 and what have been the principal causes of complaints?

(2) In how many cases has full or partial redress been obtained?

Answers:—

(1) "People who have invested in pyramid selling schemes in the expectation of financial gain from their investment are not regarded as consumers within the meaning of the term as defined in the Consumer Affairs Act, and no separate statistics have been maintained by the Consumer Affairs Bureau concerning complaints relating to pyramid selling practices. Furthermore, there is at times difficulty in distinguishing pyramid selling organisations when they first commence operations from legitimate multi-level merchandising enterprises, and this further complicates the identification by the Bureau of complaints as necessarily being related to pyramid selling practices. As to the principal causes of complaints it would probably be true to say that these have been—(a) the fact that glowing promises of rich rewards made by the promoters of some pyramid selling schemes have not

materialised to the benefit of the participants; and (b) disillusionment on the part of investors when they have realised that they were inextricably enmeshed in a scheme, of which the main purpose was to entrap other people into investing their savings in a worthless enterprise. Other grounds for complaint have been the methods used by pyramid selling organisations to recruit new members and, in some cases, extreme difficulty in disposing of merchandise at the basic distributor level."

(2) "As investors in pyramid selling schemes who have approached the Consumer Affairs Bureau in relation thereto do not qualify as consumers within the meaning of the Act, they have in most cases been advised to seek legal advice as to whether or not any civil remedy was available to them, by which they might recover any portion of their investment. As the Honourable Member will recall, I recently announced my intention to introduce legislation to deal with pyramid selling schemes in this State."

CORPORATE AFFAIRS ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

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

(1) How many meetings have been held by the Corporate Affairs Advisory Committee since its inception?

(2) Has the committee yet made any recommendations to him relative to the office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs?

Answers:—

(1) "Eight."

(2) "The committee has made a number of recommendations in accordance with its statutory functions."

NON-AVAILABILITY OF DRUGS,
TOWNSVILLE GENERAL
HOSPITAL

Mr. B. Wood for **Mr. F. P. Moore**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Health,—

(1) Is he aware that recently a patient requiring blood-pressure tablets was unable to obtain them at the Townsville General Hospital?

(2) Will he ensure that a reserve of all drugs is kept at the hospital in case a number of serious cases are admitted and, if drugs are not available, will he ensure that patients are able to obtain them free at private chemists?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "The Medical Superintendent of Townsville Hospital advises that no patient has been unable to obtain blood pressure tablets at the Townsville General Hospital."

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST A.L.P. BY
DR. C. T. RUSSELL, MOUNT
GRAVATT

Mr. B. Wood for **Mr. F. P. Moore**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Health,—

(1) Is he aware of the shocking allegations which were made in letters to patients by Dr. C. T. Russell, of Mount Gravatt, against the Australian Labor Party, which are indictments on members of that party and which border on demented fanaticism?

(2) Will he investigate this man's integrity and mental condition, as concern is felt for patients being treated by such a doctor?

Answers:—

(1) "No. I am not aware of any such allegations."

(2) "Under the Medical Act, the Queensland Medical Board has the responsibility of determining whether or not a doctor should be registered to practise medicine. The Act does not prescribe an individual's political opinion as one of the subjects on which it should base its determination."

VACANCY ON TOWNSVILLE ABATTOIR
BOARD

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

Is there a vacancy on the Townsville Abattoir Board and, if so, when will it be filled and by whom?

Answer:—

"A vacancy exists on the Townsville Public Abattoir Board as a result of the Mayor of Townsville declining nomination for reappointment. The filling of the vacancy will receive early attention."

PSYCHIATRIC FACILITIES, TOWNSVILLE
GENERAL HOSPITAL

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

What doctor will be in charge of the new psychiatric ward at the Townsville Hospital, which he recently opened, and what will now be done with the antiquated Ward 15, in Gregory Street?

Answer:—

"Townsville Hospital has approval to employ a full time psychiatrist and is endeavouring to obtain the services of

such an officer at the present time. In addition, Dr. Atkinson, the Department's Psychiatric Supervisor, will attend the ward on a sessional basis. Ward 15 in Gregory Street is expected to return to the Education Department."

BRISBANE CRICKET GROUND TRUST

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

How often did the full committee of the Brisbane Cricket Ground Trust meet during (a) January 1 to May 31, (b) June 1 to August 31 and (c) September 1 to October 31 and is there a regular monthly date for meeting?

Answer:—

"(a) Three times; (b) Twice; (c) Once. The By-laws of the Trust relative to the calling of meetings read as follows:—"The Trust shall hold its meeting at such time or times and such place as may from time to time be agreed upon. A special meeting may be called at any time by the Secretary at the direction of the Chairman or on the written request of any three of the Trustees. The Secretary shall send a written notice of each meeting to each Trustee."

TREATMENT OF EFFLUENT FROM
GIBSON'S TANNERY, STAFFORD

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

(1) What action has been taken by the Government to ensure that the people of the north-western suburbs will not be subjected to the continuous pollution of the stream or the ponding of effluent from Gibson's tannery and wool scours at Stafford?

(2) What action has been taken by the Brisbane City Council and the firm to ensure proper treatment and disposal of the effluent?

(3) Will he ascertain and advise why no action has been taken by the council to institute legal action against the firm?

Answers:—

(1) "The company has been refused permission by the Water Quality Council to discharge its wastes to Kedron Brook. In order to comply with the *Clean Waters Act* 1971 it will therefore be necessary for the company to obtain approval from the Brisbane City Council to discharge its wastes into the council's sewerage."

(2) "I understand that the Brisbane City Council has notified the company that it should discharge its wastes to the council sewerage subject to compliance with certain conditions concerning pretreatment of the wastes. I understand also that the company

has retained consulting engineers to advise it on pretreatment and that the initial installation of equipment has been made."

(3) "I understand legal action was contemplated by the council against the company, but I am unaware why the Brisbane City Council has not proceeded with this action."

TRAFFIC LIGHTS, SOMERSET ROAD—
GYMPIE ROAD INTERSECTION,
KEDRON

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

Will a pedestrian-activated traffic-light crossing be provided at Gympie Road, Kedron, adjacent to Somerset Street? If not, will he review the situation?

Answer:—

"No pedestrian activated signalised crossing will be installed in Gympie Road adjacent to Somerset Road as part of the construction presently being carried out in this area. A pedestrian count taken in July last did not meet the warrant for a signalised crossing but a zebra crossing opposite the Post Office will be provided in current works between Sadlier Street and Somerset Road. A median being constructed between Sadlier Street and Somerset Road will also improve pedestrian movements at this zebra crossing."

REVIEW OF WORK BACKLOG,
TITLES OFFICE

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

Has he sought the views and suggestions of organisations concerned with the Titles Office in an effort to overcome unnecessary delays and, if so, with what result?

Answer:—

"On October 3, 1973 a conference was convened by me as Minister for Justice and Attorney-General for the purpose of discussing any matters affecting the Titles Office. In addition to myself there were present the Under Secretary, Department of Justice, the Registrar, Deputy Registrars of Titles and Surveyor-in-Charge, the Senior Public Service Inspector and his appropriate Inspectors. The Surveyor-General and an officer from the Economics Section of the Queensland University attended as observers. The interested organisations represented were the Real Estate Institute of Queensland, Public Curator, Association of Queensland Licensed Real Estate Agents, Institution of Surveyors, Australia, The Associated Banks (Queensland), Queensland Law Society Incorporated, Australian Finance Conference, Housing Industry Association and the Urban Development Institute

of Australia (Qld.). These organisations were given every opportunity to submit complaints, questions, criticisms and suggestions and have same discussed or answered. Where necessary appropriate subsequent action is being taken. The organisations concerned expressed their appreciation of the opportunity afforded them."

AUTHORITIES TO PROSPECT

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

(1) In relation to authorities to prospect issued during each of the last three years, how many were issued (a) to Australian companies and (b) to companies with foreign or foreign and Australian joint interests?

(2) In each case, what is the total area involved?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "This Question cannot be answered in detail for the reason that as long as a company is incorporated or registered in Queensland it may be granted and hold an Authority to Prospect. The Honourable Member's attention is directed to the definition of 'company' in the Mining Act, section 96 of that Act and the definition of 'foreign company' in the Companies Act."

RAFFLING OF HOUSE, MISS AUSTRALIA
QUEST

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

(1) Is he aware of a report in the *Sunday Sun* of October 21 concerning the raffling of a luxury house in aid of a Miss Australia quest entrant?

(2) As the report clearly hints at serious malpractice in the drawing of first prize, will he institute a thorough examination of the organisation of the raffle and report back to Parliament?

(3) What were the circumstances of the drawing of the raffle?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) "The drawing of this art union was carried out in the presence of the Art Unions Officer of the Department of Justice. The marble system was used to draw the winning number. This gives every ticket an equal chance of winning the prize and in principle is similar to the method of drawing the Golden Casket. As to the statement made by the Honourable Member that 'there is evidence of serious malpractice in the drawing of the first prize' I should state that the marbles were drawn by the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Brisbane under the supervision of the abovementioned officer. I would not

accept that either the Officer or the Lord Mayor condoned a malpractice. I do not intend to investigate the circumstances of the drawing as the Honourable Member has suggested."

AVAILABILITY OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS
AND AMENITIES FOR AFTER-HOURS
COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

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

In view of interest shown by the Commonwealth Labor Government, both in its policy speech and since, in making available for community recreational purposes, on an organised basis, school buildings and amenities outside school hours and Mr. Beazley's announcement on August 21 that he would be giving consideration to the steps which could be taken to implement this policy and the need for discussions with State authorities as part of this process—

(1) Has he any detailed knowledge of the Commonwealth Government's intentions in this regard?

(2) Have discussions taken place?

(3) Will he assure the many parents and citizens' associations in Queensland, which conduct adult education evening classes in schools, that he will ensure that their very worth-while activities are not curtailed as part of some impersonal plan administered from Canberra?

Answers:—

(1) "I have no detailed knowledge of action which the Federal Government is considering in connexion with the provision of recreational facilities for the general public; and I have received no request from any Federal Minister that schools be made available outside of school hours for this purpose."

(2) "No discussions on this matter involving Federal and State authorities have taken place. I would point out, however, that many Principals in collaboration with their Parents and Citizens' Association have made facilities available for community activities."

(3) "I am happy to assure the Honourable Member and Parents and Citizens' Associations that the Adult Education Classes of the type which is currently being conducted will not be affected by Commonwealth intervention."

STAFFING AND VEHICLES, MARYBOROUGH
POLICE STATION

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

(1) What is the total complement of the Maryborough Police Station at present as compared with the total at December 31, 1972?

(2) Will he give an assurance that there will be no further reduction in staff and that the staff will be increased to provide more effective traffic policing and law enforcement generally?

(3) What staff is engaged on (a) clerical, (b) traffic, (c) crime-investigation, (d) general and (e) all other duties?

(4) How many vehicles and motor cycles are attached to the station?

(5) Has the police station sufficient staff in all categories to perform all the duties adequately and, if not, what is the reason?

Answers:—

(1) "Approved strength, Maryborough Police Station—

—	As at 31-12-72	As at 23-10-73
Police	50	44
Civilian Staff ..	7	7

Note: Maryborough Police District was reduced in area, as from August 1, 1973, with consequent reduction in strength."

(2) and (5) "No further reduction in strength is contemplated. If the continuing workload survey conducted by the Planning and Research Section of the Police Department indicates an increase in strength is warranted, appropriate action will be taken consistent with the availability of manpower."

(3) "(a) Seven civilian plus police officers for varying periods to meet requirements; (b) Two. (Policy is that traffic duties previously performed by nominated personnel are carried out by suitable police attached to general duties). (c) Five. (d) and (e) Two on radio communications. Police engaged on normal duties would also, in the course of these duties, carry out some clerical and other general work."

(4) "Eight sedans; three motor cycles."

ASSAULTS AND ROBBERIES, SOUTH
BRISBANE AREA

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

(1) Was a man assaulted and robbed of \$170 on the Victoria Bridge within 300 yards of the new police watchhouse at 10.40 a.m. on October 9?

(2) Were no detectives available to investigate the offence at that time and, if they were available, who were they and at what time did they interview the man?

(3) Was a man assaulted adjacent to the police watchhouse at 4.00 p.m. on October 10?

(4) How many persons have reported assaults or robberies to the watchhouse staff?

(5) In order that south-side residents and school children can proceed to the South Brisbane Railway Station without fear of assault, robbery or harassment, what steps have been taken or will be taken to provide additional police and other facilities to overcome this problem?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "Detectives were available to investigate this complaint at the time of the offence. However their assistance was not sought before 12 midday on October 9, 1973. The matter was being effectively handled by the crew of a mobile patrol car who had already interviewed the complainant and obtained and circulated relevant particulars. The detectives did not duplicate this work by interviewing him further and concentrated their efforts towards the location of the offender."

(3) "At about 4 p.m. on October 10, 1973 a man was assaulted in Manhattan Walk, South Brisbane, in the vicinity of the new watchhouse. This complaint was not reported to the watchhouse."

(4) "No specific record is kept at the watchhouse of complaints made there regarding alleged assaults or robberies. However any complaints received there would be referred to the appropriate station or branch for investigation. Inquiries have failed to show that any such complaints have been received there to date."

(5) "The matter of the provision of law and order in the South Brisbane area has been the subject of examination by senior officers of uniform and plain clothes staff for some time. Particular attention has been given to the area in conjunction with patrols from Brisbane Mobile Patrol units and Criminal Investigation Branch staff. In addition a special beat patrol has been assigned to carry out duty in the area. With present manpower commitments it is considered that the provisions which are being made for the comfort and protection of citizens in this area are adequate. A review is presently being undertaken in an effort to bring the Police Force up to approved strength, including facilitating entry into the force."

POLICE SENIORITY LIST

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

(1) Were all members of the Queensland Police Force listed on an annual seniority list issued as a supplement to the *Queensland Police Gazette* in April each year until 1971?

(2) Were commissioned officers deleted from this list at that time?

(3) Was this action taken to permit the appointment and promotion of certain persons to top positions?

(4) As a result of discontent amongst commissioned officers, was a commissioned officer service list issued in the *Gazette* of July 21, 1973?

(5) As this list in alphabetical order still causes discontent, will consideration be given to including commissioned officers in the annual seniority list?

Answers:—

(1) "A police seniority list was published in or about April annually up to and including 1970."

(2) "Commissioned officers were not included in the 1971 seniority list."

(3) "No."

(4) "Following discussion with the union a commissioned officer service list was supplied to the union and published on July 21, 1973."

(5) "No. There is no appeal against appointments at commissioned level. Following the 1970 amendment of the Police Act, which did away with the rank of Sub-Inspector of Police, there were four grades of inspectors. Inspectors may advance from one grade to another according to vacancies occurring in positions. They are not regarded as having seniority one over the other. Advancement depends upon such factors as physical condition, general ability and development and suitability for the particular position to be filled. Consequently it was considered that commissioned officers should not be included in a 'seniority list'."

REDRESS FOR DAMAGE FROM USE OF WEEDICIDES

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

(1) What legal rights or protection has a citizen whose farm, garden, or lawn has been destroyed or partially destroyed by the use of weed killers and other poison on neighbouring properties?

(2) What assistance can a citizen adversely affected expect from Government departments and to which department should he apply?

Answers:—

(1) "The owners of crops, gardens or lawn damaged by weed killers and poisons used on a neighbouring property, may submit a notification of complaint on damage to the Standards Officer of the Department of Primary Industries."

(2) "Each complaint is investigated and all parties concerned are informed of the findings."

BOTTLES AS MILK CONTAINERS, REDCLIFFE

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

Will Redcliffe people be unable to obtain bottled milk after December 31 or will they still be given a choice between bottles and plastic bags?

Answer:—

"At present more than 60 per cent. of household milk supplies to the Redcliffe area is in bottles and I have no reason to believe that this position will change after December 31 next. Whatever may be the economics in this matter, I believe the primary consideration is to satisfy consumers' preferences."

LAND RESUMPTIONS FOR NORTH PINE RIVER DAM

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

(1) How many residents have not received payment for land which has been resumed by the Brisbane City Council for the North Pine River Dam?

(2) What is the total number of land resumptions for the dam?

(3) How many appeals are listed for court hearing?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) "I have no specific information relative to the matters raised by the Honourable Member. I would suggest that he address his question to my colleague, the Honourable the Minister for Lands who administers the law relating to the resumption of land."

OIL SPILLAGE, GREAT BARRIER REEF WATERS

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

(1) Further to my question of November 22, 1972, relative to oil pollution on the Gladstone-Weipa sea-route and in view of the recent oil spill off the Queensland coast, will he immediately investigate

in detail every ship which used this route during the time when the spill was reported?

(2) Will he table a list of the ships which may have been involved?

(3) Was the bulk carrier "Ore Regent", or any other vessel owned by Clutha Company, in the area at that time?

(4) How many ships have used the mobile containers provided to dispose of waste oil at Gladstone and Weipa?

Answers:—

(1 to 3) "My Department of Harbours and Marine is investigating all possible causes of the recent oil pollution off Cairns. If adequate evidence is available the matter will be prosecuted through the Court under the provisions of the Pollution of Waters by Oil Act."

(4) "My enquiries at Gladstone and Weipa have indicated that shipping has not called for the use of road oil tankers at either port."

CONTROL OF ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENTS; CONTRACTS FOR SUPPLY OF GOODS

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

(1) What organisation or department is supervising or controlling the Aboriginal settlements in Queensland?

(2) What companies and individuals have contracts to supply goods to the coastal Aboriginal settlements?

Answers:—

(1) "The Honourable Member is directed to regulation 7 (2) of the Aborigines' Regulations of 1972. In the case of departmentally-sponsored Reserves, administrative supervision is exercised equally by an officer of the Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs and the Aboriginal Council. Similar arrangements exist where the Reserve is one which has been placed under management of a religious organisation, those being the Presbyterian Church of Australia, the Lutheran Church and the Brethren."

(2) "Any contractual arrangements for the supply of goods to Aboriginal Communities are made by the State Stores Board Queensland and I suggest the Honourable Member direct this question to the Premier."

TURTLE FARMING, TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS

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

(1) In view of the great interest and security which will follow family involvement in the turtle industry, has his

Department any power to prevent any particular Islander from becoming a turtle farmer?

(2) If so, are the grounds for refusal submitted and does he view these reasons?

(3) Are the nominees for turtle farming approved by the council of the particular island and, if so, should not this be sufficient recommendation?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) "The scheme operates under the auspices of the Commonwealth Department of Aboriginal Affairs. The Queensland Government does not have responsibility for the management or efficiency of the project."

STAFFING, PETRIE POLICE STATION

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

(1) With reference to his Answer to my Question regarding staffing of the Petrie Police Station that the police strength at Petrie had recently been increased from six uniformed police to eight, is he aware that two constables have been transferred, leaving the strength at six?

(2) When can replacements be expected?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "One vacancy has been filled by a transfer approved on September 17, 1973. The second vacancy will be filled in the near future when men become available for transfer."

ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES FOR AGED PERSONS' ACCOMMODATION

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

(1) What finance is available from the State Government to local authorities for the purchase of land and the erection of buildings for the care and accommodation of the aged?

(2) Under what terms and conditions is finance made available?

Answers:—

(1) "It is the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government to subsidise the purchase of land and the construction of buildings for the care of the aged."

(2) "The Queensland Government, through the State Department of Health, provides a subsidy of up to \$500 per person in respect of furniture and furnishings of homes approved by the Commonwealth Government to receive capital subsidies."

TEACHER AIDES

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

(1) What categories of schools will be eligible to employ teachers' aides and on what basis will the number of aides employed in any one school be decided?

(2) Will he list the duties of teachers' aides?

(3) What are the conditions of employment and salary?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) "The employment of teacher aides in primary, secondary and special schools is the subject of a submission which I shall be making to Cabinet within the next fortnight. When policies have been adopted I shall advise the Honourable Member."

ENDOWMENTS TO COLLEGES OF ADVANCED EDUCATION

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

(1) With respect to endowments to colleges of advanced education for 1973-74, to what date will these endowments extend?

(2) What will be the estimated financial position of each of the colleges listed at the time when funding will become a Commonwealth responsibility?

(3) If any of the colleges will be in deficit, what action will the State Government take?

Answers:—

(1) "The endowments to colleges of advanced education for 1973-74 will extend to June 30, 1974."

(2 and 3) "The monthly financial returns of colleges indicate that no college will be in deficit at the time when funding will become a Commonwealth responsibility."

CLOUDLAND BALLROOM, BOWEN HILLS

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

As Press reports indicate that Cloudland Ballroom in Boyd Street, Bowen Hills, will be sold and demolished for high-rise development, will his Government give immediate consideration to buying this property for retention as a recreational and cultural centre in view of the lack of this type of entertainment centre and the value of such an elevated site, from the point of view of both citizens and tourists?

Answer:—

"This proposal will be examined by my colleague, the Honourable the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities who will, no doubt, consider all aspects, including the cost and the need for such a recreation and cultural centre in the area."

CROWN LAND LEASES, SOUTH
STRADBROKE ISLAND

Mr. B. Wood for Mr. D'Arcy, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Lands,—

With reference to leases of Crown land on South Stradbroke Island, will he give for each lease (a) the number, (b) the holder, (c) the area, (d) the rental, (e) the details of conversion to freehold and (f) the dates of tenure?

Answer:—

"There are numerous Crown leases on South Stradbroke Island and the preparation of information as sought requires quite some time. The details are being taken out and I will further advise the Honourable Member."

ECOLOGICAL REPORT, ANDY'S AND
GRIFFIN ISLANDS

Mr. B. Wood for Mr. D'Arcy, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Conservation,—

With reference to his Answer in this House on October 18 when he refused to table the ecology report prepared by his Department before the granting of special leases on Andy's and Griffin Islands but stated that this 150-acre area was only one per cent. of the wet land between Jumpin Pin and the Gold Coast Bridge, is he unaware that this area is only one of the many leases granted by the Lands Department on the wet land of the area? If he is aware, how does he explain his Answer, as it is misleading?

Answer:—

"I think it would be more appropriate for the Honourable Member to address Questions concerning leases granted by the Lands Department to the Honourable the Minister for Lands."

LOCAL AUTHORITY BAN ON ALSATIAN
DOGS

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

(1) How many local authorities continue to ban the ownership of German shepherd dogs?

(2) Will he list the authorities?

(3) Does the ban apply to dogs which are (a) rendered incapable of reproducing, (b) chained or enclosed and (c) used for police and Air Force work? If so, in which shires in each category?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) "A number of Local Authorities has made By-laws dealing with the keeping of Alsatian dogs and in the following 41 Local Authority Areas the keeping of Alsatian, or Alsatian cross-breed, dogs is prohibited:—Town—Goondiwindi; Shires—Barcaldine; Bauhinia; Biggenden; Barcoo; Boulia; Bungil; Burke; Calliope; Cardwell; Cloncurry; Dalrymple; Diamantina; Eacham; Eidsvold; Fitzroy; Flinders; Gayndah; Glengallan; Ilfracombe; Inglewood; Isis; Kingaroy; Kolan; Longreach; McKinlay; Moreton; Murgon; Murilla; Murweh; Nebo; Paroo; Peak Downs; Quilpie; Richmond; Stanthorpe; Tambo; Tara; Wagamba; Winton and Wondai. In addition, the keeping of Alsatian or Alsatian cross-breed dogs over the age of six (6) months is prohibited in the following ten Local Authority Areas unless such dogs are rendered sterile and a certificate by a qualified veterinary surgeon to that effect is produced to the Clerk of the Local Authority:— Town—Dalby; Shires—Atherton; Bendemere; Booringa; Duaringa; Jericho; Kilkivan; Maroochy; Perry and Wococo. I am of the opinion that the provisions of Local Authority By-laws would not have application to the keeping of dogs by the Royal Australian Air Force or by the Police."

SPECIAL LEASES, RUSSELL, MACLEAY,
LAMB AND KARRAGARRA ISLANDS

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

(1) How many special leases have been granted on Russell, Macleay, Lamb and Karragarra Islands in Moreton Bay?

(2) What is the total area of the leases?

(3) Who are the holders?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) "There are no Special Leases on Russell, Macleay, Lamb or Karragarra Islands."

TEACHER RESIGNATION AND TRANSFER
RATES, STATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS

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

(1) What is the total number of State secondary schools in the shires of (a) Redcliffe, (b) Murrumba, (c) Caboolture, (d) Pine Rivers, (e) Albert and (f) Redland?

(2) What was the average percentage rate of (a) resignations and (b) applications for transfer of teachers from these schools for the last three years?

(3) Which secondary schools in these shires are ten per cent. or more above the average?

(4) Which of these schools had a ten per cent. higher-than-average rate for each of the last three years?

(5) Does his Department undertake research into conditions in areas and schools which show higher transfer rates?

(6) If enquiries have to be made, what are the findings and what action does his Department take?

Answers:—

(1) "The total number of state secondary schools in the shires of Redcliffe, Caboolture, Pine Rivers, Albert and Redland is seven (7) including one (1) secondary department. (Murrumba is an electorate including several of these shires)."

(2) "As teachers are transferred in some cases to meet the exigencies of the service and at other times to meet the requests of teachers, and as transfers do not always result when an application for transfer is made, the determination of the number of applications for transfer made, is practically impossible. The average resignation rate per annum for these schools is 9 per cent."

(3) "In none of the seven schools did the resignation rate per annum exceed 19 per cent."

(4) "In none of the seven schools did the resignation rate per annum exceed 19 per cent. for each of the three years."

(5) "No."

(6) "See Answer to (5). The state-wide average percentage of resignations of secondary school teachers per annum over the three years is 13 per cent."

RAIL TRAVEL CONCESSIONS FOR DESERTED WIVES

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

Is there any change in pass and travel concessions for deserted wives who were formerly in receipt of State Family Assistance and are now eligible for the Commonwealth's Supporting Mothers' Benefits and, if so, under what circumstances do these persons not qualify?

Answer:—

"There has been no change concerning the provision for issue of rail requisitions to persons 'in indigent circumstances', for

which purpose, subject to certain qualifications and exceptions, application may be used of the Commonwealth means test pertaining to Age, Invalid and Widows' pensions. With regard to other applications, each is considered upon its merits."

REBUILDING OF DUTTON PARK STATE SCHOOL

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

With regard to the unfortunate fire at the Dutton Park State School which destroyed or severely damaged more than half of the 87-year-old classrooms and most of the essential equipment, and in view of the major additions and alterations to be carried out at the school, as disclosed in the Treasurer's Financial Statement, will he arrange for the rebuilding of a new modern school in brick or other non-flammable material or rebuild those portions destroyed or damaged so that, at a later date, the rooms still standing can be replaced to harmonise with the architectural style of the new buildings?

Answer:—

"Arrangements have already been made for officers of the Department of Works and the Education Department to discuss the future needs of this school and all aspects of a rebuilding programme."

NEW CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC

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

(1) At what stage of completion is the Conservatorium of Music and when is it expected to be officially opened?

(2) What were the planning costs and what is the new estimated total cost of construction?

Answers:—

(1) "The Conservatorium of Music has reached the stage of construction where the anticipated date of occupancy is August, 1974."

(2) "The planning costs totalled \$134,168 and the latest estimated cost of construction including furniture and equipment is \$1,661,853."

TRAINING OF DENTAL THERAPISTS

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

(1) As the *Dental Act* 1971 provides that certain dental functions may be performed by "operative dental auxiliaries", will the term have to be changed to "dental therapists" under the proposed new scheme?

(2) What progress has been made in regard to the training of dental therapists for school children, what is the curriculum proposed for the course and where will the training take place?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "The curriculum for the training of Dental Therapists to be implemented as from the commencement of the 1974 academic year is nearing finalisation. Initially the training of Dental Therapists will be undertaken in Brisbane, but it is anticipated training will, at a later stage, also be undertaken at Townsville."

PRE-SCHOOL CENTRES, EVERTON ELECTORATE

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

Because of the large number of children awaiting entry to a pre-school centre on the north side of Brisbane, has any immediate consideration been given to a future building programme to construct a pre-school centre at Mitchelton, Enoggera, Everton Park or Grovely?

Answer:—

"Preliminary surveys have revealed that it will be necessary to acquire land for the establishment of State pre-school facilities at Mitchelton, Enoggera and Everton Park. Investigations are presently being undertaken in this regard at Enoggera and Everton Park, while the siting of facilities at Grovely is also under investigation."

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

INTERFERENCE BY FEDERAL MINISTER FOR MINERALS AND ENERGY IN STATE MINERAL PROJECTS

Mr. HOUGHTON: As a sequel to a question I asked yesterday regarding the motion passed by the South Australian Parliament condemning interference by the Federal Minister for Minerals and Energy (Mr. Connor) in that State's mineral projects and development, I ask the Premier: Has his attention been drawn to a new statement by Mr. Connor, reported in today's issue of "The Australian"? Is he aware that Mr. Connor publicly rebuked the Labor Premier of South Australia for what Mr. Connor described as daring to try to "take over the functions of the Federal Government"? Is he also aware that these so-called Commonwealth functions relate to the signing of an agreement by the South Australian Government for the development of natural-gas fields in the north of that State? Further, has his attention been drawn to an article in last Saturday's "Australian",

in which the Leader of the Opposition in this House (Mr. Houston) is quoted as saying, "Canberra must have control of all resources"? How does that square up with the views of the South Australian Labor Government, which, in defiance of Mr. Connor, will now introduce a Bill to set up the new natural-gas project? Will he again invite the Queensland Opposition to submit a motion similar to the one passed by the South Australian Parliament, with the promise that he will support it?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I am aware of most of the substance in the honourable member's question. Of course, the policies of the respective Labor Parties in South Australia and Queensland are completely opposed, one to the other. It is quite clear in my mind which policy is right, and which is wrong. In South Australia the Labor Party stands up for its own State, whereas the A.L.P. in Queensland is prepared to sell out and give away the resources of this State. I am aware that the Leader of the Opposition said, according to the Press, that all our natural resources, including mineral resources, should be handed over to the control of the Commonwealth Government. We know that is Labor's policy in Queensland, and I have drawn the attention of the people to this fact time and again. This is the reason why I say there must be a "No" vote to both the referendum issues that will be coming before us very shortly. The Queensland Labor Opposition is prepared to hand over complete control to the Federal Government.

I challenge the Leader of the Opposition, if he is a good Queensland and if his party stands for Queensland, to submit a motion similar to that supported by the A.L.P. in South Australia. It was moved by the Opposition in that State, which thereby took the initiative. I should like to see the Leader of the Opposition and the A.L.P. in Queensland take the initiative here in Queensland's interest, and on behalf of Queenslanders. I challenge him to take similar action in Queensland—if he is a true Queensland.

Mr. Houston: Let us debate it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. Houston: The Premier challenged me.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. Camm: You move it, and we will have a debate.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! When I call for order I expect honourable members, irrespective of who they may be, to obey me. And that includes the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. HOUSTON: Naturally, Mr. Speaker, I accept your ruling and your authority, but the Premier challenged me. His challenge will be reported in the Press, but I am not permitted to answer it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! Is the honourable gentleman rising on a point of order?

Mr. HOUSTON: Yes. The Premier challenged me to make a statement, but you know that I cannot make it in this context. The Press will report what the Premier said, but I am not permitted to reply. I object to that procedure.

FREE ROAD-TRANSPORT PERMITS DURING INDUSTRIAL STOPPAGE, ROMA STREET RAILWAY GOODS YARDS

Mr. NEWBERRY: I ask the Minister for Transport: As I have received numerous telegrams regarding the acute shortage of food and other urgently needed supplies in northern and western areas, which has been brought about by the union ban at the Roma Street Railway Goods Yards, will he give urgent and immediate consideration to waiving road-transport permit fees for the duration of the ban?

Mr. K. W. HOOPER: The Commissioner for Transport has already been instructed to do just that. Where difficulties are being experienced in getting goods through, he has been told to issue permits for that purpose.

PROVISION OF LOW-COST RESIDENTIAL LAND

Mr. B. WOOD: I ask the Minister for Lands and Forestry: Following a meeting of State and Federal Ministers in Melbourne, what action will he now be taking in an effort to stabilise the price of land for home-building purposes?

Mr. RAE: I have yet to discuss this matter with Cabinet, and I do not intend this morning to convey to the honourable member my views or those of Cabinet. He will learn of them in good time.

CONTROL OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. HOUSTON: I ask the Premier: Does he believe that Australia's natural resources should be controlled or owned by foreign companies owing loyalty to foreign Governments?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: The natural resources of Australia are not controlled by foreign companies. Many overseas companies have large investments in this country, but, through the appropriate departments of the various Governments, including the Queensland Government, the conditions under which they operate are controlled and regulated. All that I can say to the honourable member is that, whilst this

system of control by the various State Governments has been in operation, the natural resources of Australia have been developed for the benefit of all. The tragedy at the present time is that, with the Commonwealth Government taking over control, search and development activities in the private sector are coming to a standstill, and the country is facing a very serious situation. No-one has any confidence that the socialist Federal Government will do the things that can be done, and have been done in the past, by the private sector.

CONTROL OF MINERAL EXPORTS

Mr. HOUSTON: I also ask the Premier: Was power to control the export of Australia's minerals available to the previous Liberal-Country Party Federal Government?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: The Commonwealth Government has certain powers that it can exercise, if it sees fit, in the interest of the nation. There was a time, for instance, when the export of iron-ore from Western Australia was controlled. Subsequently, the Commonwealth Government of the day decided that, in the interests of development and employment, permission to export this mineral should be granted. The answer to the specific point raised by the honourable gentleman is "Yes". The former Commonwealth Government had the power, but the restrictions being imposed today by the present Federal Labor Government are having the effect of bringing mineral development to a standstill. One of these days I will present a list of some of the things that have happened in Queensland.

Mr. Houston: You are going to list them?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: Yes, and the honourable member will get a shock when he sees the disastrous effect that the controls imposed by the Labor Government are having, not only in Queensland but in the other States of Australia. It is a great tragedy for the nation that it should be controlled by a Federal Government with such socialistic thinking, tendencies and attitudes that it is bringing to a halt the overall development of Australia.

RUMOURED CLOSURE OF THALLON-DIRRRANBANDI RAILWAY LINE

Mr. NEAL: I ask the Minister for Transport: Is he aware of a rumour to the effect that the section of the south-western railway line from Thallon to Dirranbandi is to be closed, and is there any truth in such a rumour?

Mr. K. W. HOOPER: I am not aware of any such rumour. However, I assure the honourable member that there is no intention whatever of closing this section of railway line.

VISITS TO JAPAN BY PREMIER AND
PRIME MINISTER

Mr. HINZE: I ask the Minister for Mines and Main Roads: In view of the criticism by the honourable member for Lytton of the Premier's recent visit to Japan, what is the difference between the Premier's visit to encourage mining in Queensland and the intended visit by the Prime Minister (Mr. Whitlam) and other Federal Ministers, including Mr. Connor, who is reported in "The Courier-Mail" this morning as saying that they will endeavour to encourage the Japanese to construct a uranium-enrichment plant in Queensland?

Mr. CAMM: The main difference is that the Premier's party consisted of four people. I understand that the Prime Minister's party will consist of about 80 people—plus a bull, which I believe the Prime Minister intends to present to the leaders of China. In his various visits to Japan, the Premier has succeeded in encouraging the Japanese to invest in many industries in this State that have been of tremendous benefit to Queensland workers. No doubt the Prime Minister thinks that he needs to take such a large complement in order to heal the many breaches that have occurred between the Japanese and the Commonwealth Government since it came to office last December.

As to the uranium-enrichment plant, the Queensland Government has for some time been in consultation with Federal representatives in an endeavour to work together to obtain sufficient capital somewhere in the world to enable the building of such a plant. It is rather ironic that, with all the criticism that the Federal Government has levelled at multi-national companies, as it calls them, its representatives are now going to Japan to discuss with the Japanese Government the possibility of Japanese companies being interested in mounting this gigantic operation somewhere in Australia.

TENNYSON MINERALS N.L. AND
TOLEDO MINERALS LTD.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I ask the Minister for Justice: Could he inform the House of the approximate cost incurred by his department in investigating the irresponsible allegation by the honourable member for Brisbane that no action had been taken to investigate Tennyson Minerals N.L. and Toledo Minerals Ltd?

Mr. KNOX: I cannot give the actual figures, but it would involve quite a number of people and man-hours.

An Opposition Member interjected.

Mr. KNOX: It is surprising to hear the concern of members of the Opposition for certain private enterprises when in fact they are hell-bent on destroying private enterprise in this nation. As far as we are concerned, the responsibility of the Government is to

ensure that the corporate affairs Acts are administered, and that, when matters are brought to the notice of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs for investigation, they are investigated if the required information is at hand.

Mr. Davis: I am blaming you.

Mr. KNOX: What for?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. KNOX: I cannot give the exact figure, but several thousand dollars have so far been spent on investigations into these allegations. Yesterday I mentioned the results of those investigations, and further investigations are still being undertaken.

CONTROL OF INFLATION

Mr. LEESE: Before directing a question to the Premier, I point out that the latest Gallup Poll reveals that 60 per cent of Queenslanders support price control by the Federal Government. I now ask him: Will he cease his dogmatic rantings and cooperate with Mr. Whitlam in his endeavours to overcome inflation?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I saw the Press report in question this morning, just as I saw recently a Press report that an opinion poll had disclosed that the Commonwealth Government would lose 20 seats if it went to an election at the present time.

Mr. LEESE: Answer this one!

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: In reply to the honourable member's question, I am quite sure that when the people of Queensland become aware of exactly what is involved in the transfer of these powers to the Commonwealth—when we outline it very clearly to them through a campaign that we will be conducting—the figure mentioned will be completely reversed. The people will then realise how serious it is to transfer power over prices to the Commonwealth.

Perhaps I should conclude my reply to the question by saying that when we campaign on this question and enlighten the people of this State, the result of the opinion poll will be completely reversed as the majority of people will be opposed to handing over any further powers to the Commonwealth.

VICTORIAN PRISON REFORMS

Mr. DAVIS: I ask the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Welfare Services: Is he aware that legislation has been introduced in the Victorian State Parliament with the object of abolishing solitary confinement in prisons and bread-and-water treatment, and to allow open-court proceedings to prisoners who are inmates of that State's prisons? If so, will he indicate whether he proposes to introduce similar legislation and have changes such as I have outlined brought into effect in Queensland prisons?

Mr. HERBERT: I thought the honourable member had been here long enough to be aware that the Government never indicates legislative or policy proposals in answer to a question.

CONTROL OF INFLATION

Mr. DAVIS: I ask the Premier: As a sequel to his famous refusal to attend dinner with the Prime Minister, he was asked by an interviewer on the programme "Open Line", conducted by radio station 4BH, why he would not introduce price control in this State. He replied that it was not his responsibility but that of the Federal Government to beat inflation. He then said that the only way to beat inflation was to do as Sir Arthur Fadden did and introduce a horror Budget. Does he still stand by that statement?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I stand by my statement that the control of the economy of this nation rests largely in the hands of the Commonwealth Government. It must take any action that is necessary to stabilise our economy. Again I point out that, if the Commonwealth Government were to follow the example set by former Prime Ministers, it could achieve a large degree of stability in the economy. Unfortunately, however, as the honourable member is well aware, the present Commonwealth Government is quite incompetent and is unable to face up to its responsibilities. The result is that Australia is faced with galloping inflation.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The time allotted for questions has now expired.

DAYS ALLOTTED TO SUPPLY

SESSIONAL ORDER

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

"That during this session, unless otherwise ordered, the House may, on the days allotted for Supply, continue to sit until 10 o'clock p.m. Each of the periods between 11 o'clock a.m. and 4 o'clock p.m. and between 4 o'clock p.m. and 10 o'clock p.m. shall be accounted an allotted day under the provisions of Standing Order No. 307. Three allotted days shall be allowed for the discussion of the Estimates of a department. At the termination of the period so allowed the Chairman shall put every question necessary to decide the Vote under consideration and shall then proceed to put the question for the balance of the Estimates for that department; all such questions to be decided without amendment or debate: Provided that, if the discussion of the Estimates of a department be concluded before the expiry of the three days so allowed, the period remaining shall be allocated to the discussion of the

Estimates next brought before the Committee. All provisions of Standing Order No. 307 shall, mutatis mutandis, continue to apply."

Motion agreed to.

TRAFFIC ACT AMENDMENT BILL

INITIATION

Hon. K. W. HOOPER (Greenslopes—Minister for Transport): 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 Traffic Act 1949–1971 in certain particulars."

Motion agreed to.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

FUTURE OF COAL INDUSTRY, IPSWICH

Dr. EDWARDS (Ipswich) (12.7 p.m.): I am very pleased to be able to participate in this debate so that I can bring to the notice of the Parliament, as well as the people of Queensland, the problems that may face the coal industry in the Ipswich and West Moreton district over the next few years.

As is well known, Ipswich has a very proud coal-mining history and tradition. It was as long ago as 1851 that the first coal mine in Queensland was developed. This occurred in the Ipswich district, approximately 1½ miles from the centre of the present city of Ipswich. Over the past 125-odd years the industry has grown in close association with the cities of Ipswich and Brisbane. The city of Ipswich is famous throughout Australia, and is also known in other parts of the world, as one of the great coal-mining centres of this nation.

Since the establishment of the coal-mining industry in Ipswich, it has provided tremendous and valuable economic stimulation to the district and, indeed, to the State as a whole. Today the industry is a multi-million dollar one, employing more than 1,000 people directly within it and approximately 3,000 people in associated industries. As well, approximately 4,500 persons are totally dependent on the coal-mining industry for their livelihood and support.

The coal-miners of the Ipswich area are a very dedicated group of skilled workmen. In their industry they are experts; however, outside of the industry they can find no suitable employment other than work of a labouring type. The future of the industry, therefore, is of the utmost importance to them. I have tremendous respect for these workers. Indeed, as I said in my maiden speech in this House, I have many relatives who either were or are employed in the coal-mining industry. I repeat quite proudly

that both my maternal and paternal grandfathers spent all their working lives in the Ipswich coal mines.

In 1949 approximately 1,200,000 tons of coal was produced. Of that quantity, 45 per cent was used in the generation of electricity and approximately 30 per cent was consumed in steam locomotives of the Railway Department. The demand for coal by steam locomotives ceased in about 1964, when through dieselisation they were eliminated.

The present situation is that approximately 94 per cent of our coal is used in the generation of electricity. Of that quantity, in 1972, 79 per cent, or 1,869,000 tons, was produced by underground mining methods, and 21 per cent was obtained by open-cut methods.

However, the future of the coal-mining industry in the West Moreton area does not appear to be very bright at all. Therefore, I was very pleased to attend the recent dinner meeting of the Coal Preparation Society (Queensland Branch) in Ipswich, which was addressed by the Minister for Mines and Main Roads. I was thrilled to hear him say—

“As a Government we have a responsibility to all the people of Queensland to ensure that they enjoy a reasonable standard of living. This means that the Country Party-Liberal Government will not allow the Ipswich area to suffer a crippling blow to its economy and take no remedial action. It would not allow hundreds of coal-miners working in the West Moreton field to be thrown out of work bringing financial hardship on them and their families.”

I was very pleased to hear the Minister's statement. I know that he and the Government have a genuine interest in the Ipswich field and that they will do whatever they can to maintain and, if possible, expand the West Moreton field. I pay them a tribute for their interest.

The coal industry in the area has a real problem. It is no secret that there is a shortage in coal supplied to the Swanbank stockpile. That is causing a great deal of concern to the Southern Electric Authority. It is also a serious worry to coal producers and, no doubt, to the Minister for Local Government and Electricity.

In 1964, a contract for the supply of coal to Swanbank “A” was drawn up between the S.E.A. and three mining companies, namely, Box Flat, New Hope and Southern Cross Collieries. No other company in the Ipswich area was ever given any indication by the Coal Board of supply needs to meet future demands.

Since 1964, the whole programme has altered. The tragic Box Flat disaster, which occurred in about July last year, altered drastically the amount of coal produced by that colliery. The main producer of coal

was therefore unable to meet the requirements. The Coal Board immediately gave open encouragement to the other collieries to supply as much coal as possible to Swanbank, but this was an absolute impossibility. In this area a number of other collieries were struggling on, without ever obtaining from the Coal Board definite orders or contracts. Because of the lack of guaranteed markets, these companies were unable and unwilling to develop their mining techniques or mechanisation. Yet suddenly, 12 or 18 months ago, they were asked to produce more coal without being given any guarantee or contractual orders for any definite period. It was, and still is, most unfair and unethical of the Coal Board to expect such companies to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on machinery and modernisation without, at this stage, any guaranteed markets.

Recently the industry was made aware by the Coal Board of the fact that about 50,000 tons weekly would be needed for the next few years. This quantity, which will gradually reduce to approximately 12,000 tons weekly in about five years' time, can be supplied by one or two collieries. I wonder what will happen at that stage to the 700 or 800 men and the 1,500 to 1,600 associated workers in the Ipswich area.

The reasons for the short supply to Swanbank are explainable. The Box Flat disaster 15 months ago reduced the supply of coal from that source by about 10,000 tons weekly and the Coal Board suddenly, as I said, expected the other collieries to make up this supply, still without giving any assurances for the future. Most of the collieries are working two shifts on coal production, and the third shift is devoted to essential maintenance and necessary coal-dusting procedures. The producers and the miners are giving of their best to meet the demands suddenly thrust upon them.

In this period of heavy demand some collieries have struck unfortunate geological problems, which are reducing their capability to meet the demands. A roof-fall in one mine further decreased output at that colliery. In the past few years the usual interest has not been displayed by young men in entering the industry, mainly because of uncertainty through lack of guaranteed markets.

Reserves of coal in the Ipswich area are plentiful. The 1972 Queensland Coal Board report shows proven reserves of 363,000,000 long tons, and indicated reserves of 95,000,000 long tons.

There is no magical answer to making up the backlog of coal required for the stockpile. But the problem is not of recent origin. It dates back to some years ago when the Coal Board failed to give any guaranteed markets over lengthy periods to other than three local producers, so that planning for expansion to meet future demands could be undertaken.

I appeal to the Government to take action—I know it will—on this very important matter. If necessary, I ask it to set up an expert committee to advise on the future of the Ipswich coal-mining industry, and particularly industry demands, electricity requirements, and the use of resources and manpower.

Mr. McKechnie: The negotiations at the moment are on the basis of a longer term.

Dr. EDWARDS: I am pleased to hear that. I know the Minister's interest in the Ipswich area, and I appreciate it very much.

It has been mentioned that Queensland needs, and will have, a steelworks in the future. I suggest that the possibility of using Ipswich coal for such a development be seriously considered by the Government. The steelworks could be set up close to Brisbane and Ipswich and use Ipswich coal for generation of power.

In the Ipswich area, we need guarantees for 50,000 tons weekly for at least seven to 10 years from now. If the Queensland Coal Board would give the collieries in my area those guarantees, I am sure that, in turn, the local companies would guarantee expansion and development to meet the demand.

We must explore every possible avenue for use of our coal, including additional units at Swanbank, and in this respect it must be remembered that we are not oversupplied with electricity generation in this State at present. I think that at some time in the future industry may well have to use coal as fuel owing to the possible shortage of oil and the suggested increase in the cost of oil.

We need guarantees from the Government and the Queensland Coal Board. I am pleased to hear of the Minister's interest in this. The only way to determine in an unbiased and progressive way the future demand and capacity to meet it is to use the advice, which the Minister has suggested, of experts in all fields. Ipswich would not then lose its coal industry; instead, there would be expansion based on contractual agreements and guarantees, which have not been granted previously to the whole of the industry. The industry needs contracts and guarantees not in 1975 or 1978, but now.

(Time expired.)

FLOOD MITIGATION SCHEME, KEDRON BROOK

Mr. LEESE (Pine Rivers) (12.17 p.m.): I rise today to highlight some areas of concern that have arisen from certain aspects of the Kedron Brook flood mitigation scheme in the Ferny Hills district of my electorate. In June of this year, the Pine Rivers Shire Council received a letter from the Co-ordinator-General's Department which was destined to cause worry, frustration and concern to some 25 young families in the Ferny Hills area. The letter advised the council of the

study commissioned by the State Government to determine flood mitigation measures for Kedron Brook.

As one of the proposals being examined was the use of the Keperra Golf Course as a retention basin, the letter sought the co-operation of the council in advising people in the area of the proposals. The letter went on to say that until such time as the area required for the basin was accurately determined, failure to control activity in this area could lead to unnecessary resumptions. In due course the council, quite correctly, advised all home-owners and landowners within the defined area.

Let me say at the outset that I regard as criminal the suggestion that homes in this area be resumed. Not one of the homes involved has been standing for more than two years, and the current market value of each of them would be in the \$25,000–\$40,000 bracket. So that it can be readily seen, as I have previously said, that, in the main, these homes belong to young couples who are in their first homes, which were built as the result of a good deal of planning, a lot of expense and many dreams. Yet this one bureaucratic letter has gone a long way towards shattering those dreams.

The letter has also made these owners determined to fight. They immediately formed themselves into a flood action committee. I know that the Treasurer and the Co-ordinator-General's Department have heard quite a lot from them, and I congratulate them on their stand. They have shown that they are not willing to stand idly by and watch their homes bulldozed to the ground to make way for a scheme that should have been implemented years ago.

It must be stressed that these people did not build their homes on flood plains. The Pine Rivers Shire Council has followed a firm policy of not permitting development within flood courses or on flood plains, and to allow for future development of catchment areas, development levels have always been set with at least 3 feet of freeboard above the maximum recorded flood levels. In the area affected by the proposed Keperra Golf Course scheme, a very careful investigation was made of flood levels, and subdivision of this land was not permitted below a level that was considered well clear of any possible future flooding. It also took into account any future urban development upstream on Kedron Brook. It could be inferred that young families who have paid high prices for their land, which they understood to be clear of flooding, are to be penalised in an endeavour to mitigate a problem resulting from apparently uncontrolled development downstream.

It could be debated that the Pine Rivers Shire Council was not advised of the proposed scheme at the earliest possible moment, but it is too late now that the homes are built. I say this because one young couple received a notice informing them that, if

certain schemes went through, there was a possibility that their new home would be resumed. They received this notice on the day on which they moved into their new home. It must be stressed that the residents of this area are not opposed to flood mitigation, but they strongly believe, as I do, that any measures taken should also ensure protection of their homes. I am of the opinion that the Government has an obligation to see to it that this is the case. I understand that the studies have now been finalised, and that the decision is now a political one. It would seem that the decision arrived at is going to be dictated by the availability of finance, but the Government should make known its intention so that the young families concerned can again start planning for the future.

I understand that one of the proposals placed before the Government is to build a weir to the 1967 flood level. This would hold water to the level of R.L. 160, and, as this runs more or less level with Kedron Brook, it would seem that, even without added protection, homes there would be flooded only on very rare occasions.

I believe that protection can, and must, be given to ensure that these homes are not subject to flooding. Residents will not accept the excuse of added cost as the reason for not providing their homes with the necessary protection. The studies are complete, so the Government now has no excuse for not coming down with an early decision setting out the proposals clearly and removing every vestige of uncertainty from the minds of the young families concerned.

Therein lies the crux of the problem. These young families were advised in July that if certain aspects of the flood mitigation scheme were to be proceeded with, they could possibly lose their homes. I do not think that I have to dwell on the type of fear that this engenders. One mother put it to me this way: "Do you know what it feels like to wake up every morning in your new home, which you have only been in for six months, with the fear that it could be taken away from you?" If these homes were resumed, they would virtually be "taken away" because, although residents would receive current market values, they would in no way be compensated for the upset to their lives and would have little chance of obtaining other dwellings similar to those at Ferny Hills.

I believe that these homes can be protected if the Government goes ahead with the scheme. There are other areas of Ferny Hills, bordering on the Keperra golf course, that are more low-lying than the one defined in the Co-ordinator-General's plan. It was suggested that if the area defined is flooded, the other area, in the Dinterra Avenue vicinity of Ferny Hills, must also be flooded. Dinterra Avenue is a natural watercourse. In fact, at the moment it has under it two 4-ft. drains that run direct into Kedron Brook.

I aired these views with the Co-ordinator-General, and received in writing from him the information that Dinterra Avenue could definitely be protected by building a levee, and also by providing a pumping station there to take care of any back-up of floodwaters. If this can be done in the Dinterra Avenue area, I believe that it can also be done in other areas of Ferny Hills in order to ensure that young residents do not lose their homes. Even if exhaustive studies show that it is not possible to provide maximum protection ensuring that homes will never be flooded, or even flooded on only very rare occasions, residents should still be given the opportunity to decide whether they wish to stay in their homes or sell them with additional compensation.

Of course, when circumstances such as these arise, people are always disadvantaged. I know of two instances in which families have been seriously affected. First, there is the case of a young bank officer in respect of whom I received a letter from the manager of his branch stating that he has been passed over for promotion solely because his house is frozen and he cannot sell it. Secondly, another resident, who had to move to Maryborough for family reasons, sold his house and then, a week before the transfer documents were signed, the land was frozen. Consequently, he has had to get bridging finance and buy a house in Maryborough that is not really the type of house he requires, and he is in serious financial difficulty. In these two cases, the Treasurer should consider purchasing the houses immediately.

(Time expired.)

TERTIARY EDUCATION FACILITIES, MARYBOROUGH-WIDE BAY REGION

Mr. ALISON (Maryborough) (12.26 p.m.): I wish to speak this morning on a matter of great importance not only to the people of Maryborough—my electorate—but also to the people of the Maryborough-Wide Bay district—the complete lack of tertiary education facilities in the region.

I put forward the proposal that the area should be the one next set down for an institute of technology or a college of advanced education, which should be at Maryborough. Apart from the Moreton region, the Maryborough-Wide Bay region is the most densely populated area in Queensland. The only tertiary education facilities in the south-east corner of the State outside Brisbane are, of course, the institutes of technology at Toowoomba and Rockhampton. Toowoomba is over 200 miles from Maryborough, which is the geographical centre of the thriving Maryborough-Wide Bay region, and the institute of technology at Rockhampton is even farther away—about 270 miles.

In addition to being the geographical centre of the Maryborough-Wide Bay region, Maryborough is also the headquarters of the Wide Bay education region. The administrative officers and other officers stationed there administer the whole of the region—as far north-west, I think, as Monto, and taking in Bundaberg, which is about 60 miles to the north, and as far south as Gympie, Cooran, Cooroy, Pomona, Noosa and Tewantin. As I said earlier, the area is thriving, and the population within a radius of 100 miles of Maryborough is about 120,000 to 130,000.

Developments in the field of education in Maryborough, in particular, over the past two years have been fairly extensive, and I think I can say with all modesty that I have played a not insignificant part in them. There are now five State primary schools, two private schools and two high schools in Maryborough. When the development is completed over the next two years, there will also be two very modern co-educational schools, as good as those anywhere else in the State. Extensive development also is taking place at the technical college. At present, a two-storey building is being erected to cater for not only Maryborough apprentices but also apprentices throughout the Maryborough-Wide Bay region, and I am confident that a favourable decision will be made in the near future relative to the provision of a residential at Maryborough for regional apprentices.

As you are aware, Mr. Speaker, the technical college conducts courses for trade apprentices and certificate courses to a sub-tertiary level. It is from this level that industry draws the technicians that it needs. A college of advanced education certainly is needed in Maryborough. It seems completely wrong that youths in the Maryborough-Wide Bay region should have to travel as far as Brisbane, Toowoomba or Rockhampton to receive tertiary education. I realise that an institute of technology cannot be established overnight, but we could easily start off with a college of advanced education, specialising, perhaps, in the timber industry.

Maryborough is the centre of the most important timber area in Queensland, including the large State forests at Tuan and Toolara, and expanding forests to the north. Perhaps we could start off in a small way with a college based on the timber industry, and develop from that. It could also run courses in agriculture. An extensive sugar industry and a greatly expanding beef industry are also centred on Maryborough. Perhaps other courses suited to their needs could be developed. It is also a very important engineering centre. Walkers Ltd. has over 1,000 employees in its shipyard, foundry and workshops, and other smaller engineering workshops have been established.

At the present time an inter-departmental land-use survey of much of the land around Maryborough is in progress. I am very desirous that the inter-departmental committee should set aside sufficient vacant Crown land to cater for a college of advanced education in the not too distant future. It is important that this should be done, and I will certainly be making representations in the right quarters along those lines.

It is interesting to note statistics covering students in grades 10 and 12 in the three education regions, Wide Bay, Toowoomba and Central—Central, of course, being based on Rockhampton. The figures for February 1971 were—

	Grades 10 and 12 Students
Wide Bay	2,570
Toowoomba	2,060
Central	2,590

I know that those figures are based on State school enrolments and that the private schools would inflate the Toowoomba figure. Nevertheless, I think they prove that my area has the potential, because it is from grades 10 and 12 that students are drawn for a college of advanced education. They are potential students for diploma and certificate courses. It can be seen that the Wide Bay region based on Maryborough has as many potential students for a college of advanced education as have the Toowoomba and Central regions.

It is also interesting to refer to the Report of the Board of Adult Education for 1972, which illustrates just how education-conscious we are in the Wide Bay-Maryborough region. For instance, out of the total attendances for the year at adult education lectures and film screenings of 360,000, 113,000 were in the Wide Bay-Burnett region. I believe that to be quite significant. It is positive proof that the people of this region are education-conscious and are endeavouring to educate themselves. The Government should do something about this and provide the necessary tertiary educational facilities. As I mentioned, the Wide Bay-Burnett attendances for the year were 113,000 out of a total of 360,000. The Far North, with only 58,000 attendances, has the next highest figure, yet in the latter area lectures and films were made available in more towns.

The Maryborough Chamber of Commerce has approached me about this matter. It is well aware of the needs of the city and district. It has asked me to approach the Minister to ensure that an area of 2,000 acres is set aside for an institute of technology or, for a start, a college of advanced education. I do not know how it decided on that figure, but I certainly pass on its representations. I would not know whether more or less than 2,000 acres would be required; I leave that to the experts. I will be satisfied

as long as sufficient land is set aside while vacant Crown land is still available. Before more Crown land is released for some other purpose, whether it be agriculture, cane-growing, parks or anything else, it is essential that land be set aside for this purpose so that we do not create problems for ourselves in a year or two when it is at last acknowledged that finance must be made available for this very important project.

Early in April I asked the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities this question about the Darling Downs Institute of Technology and the Capricornia Institute—

“Do the respective institutes have a full capacity of students——?”

He replied—

“These institutes do not have a full capacity of students at present.”

He added that it was a developing situation and that a considerable building programme had been approved for Toowoomba and Rockhampton during the 1973-75 triennium. I submit that this is no reason why we in the Maryborough-Wide Bay region should miss out. That is no reason why a start should not be made, or why we should not be looking now at the best way of establishing a college of advanced education. We should also consider whether the courses at the college should be based on timber, agriculture or engineering. I will certainly be taking up the matter in greater detail with the Minister for Education and the inter-departmental committee carrying out the survey of land-use around Maryborough.

ALLEGED POLICE BRUTALITY

Mr. N. F. JONES (Everton) (12.36 p.m.): Last Wednesday, in this Chamber, I called on the Minister in charge of police to investigate an incident that I outlined to the House. Following my request for an investigation, last Friday the Minister for Works and Housing, in his capacity as Minister in charge of police, made a bitter personal attack upon me in relation to a statement I had made three days earlier about a police incident that occurred on 18 August. The incident involved an alleged car chase through certain Brisbane suburban streets and, subsequently, the handling by police of two brothers, aged respectively 16 and 12 years, neither of whom was the driver and neither of whom, to the best of my knowledge, is the subject of any charge.

In my statement to this Parliament on 17 October, I outlined serious complaints made to me by the mother of the two boys about the conduct of certain police involved, and I called for an investigation. This quite reasonable request prompted the Minister, on Friday, to accuse me of a cowardly attack on officers who were unable to defend themselves. He alleged that I had set out unfairly and deliberately to discredit

the name of law and order in Queensland and, in particular, the reputation of certain police officers.

To justify his attack on me, the Minister read a report on the 18 August incident from one L. R. (Ross) Dickson, Police Constable First/Class, No. 7291. Let me say at this point that I completely refute the cheap and nasty assertions by the Minister against me. Likewise, I completely refute similar assertions against me by Constable Dickson in his report. I will comment on these later. I am dissatisfied with the report of Constable Dickson on the events of 18 August, and even more dissatisfied with the Minister's attempted whitewash last Friday of the incident and subsequent complaints. I repeat my request for a proper investigation into the alleged complaints of the mother of these two boys, and I emphasise the words a “proper investigation.”

In doing this, I understand that I am now supported by a solicitor who has written to the Police Commissioner, and also the Minister, concerning the incident. Constable Dickson, in the report that was read in this House, describes the woman complainant, whom he names as “Mrs. Booker”, as a “drunken female”. He says, “the children called us in and I went into the bedroom, where I saw a drunken female propped half up in bed almost naked.” He continues, “I expected something of this nature, because I have known Mrs. Booker for about six years as a result of much domestic trouble with her husband whilst I was at Mitchelton.”

In his report, Dickson also alleges that the two boys told him not to come into the home as their mother would be drunk on Bacardi. He claims that he saw empty beer bottles and an empty Bacardi bottle in the lounge, and says the home was dirty.

In regard to myself, Constable Dickson said, “The facts are distorted beyond belief and Mr. Jones has ‘previous’ for this type of irrational statement in the House.” He added, “Mrs Booker, in my personal opinion, is extremely anti-police, as does Mr. Jones appear from his previous conduct.”

Time does not permit me to comment in detail on Constable Dickson's report, but the facts as he states them, and as the Minister obviously accepts them, are very much in dispute and a proper investigation, to my mind, is more than warranted. The accuracy of the report can probably be gauged from the fact that Constable Dickson names this woman complainant, whom he claims to know so well, as “Mrs. Booker”. This is not the correct name of the woman, nor is it the correct surname of her sons. To the best of my knowledge, she has never been named “Booker”, as the Constable reports. Likewise, to the best of my knowledge I have never met Constable

Dickson. Yet he makes personal observations concerning my character and alleged attitudes.

Before the Minister accepts the police report as the final word on the incident, I believe he should take a closer look at its author, Constable Dickson. "Sunday Truth" of 10 November 1968 contained an article to the effect that residents of the Mitchelton area were circulating petitions to have Constable Dickson transferred because of his over-zealous enforcement of the then new breathalyser laws. He was alleged to have booked 30 people in less than three months, and to have also-tested another 41 persons whom he could not charge. On 9 March 1969 "Sunday Truth" announced that Dickson, who was then described as Brisbane's toughest traffic cop, had in fact been transferred to city police headquarters.

This police officer aroused resentment against police in the Mitchelton area in a manner never encountered either before or since. He is still remembered there as the police officer who spied on a certain bowling club through binoculars, as well as the one who made personal swoops in his off-duty hours on drink-drivers and issued parking and other traffic tickets for the most trivial infringements.

Before accepting the report of this officer as the final word, the Minister should check the facts of a drink-driving charge that was directed several years ago by Dickson against a solicitor named Anderson. Anderson's evidence was supported by a doctor. The Magistrate accepted their evidence and rejected Dickson's and dismissed the charge.

That is just a little of the background of this Constable Dickson, who uses a report read to this Parliament to smear myself and a woman whom he cannot even name correctly. I therefore challenge the Minister, before he closes his eyes or ears to this case, to make inquiries about Constable Dickson and discover just how many complaints have been made against him during his police career.

Further, Mr. Speaker, I believe that an attempt has been made by Constable Dickson, through the Minister, to intimidate me as a member of Parliament in an effort to stop me from carrying out my duties as a member. I believe that he has infringed parliamentary privilege, which enables an honourable member to raise in Parliament matters that have been brought to his attention by his electors. By his action, Dickson has attempted to stifle my voice within this Chamber, and he has used the Minister as the vehicle for having his report read to Parliament. I also believe that you, Mr. Speaker, should examine the manner in which the Minister has used the personal opinions of a police officer, expressed in a confidential report, in an attempt to slur and intimidate me, simply because I dared raise a very serious matter that affects a citizen of this State. Similarly, the same report

has been used under cowardly privilege by the Minister to malign a woman simply because she used her democratic right to complain to a member of Parliament about alleged police treatment of her two sons.

The Minister has a past history of what I would describe as intimidatory and defamatory contempt of court against witnesses or complainants in police matters. On 7 October 1971 we saw a similar pathetic exhibition in this Parliament from the Minister in relation to an incident of alleged police brutality at the Trades Hall during the Springbok tour. I might add that I was not then in this Parliament to defend myself. On that occasion the Minister read from a police report again describing a woman witness as highly emotional and imaginative. This comment was made in advance of court action against a youth—court action which, I might add, was never proceeded with.

I have nothing but the highest opinion of the thousands of very decent and dedicated men and women in our Police Force. Some of them are my personal friends. I am certain that even they do not want a situation, which the Minister seems determined to create, in which the Police Force becomes a force of "untouchables", immune from even the right of complaint by a citizen or a member of Parliament.

No police Minister in the history of this State has been subjected to more censure motions from policemen than the present occupant of the office. He has a long history of antagonism and interference in the police system. He has presided over a record number of resignations as well as unprecedented unrest. His term as police Minister has been marked by misrepresentation and misjudgment.

Last week, in this Parliament, I asked the Minister to investigate an incident. He came back to the House and used a report prepared by a police officer in an attempt to intimidate me so that I would not proceed further with the matter. I believe that the Minister used his position to try to silence a member of this House.

The Minister's record in the field of misrepresentation, anti-police activity and cowardly misuse of privilege in this Parliament is not one that I, or any other member of this Parliament, would strive to emulate.

PROPOSED TRANSFER OF PARK LAND TO INDOOROOPILLY GOLF CLUB

Mr. PORTER (Toowong) (12.46 p.m.): This morning I gave notice of several questions concerning the Sir John Chandler Park at Long Pocket. I directed them to the Premier because, to my mind, the principle involved is much deeper than the responsibilities of an individual Minister. The Long Pocket alienation is, unfortunately, an old but still very tragic story, and it is part

of a greater tragedy being evidenced all over Brisbane, that is, the steady, brutish rape of our open spaces. Open spaces, as everybody can see for himself, are being enclosed, leased, transferred, sold off and built over.

I wonder whether, in fact, we should amend the legislation to replace the term "Greater Brisbane" with the term, "Lesser Brisbane". One thing that distinguishes civilised cities from lesser types of cities is the concern of authorities to ensure that people are able to live with dignity in cities that provide decent breathing spaces, spaces for recreation, play and even mere meditation.

In the past two to three weeks, since the Long Pocket story broke again, I have received many letters and telephone calls. But this morning I received a veritable avalanche of calls. People are deeply concerned that there will be further dreadful, quite irreversible despoliation of precious open spaces. History has proved that once these things happen, the land can never be reclaimed; once it has gone, it can never be replaced.

We are now facing the situation that the Long Pocket Peninsula, or the Sir John Chandler Park, is coming close to extinction as a park. I think it is well to give the history of this area. Sir John Chandler acquired some of it while he was Lord Mayor, but the greater part of it was given to the council at the time he was Lord Mayor by Mr. Thomas of Bougainvillaea Park fame. It was given on the condition that it would be used only as park land. Over the years there have been consistent endeavours to demolish both the goal of Mr. Thomas's altruism, as displayed by his bequest, and that of Sir John Chandler, which was evident in his far-sighted acquisition. They aimed at improving the public domain.

In these days of infinitely greater population and pressure than existed in their time, it is quite unacceptable that these areas, acquired for the public good, should now be transferred for private gratification. In today's situation, approximately one-third of the Long Pocket area is already occupied under lease by a second golf course operated by the Indooroopilly Golf Club, which has a 25-year lease. The proposal now is that the club will exchange its present land at Indooroopilly for a further one-third of the area of Long Pocket. It will be handed over to the club in fee simple as a swap or transfer, in return for its giving the Indooroopilly course to the council. The lease for the existing golf course at Long Pocket, which is due to expire in 1988, will be renewed for a further 70 years. In simple terms, two-thirds of this park area will be alienated from general public use as far as we and our children and our children's children are concerned, and one-third of it will be gone for ever.

I should not want anything I say to be construed in any way as a reflection on the office bearers and members of the Indooroopilly Golf Club, because they have to do what is best in the interests of their members. If they can get a larger course free of any threat of resumption for the extension of the riverside driveway, they are duty bound to secure it.

Mr. B. Wood: You have to take it carefully because you can't afford to upset them.

Mr. PORTER: I imagine that my reputation in this field of politics would indicate that I am not concerned, when the public good operates, about affecting any particular person.

I repeat that the club is quite proper in whatever it does with its land and in trying to do better for its members. I would say it has a duty to do so. It has a huge asset in the freehold ownership of its present property, and it is entitled to use that asset in the most effective way possible for the club and its members. In my view, however, there is more to be considered here than the rights of 500 members, each of whom pays \$100 a year for the exclusive use of an area probably once or maybe twice a week. This must be set against what should be the inalienable right to breathing space of tens of thousands of people who live in proximity to these areas.

Two years ago, the Lord Mayor put a deal to this club. The council would give it further park land at Long Pocket on leasehold terms and the club would sell its present Indooroopilly course for subdivision to finance the project. That offer was turned down. But this recent proposal is infinitely better for the club. The council, as it were, has "upped the ante". Now the club is to be given freehold tenure of this second one-third of Long Pocket in return for giving its present Indooroopilly freehold land to the Council.

Again, what are the public interests in this? It has been said that the council would hold the existing Indooroopilly course, once it had acquired it, and use it as a municipal golf course. For how long, I wonder. Remember that, with the previous proposal, the council put pressure on the club to have the area subdivided. It is well known that the Lord Mayor was openly angered when this deal fell through. Once the Brisbane City Council acquires the Indooroopilly course, its future as open space could be counted in months, even if not in weeks.

It is interesting to note that a new clubhouse was to be built for more than \$400,000. This proposal was submitted to the council. It is quite clear that once a clubhouse of that magnitude was built, the club would not want to move from its present site. So one wonders at what stage, when

this new clubhouse idea was put to the council, the proposal for the transfer to Long Pocket emerged under new and so much more advantageous terms.

The Long Pocket park threat is one more threat in a long list of Brisbane open-space catastrophies. The Brisbane Development Association, at its meeting only a few weeks ago, quite rightly opposed any further intrusion into the traditionally open space of bushland, and recommended that the Sir John Chandler Park at Long Pocket be left open to the public in perpetuity. The proposition advanced by this association is, in the general public sense, quite unarguable. It is said that it is an ideal riverside location, away from major industrial development and, as such, is one of the last remaining undeveloped areas in the city and is only some five miles from the General Post Office.

We all know that the Lord Mayor promised that, after the sewerage of Brisbane was completed, the city council could look forward to spending money on beautifying this city. One would expect that any rational beautification of a city would be the enhancement of open spaces. I suggest that it is impossible to enhance open spaces if they no longer exist.

I believe that in raising this matter, which affects the electorate of Toowong, I raise a principle that has affected, and is continuing to affect, the whole of the urban area of Brisbane. Something must be done to protect the people against a city council that is ruthless in trying to make a fast dollar by getting rid of every piece of public open space that it can turn into a quick asset for subdividers.

NOISE POLLUTION

Mr. HANSON (Port Curtis) (12.55 p.m.): This is the first occasion since the 1972 State election on which I have had an opportunity to take part in the debate on matters of public interest. In the few minutes left to me before 1 o'clock, I suppose I could simply say, "Let us all have a happy lunch." However, I wish to mention a matter of very serious concern not only in my electorate but throughout the length and breadth of this State. It is also one of the greatest industrial problems of today. I refer to noise pollution.

Investigations in recent times have shown a pattern of increasing compensation claims for loss of hearing, reduced efficiency and fatigue resulting from noise. In fact, the damage being done by noise is reaching monumental proportions. Although noise control certainly costs money, so, too, does noise itself, and, on balance, noise control could be infinitely the cheaper of the two. That is one conclusion arrived at from investigation, and I agree with it.

Recently I asked questions in the House arising from complaints about noise from compressors, trucks and other types of machinery as early as 4 o'clock on some mornings. I also sought from the relevant Minister information on the protection that citizens have against the blatant and arrogant disregard for their comfort shown by certain firms that give no thought to the well-being of others. I asked what corrective action could be taken in such situations. I was informed that it was the responsibility of complainants to address themselves to courts of civil jurisdiction.

Of course, with all the expense, red tape and other paraphernalia associated with taking the matter to court, this is an avenue of redress in which the ordinary citizen would not want to become involved. Certain safeguards should be prescribed for his protection, and laws dealing with noise pollution should be promulgated to avoid the necessity of a citizen's having to have recourse to law. In New South Wales and South Australia certain action has been foreshadowed, with the assistance of the Standards Association of Australia, to have the machinery of the law assist in dealing with noise pollution.

I might add that we in Gladstone are at present facing the terrible problem of noise caused by the operations of the Railway Department at night. Suggestions have been made by various union leaders throughout the State that earmuffs be supplied to many employees. I have sent to the Minister and the Commissioner tapes supplied to me by nearby residents that demonstrate this noise nuisance. It is absolutely frightening. One cannot say that the employees are responsible for the noise; such responsibility must fall on the shoulders of those who are supervising trucking operations, and loading and unloading.

The Minister would not tolerate such a situation near his home. He lives in a Brisbane suburban area that is free from noise, and he does not care a great deal about complaints emanating from Gladstone residents. But I, as their representative, have feelings for them, and it is my intention to raise this matter constantly to see if justice can be obtained for them. In one of my infrequent peregrinations through the city of Brisbane, I found myself the other day at a taxi rank in Creek Street, close to building operations on the new A.N.Z. Bank. The noise was absolutely frightening. The contractor apparently has no regard for the well-being of occupants of nearby residential and hotels, and continues pouring all the noise possible into the ears of those who live in the vicinity. This is absolutely disgraceful, and it is about time the Government lived up to its responsibilities and did something about it.

The House adjourned at 1 p.m.