

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

THURSDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 1973

Electronic reproduction of original hardcopy

THURSDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 1973

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

PAPERS

The following paper was laid on the table, and ordered to be printed:—

Report of the Registrar of the Co-operative Housing Societies for the year 1972-73.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Report of the Burdekin River Authority for the year 1972-73.

Proclamations under—

District Courts Act 1967-1972.

Justices Act 1886-1973.

Orders in Council under—

State and Regional Planning and Development, Public Works Organization and Environmental Control Act 1971-1973.

Judges' Salaries and Pensions Act 1967-1973.

Queensland Law Society Act 1952-1971. Health Act 1937-1973.

Medical Act 1937-1973.

Regulations under the Cemetery Act 1865.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

HOUSING COMMISSION RENTAL ACCOMMODATION

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

(1) How many Housing Commission houses were made available for rental in each of the past 10 years?

(2) How many applications for accommodation were current in each of those years?

Answer:—

(1 and 2)—

“—	Available for allocation	Applications on hand at 30th June	
		With Priority	Without Priority
1963-64 ..	1,841	1,964	2,717
1964-65 ..	1,788	2,563	2,258
1965-66 ..	2,077	2,330	2,472
1966-67 ..	2,060	2,023	2,181
1967-68 ..	1,967	1,709	2,316
1968-69 ..	2,425	1,802	2,530
1969-70 ..	2,344	1,888	2,716
1970-71 ..	2,153	1,932	2,951
1971-72 ..	2,519	1,889	2,686
1972-73 ..	2,488	1,856	3,483

Plus Aged Persons Applications—
1971-72— 951
1972-73—1,447”

SCHOOL LECTURES ON HOMOSEXUALITY

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

In view of reports of visits by homosexual advocates to Victorian schools, what action will be taken to ensure that similar addresses to Queensland students, in the guise of participating in an English or any other course, cannot be given to persuade adolescents that deviate behaviour should be seen as an acceptable norm?

Answer:—

“I am disturbed by reports of the visits by homosexuals to some Victorian schools to speak to students. Let me state categorically that I am totally against the advocacy of homosexual and other deviate sex behaviour as being a norm of society. I would be opposed to similar visits or talks to students in Queensland Schools. I cannot see the necessity, however, for special action in this matter at this time. No visiting speakers can address students in any Queensland State School without the permission of the Principal. I have confidence in the sense of propriety and ability of Principals to determine what types of address should be approved.”

ADDITIONAL SUPERINTENDENTS, POLICE FORCE

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

In view of the indication in the 1973-74 Financial Statement that the number of superintendents in the Police Force is to be increased from 8 to 14, (a) where will the new superintendents be stationed and (b) why are they required?

Answer:—

“As part of the re-organisation of the Police Force and the decentralization of the decision making process, it is proposed to increase the number of superintendents. The matter is still being examined and the areas where they will be stationed have not been determined.”

COMPULSORY INSURANCE COVER FOR BORROWERS FROM PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETIES

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

(1) Under the Building Societies Act, can a permanent building society in Queensland act as an agent for one or more insurance companies for the provision of householders and fire insurance?

(2) Is an applicant for a loan from a permanent building society compelled by law to insure his proposed dwelling with the insurance company nominated by the

building society, or is he free to obtain such cover from whatever company he chooses?

(3) Can a permanent building society force a prospective borrower to cover himself with life assurance from a company nominated by it, even though he may already have sufficient cover on his life with some other insurance company to meet any commitments to the building society?

(4) As it would appear that these actions are becoming part and parcel of the method of operation of building societies in Queensland and as many borrowers are being forced to obtain insurance cover, both on their own lives and on their dwellings, at considerably higher premiums than those of other companies, will he have this aspect of building society applications investigated so that people can maintain their own free choice of insurance companies?

Answers:—

(1) "The matter of building societies acting as agents for insurance companies in relation to household and fire insurance, is not dealt with under building society legislation in this State."

(2) "The applicant would be bound by the rules of the particular society in this regard but as stated the matter of household and fire insurance is not dealt with in the Act."

(3) "In order to obtain a loan from the society, a prospective applicant would be required to comply with the rules of the particular society in relation to household and fire insurance."

(4) "This matter has concerned me for some time but it will be appreciated that building societies would naturally direct applicants to those insurance companies who themselves are large contributors to building society funds. I would point out that many insurance companies who invest monies in building societies do so on the condition that the consequent insurance business will be directed to them."

CONTROL OF HYACINTH AND ALGAE BY MUD BREAM

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

(1) Is he aware that in South Africa considerable success is being achieved in combating the growth of algae and vegetable matter in streams and rivers by the introduction of a small fish called *Tilapia Mossambica*, commonly known as the "mud bream"?

(2) Is he also aware that this fish creates huge savings in the cost of the use of chemicals and labour to remove algae

and vegetable matter from rivers and streams, and that it also makes a tasty meal?

(3) In view of the tremendous problem brought about by the growth of hyacinth and other plant life in streams and rivers in Queensland, in particular in the Fitzroy system, will he have an investigation made into the possibility and practicability of introducing this fish into Queensland waters?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) "No. This matter is one for my colleague the Honourable the Minister for Primary Industries and I suggest that the Honourable Member direct his Question to him."

MODERATION SYSTEM, RADFORD EDUCATION SCHEME

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

(1) What is the latest position regarding the moderator system in the education complex?

(2) Is it proposed to abolish moderators at Grade 10 level?

(3) Why is this decision being taken?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) "The Board of Secondary School Studies has no plans at present for the abolition of moderation at the Grade 10 (Junior) level. It is envisaged that the procedures in 1974 will be quite similar to those operating for Grade 10 in 1973. A sub-committee of the board is at present investigating the uses and standing of the Junior Certificate to determine the advantages and disadvantages of replacing the board's Junior Certificate with a non-moderated School Certificate. I refer the Honourable Member to an Answer given to a Question in this regard on October 19 last. The findings of this sub-committee are not likely to be submitted to the board until early 1974."

HYGIENE AND SAFETY STANDARDS, RENTAL HOUSES

Mr. Ahern for **Dr. Crawford**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Justice,—

(1) Have tenants any redress in law against a landlord who allows a rented residence to deteriorate to the extent that the roof leaks and the laundry is unworkable?

(2) What action should be taken by tenants who have difficulty in obtaining rental accommodation when offered a rental house which is obviously unsafe?

(3) Does the Brisbane City Council have specific responsibilities to inspect rented houses to ascertain their health risk and does the ultimate responsibility lie with the council or the State Government?

Answers:—

(1) "A right of redress could exist under a tenancy agreement between the landlord and tenant. Statute law administered by my Department does not presently provide any such redress but this matter is under consideration."

(2 and 3) "A control on unsafe premises is provided by local authorities. The matters raised do not come within the ambit of my administration."

OPERATIONS OF GLOBAL READER SERVICES, BUNDABERG

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

(1) As representatives of the firm Global Reader Services are in Bundaberg for door-to-door sales of books and magazines and as the representatives claim to be associated with Rural Youth to gain selling points for a trip around Australia, is Global Reader Services a *bona-fide* firm under Queensland law?

(2) If the firm is not registered in Queensland, will he again warn people to beware of door-to-door salesmen?

Answers:—

(1) "No record is held in the Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs of the registration of Global Reader Services."

(2) "I have repeatedly warned the public regarding activities of door to door salesmen and as the Honourable Member is aware, legislation safe-guarding the public is in operation in this State."

INCONSISTENCY IN PRISON SENTENCES

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

In view of his Answer to my Question on October 24 that breaches of the Traffic Act are not more serious offences than theft, carnal knowledge and rape, how does he reconcile that Answer with the fact that on October 26 a first offender in a non-accident dangerous-driving charge was sentenced to three months gaol, fined \$200 and disqualified from driving for two years, even though during the previous week two youths were placed on probation for two years for carnal knowledge and attempted carnal knowledge of a 14-year-old girl, for which offence the maximum penalty is five years gaol?

Answer:—

"For the information of the Honourable Member, dangerous driving is not an offence under the Traffic Act. The offence is provided for in Section 328A of the Criminal Code. The offence may be dealt with summarily by a Magistrate. I have no information on the facts of the matter suggested. If the matter is dealt with summarily, the maximum punishment for a first offence is a fine of \$200 or imprisonment with hard labour for six months or to both such fine and imprisonment. If there has been a previous conviction for that offence, the penalties are increased. I might add that many indictable offences such as stealing, false pretences, etc. can be dealt with summarily in circumstances provided for in the Criminal Code. Generally speaking, it is quite true to say that traffic offences under the Traffic Act are less serious offences than indictable offences. Unlawful carnal knowledge is an indictable offence under Section 215 of the Criminal Code. The maximum punishment which may be imposed is five years. In an offence of this kind, however, the respective ages of the persons charged, the character of the girl and the circumstances generally, are taken into account. Unless there is some significant feature, the offenders are generally treated leniently. In the case of a first offence, apart from where the charge is a very serious one, a probation order is most appropriate. The maximum punishment provided for in respect of offences is not a reliable criterion as to the punishment that should be imposed in particular circumstances. The Court is to take into account the nature of the offence, the circumstances generally and the background of the offender."

SWIMMING POOLS, STATE PRIMARY SCHOOLS

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

(1) Which State primary schools have (a) installed swimming pools, (b) commenced installation of pools and (c) submitted applications for approval for pools, since January, 1973?

(2) What was the cost of the completed pools and what were the lowest tenders for each of the pools for which applications have been submitted?

Answers:—

(1) "(a) At the following schools, swimming pools were approved for construction prior to January, 1973, but have been completed since that date:—Ipswich State High, Ipswich East State Primary, Aitkenvale State Primary, Whites Hill State Primary. (b) Somerset Hills State Primary. (c) Correspondence, plans and

specifications have been received from Stafford Heights, Clontarf Beach and Mt. Gravatt East State Primary Schools."

(2)—

" School	Lowest Tender	Total Cost
Ipswich High	\$59,248.43	\$75,759.50
Ipswich East Primary ..	\$46,712.00	\$52,162.00
Aitkenvale Primary ..	\$54,255.49	\$60,310.20
Whites Hill Primary ..	\$47,651.00	\$52,512.00
Somerset Hills Primary ..	\$47,702.24	Not yet available"

STATE PRIMARY SCHOOL LIBRARY
GRANTS, MURRUMBA ELECTORATE

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

For 1971-72 and 1972-73, what were the amounts of library grants and special library grants to (a) Clontarf, (b) Sandgate, (c) Caboolture, (d) Strathpine, (e) Kallangur and (f) Lawnton State Primary Schools?

Answer:—

"The information requested is as follows:—

School	1971-72		1972-73	
	Library Grant (School Library Develop. Grant)	Subsidy	Library Grant (School Library Develop. Grant)	Special Library Grant (Booster Grant)
Caboolture ..	\$ 311.00	\$ 91.00	\$ 664.23	\$ 812.00
Clontarf Beach	463.00	155.00	322.49	529.00
Lawnton ..	210.00	70.00	332.18	777.00
Sandgate ..	276.05	117.00	517.00	1,195.00
Strathpine ..	301.00	101.00	454.28	1,763.00
Kallangur ..	295.00	198.00	351.00	1,055.00

The School Library Development Grant is based on school enrolment. Prior to July 1, 1972 the Department of Education paid a subsidy to schools for library purposes based on the allocation of funds made by the Parents & Citizens for library purposes. The Booster Grant was introduced after a survey was carried out in 1972 and attempted to bring all school libraries up to an acceptable standard more rapidly. Another survey will be conducted in the near future and the Booster Grant will be reviewed."

ATTACK ON POLICE CONSTABLE, DEAGON
OVAL

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to the report in the *Telegraph* of October 29 entitled "Youths kicked policeman", which indicated that a group of youths attacked and kicked a police constable after a carnival at Deagon Oval on October 27 and that a youth 18 years of age was fined a total of \$600 and ordered to pay \$29.72 restitution?

(2) If so, and in view of the favourable public reaction to the adequate and deterring penalty imposed by Miss E. Smith, the Clerk of the Court, will he give prominence to this wise judgment so that all Queensland courts can accept it as a pattern for future cases of this nature?

(3) Were any of the other youths referred to as having attacked the police officer arrested and, if so, how many and what were their names? If none was arrested, what was the reason?

(4) What is the maximum penalty which a Magistrates Court may impose for this type of offence?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "No."

(3) "This is a matter for the Honourable the Minister for Works and Housing."

(4) There was not one offence. There were five offences of which the maximum fine varies from \$100 to \$200."

COSTS AND LEGAL FEES, WHISKY AU-GO-GO NIGHT CLUB MURDER TRIAL

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

(1) Has any estimate been made of the cost to the State of the trials of John Andrew Stuart and James Richard Finch, who were convicted of murder arising from the fire at the Whisky Au-Go-Go night club?

(2) What fees were paid to the Public Defence counsel provided for each of them?

Answers:—

(1) "No."

(2) "No fees have yet been paid. The fees marked on the respective briefs were as follows:—(a) Counsel for John Andrew Stuart—Mr. Hartigan—\$750 with daily refreshers of \$66; Mr. Barbeler—\$500 with daily refreshers of \$55; (b) Counsel for James Richard Finch—Mr. Spender—\$600 with daily refreshers of \$66."

HOMOSEXUAL TEACHERS AND SEX
EDUCATION IN STATE SCHOOLS

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

As there is now ample evidence available that homosexuals are employed in the teaching profession in Victoria and could also be employed in his Department, will he ensure that only specially-trained teachers are given the task of sex education?

Answer:—

“Although there have been special trials in some selected schools, there is no course dealing with sexual behaviour in the Queensland Schools curricula. If policy in this regard were changed I would expect that the teachers involved would be specially trained for the purpose. In any case let it be clear I could not countenance the exposure of students to the advocacy of sex deviates.”

BOARD AND LODGING DEDUCTIONS, PUBLIC
HOSPITAL NURSING AND MEDICAL STAFF

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

(1) Further to my Question of October 30 regarding nursing-staff board and lodging allowances, what amount is deducted from the total wage in each category of nursing staff, if living in?

(2) Are male and female doctors subject to similar conditions and, if so, what are their deductions?

Answers:—

(1) “The amount deducted for board and lodging for members of the nursing staff living in at the Hospital is the amount prescribed in the Nurses Award—Public Hospitals Boards—State, which at the present time is \$8.53 per week. Prior to December 1969, the Nurses Award was a ‘living in’ Award, which provided for free board and lodgings to nursing staff and a corresponding wage rate. Nursing staff who elected to live out were paid a small ‘living out’ allowance prescribed under the Award. Subsequent to December 1969, following representations from the Royal Australian Nursing Federation, the Award by agreement was varied to a ‘living out’ Award. This new Award prescribed a total wage from which a deduction was made for board and lodgings where nursing staff elected to live in. In amending the wage rates, due allowance was made for the additional tax that would be paid by nursing staff for the higher wage figure to ensure that the net payment to nurses was not smaller than that previously received under the earlier Award.”

(2) “Resident medical staff employed under the Resident Medical Officers’ Award and who live in at the hospital are

provided with free board and lodgings. This Award, as was the former Nurses’ Award, is a ‘living in’ Award.”

SHIPPING MOVEMENTS, QUEENSLAND
TERRITORIAL WATERS

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

(1) What type of daily check does the Government keep on the movements of ships travelling north and south off the Queensland coast?

(2) Do ships’ captains have an obligation to reveal their positions at any time to the Government whilst in the vicinity of the coastline or in territorial waters under the jurisdiction of Queensland?

Answers:—

(1) “Ships of all nations have the right of free navigation in Australian waters, just as Australian ships have the right of free navigation in territorial waters of foreign countries. Except in times of war there is no surveillance in the waters of any country in the world of ships going about their lawful occasions.”

(2) “No.”

COMMONWEALTH SUPPLEMENTARY ASSIST-
ANCE, LEGAL AID SERVICES

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

(1) What amount has been provided by the Commonwealth Government to supplement State legal aid services during the current financial year?

(2) What conditions or limitations has the Commonwealth placed upon the use of these funds?

(3) Has any indication been given as to whether the Commonwealth intends to provide these funds annually?

Answers:—

(1) “No amount has been provided by the Federal Government to supplement legal aid schemes in Queensland during the current financial year. I have been informed by the Federal Attorney-General that his Government proposes to make a Grant of \$2,000,000 to supplement existing legal aid schemes in Australia during the current financial year. This grant is to be distributed on a per capita basis. The allocation for Queensland will be \$295,903 and this amount will be available after appropriation by the Commonwealth Parliament.”

(2) “These funds are to be expended in a manner approved by the Federal Attorney-General.”

(3) "The Federal Attorney-General has clearly indicated that the grant for the current financial year is in the nature of action to effect some immediate improvement in legal aid facilities and that it should not be assumed that there will be a grant next financial year or that it will be made available in the same way."

MAINTENANCE OF KINGSFORD SMITH DRIVE

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

In relation to the roadway of Kingsford Smith Drive, is this road the responsibility of the Brisbane City Council or the Main Roads Department?

Answer:—

"Kingsford Smith Drive is the responsibility of the Brisbane City Council."

LIBRARY AND VISITOR CONCESSIONS FOR INMATES, BRISBANE PRISON

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

(1) Is any restriction placed on (a) reading material sent by a relative or friend and (b) the number of books per week allowed from the prison library to prisoners in Brisbane Prison?

(2) Do the books or magazines include the *Nation Review* and *The National Times* and, if not, what is the reason?

(3) Should it be necessary to transfer a prisoner from one institution to another, is the next-of-kin notified and, if not, what is the reason?

(4) If a prisoner writes a letter, does this deny him the right to a visit from the relative or friend?

(5) What facilities are available for a prisoner to renew or study any educational pursuits?

Answers:—

(1) "(a) Yes, but such restrictions are related to publications which might interfere with the good management of the prison. (b) No restrictions are placed on the number of books per week allowed from the prison library to prisoners in H.M. Prison, Brisbane, with the exception that prisoners are allowed only three (3) books or magazines at the one time. This is for security reasons."

(2) "Both publications mentioned by the Honourable Member are regarded as newspapers and in accordance with the Statutory Provisions contained in the Prisons Act and Regulations, are not permitted."

(3) "Every prisoner on transfer is offered the opportunity to write a letter to his relatives or friends as he chooses. It is not the practice for prison authorities to write to the next-of-kin, as very often prisoners do not wish their next-of-kin to know their whereabouts."

(4) "No. Such a letter does not interfere with ordinary letters or visits to which a prisoner may be entitled."

(5) "Ample facilities are available to prisoners to renew or study educational pursuits. Primary and secondary teachers visit our main prisons regularly. Primary and secondary correspondence courses are available as well as courses from the Technical Correspondence School and some prisoners are presently studying External Study Courses at the University of Queensland. All facilities consistent with security are available."

REVOCATION, STATE FOREST 175

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

(1) Regarding the proposed revocation of part of State Forest 175, Parishes of Merinda and Uranilla, how many applications were received for the 764 hectares and who are the lessees who have been allocated this land and are the properties adjoining?

(2) Why was the land cleared for pasture and who paid the costs?

(3) Is the land an exchange for the 1 200 hectares that is to be surrendered or are there value adjustments?

(4) Have the lessees who are to receive the cleared land made application to freehold their present property and, if not, why has the 764 hectares been made available for freeholding?

Answers:—

(1) "No applications were received. Mr. W. E. Ford, the lessee of portion 6, and his brother, J. C. Ford, the lessee of portion 9, Parish of Uranilla, agreed to surrender a total area of about 1 200 hectares from their respective selections; for State Forest, provided that an area of about 764 hectares, being part of a Special Lease held by W. E. Ford was excised from State Forest 175, Parish of Uranilla, and that such area be granted to J. C. Ford under a tenure capable of being converted to freehold; the 'Ford' selections have common boundaries with State Forest 175."

(2) "The area of about 764 hectares of brigalow was pulled, burnt and grassed under a 'Permit to Destroy Trees' issued by the Land Commissioner, Goondiwindi,

after reference to the Conservator of Forests. Such work was done at the lessee's expense."

(3) "There are no value adjustments involved."

(4) "Yes."

KEPERRA GOLF COURSE AS FLOOD
RETENTION BASIN

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

(1) Has any final decision been reached with regard to the Keperra Golf Course being used as a retention basin for the Kedron Brook Flood Mitigation Scheme and, if not, when will it be made?

(2) If the golf course is to be used as a retention basin, is it the Government's intention to protect homes adjacent to the course at Ferny Hills from possible flooding?

(3) Will he give an assurance that no homes will be resumed at Ferny Hills to make way for the retention basin?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) "The use of Keperra Golf Course as a retention basin is one of the feasible schemes contained in the consultant's report. However, no detailed designs have been drawn up and it is not possible at this stage to say whether resumptions would be necessary for this project and how many, if any, houses would be affected."

BLASTING OPERATIONS, NORTH COAST
QUARRIES PTY. LTD., PETRIE

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

With reference to my letter of September 18 drawing his attention to the operations of North Coast Quarries Pty. Limited, Petrie, particularly the indiscriminate blasting, as the hazards are obvious, will he carry out urgent investigations with a view to having this indiscriminate blasting curtailed?

Answer:—

"The quarry concerned is at present under the control of the Local Authority. However, investigations of its various operations have already been made by an officer of the Department of Mines and action is now in hand to have the quarry gazetted. It will then be subject to the provisions of the Mines Regulation Act."

CONVICTIONS FOR SALE OF ADULTERATED
LIQUOR; ROYAL NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
BOOTHS

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

(1) Referring to his Answer to a Question by the Honourable Member for Mourilyan on adulterated liquor, what are the maximum penalties provided by the Act for selling such liquor?

(2) How many licensees and/or nominees have been charged in the twelve months to October 31?

(3) Have his officers had occasion to test liquor from Royal National Association booths during the last five years? If so, on what occasions and with what results?

(4) What is the nature of the checks undertaken by his officers in determining adulterated liquor?

Answers:—

(1) "Penalties provided in respect of the sale of adulterated liquor are contained in section 143 of the *Health Act 1937-1973* which prescribes—(a) for a first offence an amount not exceeding one hundred dollars (\$100); (b) for a second offence an amount not less than fifty dollars (\$50) and not exceeding two hundred dollars (\$200); (c) for any subsequent offence an amount not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) and not exceeding four hundred dollars (\$400). The section also provides for imprisonment for a term not exceeding twelve months if the Court finds the offence to be committed wilfully or by culpable negligence."

(2) "Two persons were charged with the sale of adulterated liquor in the year ended October 31, 1973. Two further complaints involving the sale of adulterated rum in this period are awaiting hearing at Toowoomba and Cairns."

(3) "Yes. Liquor on sale at booths at the RNA Show is tested by Departmental officers on a number of occasions over each show period. This is a long-standing routine measure and has been carried out in each of the past five years. No adulterated liquor was detected."

(4) "Departmental officers check the strength of spirits with a Sikes Hydrometer which indicates the alcoholic strength. Spirits apparently below the prescribed standard are removed in accordance with the provisions of section 132 of the *Health Act* for analysis by the Government Analyst. Any subsequent action is based on the certificate issued as a result of the examination."

BEDS AND SICK BAYS FOR MEMBERS OF
HOSPITAL STAFFS

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

(1) How many beds are provided for staff indisposed through illness in (a) public hospitals and (b) private hospitals?

(2) Which private hospitals do not provide these facilities free?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "Many of the larger public hospitals allocate a special sick bay for members of the nursing staff requiring hospitalisation. The number of beds in these areas would vary from hospital to hospital. Generally speaking, no special areas are allocated for other members of the hospital staff. The Department has no record of bed availability for staff usage in private hospitals."

PRIVATE SECURITY PATROLS OF GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

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

How many Government buildings, e.g. schools, railway stations, etc., are patrolled by private security companies?

Answer:—

"Buildings and installations under the control of (a) the Department of Works, one; (b) the Department of Railways, thirteen."

APPLICATIONS FOR LEGAL AID UNDER
POOR PRISONERS' DEFENCE ACT AND
PUBLIC CURATOR ACT

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

(1) How many applications for legal aid under the Poor Prisoners' Defence Act have been (a) received and (b) registered so far this year?

(2) How many similar applications have been approved under the Public Curator Act?

Answers:—

(1) "500 applications, of which 456 have been approved."

(2) "Nineteen."

PROPOSED NATIONAL PARK, COOLOOLA
AREA

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to a letter in *The Courier-Mail* of October 30 headed, "Concern on Cooloola Park",

which draws attention to the boundaries of the proposed Cooloola National Park?

(2) How many test plots have been planted by the Forestry Department (a) in the Noosa plain area and (b) elsewhere in the Cooloola region?

(3) What area will be used as a forestry plantation?

(4) As logging will inevitably follow, which will disturb the surrounding area so far as flora and fauna are concerned, will he consider a meeting with interested organisations to fully discuss the future of the area and the boundaries of the park?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes, the letter in *The Courier-Mail* of October 30 has come to my notice."

(2) "(a) On the area known as the Noosa plain there are five plots each of about $\frac{1}{4}$ acre in size. Four of these were established as trial plots with Slash Pine in 1965. The fifth was planted with Caribbean Pine on an Irrigation and Water Supply clearing. (b) On State Forest 451 Cooloola there are three series of trial plots. The first of these involved native and Exotic pines and was established in 1934 in the Cameron Scrub on an area that had been cleared for bananas. The second in Ramseys Scrub was established in 1958 and involves native and Exotic pines as well as native broadleaved species. The third covers a road clearing in the vicinity of Camp Milo. Planting involves a number of exotic pines and commenced in 1966."

(3) "Most of the Noosa plains, but none of the Cooloola State Forest is proposed for planting with softwoods."

(4) "The Cooloola State Forest has been subject to logging for some 100 years and is still regarded by conservationists as worthy of reservation as a National Park of international standing. The views of interested parties have been widely canvassed and there were meetings with representatives of conservation groups familiar with the area before plans for the boundaries of the National Park were formulated. Since then the number of such bodies has proliferated and it is thought that no useful purpose would be served by a meeting such as is suggested."

NEW JETTY AND WHARF FACILITIES,
THURSDAY ISLAND

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

(1) When is it expected that the new jetty and wharf at Thursday Island will be completed?

(2) Have the original plans been amended in any way and, if so, to what extent?

(3) Have any reports or requests indicated a need for larger wharf frontage and space?

(4) Is it intended to repair the existing Engineers' Wharf and, if not, will he give this work his consideration?

Answers:—

(1) "May, 1974."

(2) "The only amendment to the original plans has been to transfer the location of the on-shore wharf shed so that it would interfere with the view of the Customs House as little as possible."

(3) "No. The design of the facility was discussed with all commercial shipping users before it was determined."

(4) "It is not proposed to repair the existing Engineers' Wharf. The proposal for new facilities at the Engineer's Wharf site which would be predominantly funded by commercial interests is presently under examination."

OIL SPILLAGE, GREAT BARRIER REEF WATERS

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

(1) Has the investigation into the recent oil spill in the Michaelmas Cay area been completed and, if so, with what result?

(2) Has consideration been given to improving communications and present methods of investigation so that reports can be acted upon speedily and ships located?

(3) Are the charts used by ships to show the quantities of oil and fuel on board useful in tracing oil shortages?

(4) When are these charts inspected and can the method be improved?

Answers:—

(1) "The investigation has not been completed. Further investigations are international in character and must be undertaken by the Commonwealth Government. Of the two ships known to have been in the area prior to the oil spill, one is Greek and the other Liberian. Arrangements have to be made with foreign authorities to take samples of oil from these ships for comparison with the sample taken from Green Island."

(2) "Almost immediately after the oil spill was reported it was known that the two ships previously mentioned had been in the area within the 24-hours prior to

the report. Both these ships were by that time on the high seas bound for overseas ports. However the right of free navigation exists in Australian waters for all ships and some ship which did not call at Australian ports may have used the passage at the relevant time. Such a ship could not be identified."

(3) "Regulations require ships to keep an oil record book in which records should be kept of loading, unloading and transferring of oil. It would not be possible to prove a small spillage such as the one to which the Honourable Member refers by reference to these records."

(4) "In the case of foreign ships such records are inspected from time to time by officers of the Commonwealth Department of Transport either as a routine check or when an oil spillage has occurred near the ship. It is difficult to see how the method could be improved, although it is agreed that it is far from foolproof depending as it does on accurate keeping of records by the ship's personnel."

(b) **Mr. R. Jones**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Conservation,—

Having regard to the article in *The Australian* of October 30 indicating that the oil spill near Green Island has located, in part, on the high-water mark between Cape Kimberley and Daily Point and between Coopers Creek and Noaha Creek, have reports been received confirming this information and, if so, what action will be taken?

Answer:—

"Reports have been received from the Douglas Shire Council to the effect that the Shire Overseer inspected the area from Cape Kimberley to Cape Tribulation on Friday, October 26. He found broken oil patches along sections of the beach at about high water mark in this area. On Monday October 29 the Overseer inspected the area again and found the effects if anything diminished. The Shire Council does not intend to take any action in the matter and the oil will be left to degrade naturally."

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES AND SHORTAGE OF CONSUMER GOODS

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

In view of the alarming and growing shortage of many types of consumer goods in this State and in spite of the many utterances by union leaders in denial of the effect upon production of strikes and industrial unrest in this country, what is the considered effect of industrial anarchy and disturbances upon productivity and

upon the availability of many manufactured articles in Queensland and their rising cost due to the supply-and-demand situation?

Answer:—

“Federal Labor proclaimed to the people last December that industrial disputes would diminish if it were elected because of the ‘special’ relationship it enjoyed with the unions. The only thing ‘special’ about the claim was its falseness. The Federal Government has since demonstrated its utter incapacity, or unwillingness, to stem the tide of industrial lawlessness. It is, in fact, the prisoner, not the master; it cannot lead, it can only submit to the most humiliating defeat ever suffered by a party given a mandate to govern. The people are sick and tired of the masquerade, because the facts are clear, conclusive. There were 200,000 more man days lost in the first six months of Labor rule than in the last six months of the previous government. This is apparently what is meant by a ‘special relationship’. Every housewife, businessman and contractor knows of the growing bottlenecks in supply, of blackmarkets, of innumerable price rises, and of the skyrocketing cost of housing and housing repair. Everyone knows the contribution strikes make to all this, especially the strikes in the electricity generation industry in New South Wales and Victoria which are the direct cause of the shortage in Queensland of so many manufactured articles and the rising cost of these articles resulting from disruption of production. However, I can say with confidence that there has been no major industrial dispute in Queensland this year that has severely disrupted the production of Queensland manufactured goods. It is my firm belief that the time is long overdue that national manufacturers decentralise their major units of production to as many States as possible so that the effect of strikes as in the power industry are reduced. Yet we have been exposed to the incredible philosophy of a newly appointed Judge of the Federal Arbitration Commission that strikes are a legitimate means of settling industrial disputes. Obviously, we cannot any more look to abidance by some unions with unfavourable commission judgments. The House should further reflect that it was the prevalence of industrial disputes and strikes in Britain in 1969 and 1970 which destroyed the prices-income board established to stabilise the economy. Does this not make nonsense of the December prices-income referendum, given the complete irresponsibility of Left Wing unionism in Australia? And does this not make then more ridiculous the repeated absence from Australia of the Prime Minister? He not only fiddles while Australia burns up with inflation, he turns his back on the most disgraceful

era of industrial lawlessness in Australia’s recent history. We must face four harsh facts:—Strikes are a direct cause of inflation; strikes wrecked a prices-income policy in Britain; strikes, legitimised by Professor Isaac, will become a constant factor in the economic pattern of our lives; strikes, particularly those which affect the textile industry, will cause the loss of home markets—and consequently, jobs—to cheap overseas goods allowed into Australia as a result of the largest tariff cuts in our history. The view of the Queensland Government has been made very clear, very often—it is that we have an excellent and proven system of conciliation and arbitration which has been of great value in reducing the effects of, or eliminating strikes. The government encourages unions to make full use of approved machinery for settlement of disputes. It is for the Federal Government to demonstrate that it can and will do what it was put there to do—to govern. If it can’t, or won’t, it should get out.”

INTERSTATE CONSIGNMENTS OF UNDER-SIZE MUD CRABS

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

(1) As his Answer to my Question on October 17 that inspectors do not have access to interstate shipments of crabs while in the hands of the carrier appears to be at variance with the Answer to my Question on April 4, will he clarify the position?

(2) In the event that consignments of crabs have immunity from inspection while in the hands of carriers, does this mean that all goods and produce have immunity from inspection while in the hands of carriers and, if not, who or what is the appropriate authority to carry out the inspections?

(3) Will he ensure that the assistance of the appropriate authority is sought in this regard?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) “The Fisheries Acts grants ample powers in relation to the inspection of fish, which term includes crabs. These Acts and the powers thereunder however have to be read down in conjunction with Commonwealth legislation and the Constitution. Further, the logistics of fisheries inspection is such that staff are stationed in relation to the activities of fishermen, and landings. The Fisheries Acts also interrelate to the Fish Supply Management Acts. It might be stated as a general rule, that any goods or produce may be made subject to State inspection. However, the position in relation to a particular consignment or incident would necessarily be a matter of individual legal

consideration. If the Honourable Member will supply me with specific information I will undertake to have the matter examined."

EXPANSION OF HERVEY BAY HOSPITAL FACILITIES

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

In view of a report in the *Maryborough Chronicle* of October 25 headed, "Shortage of Beds for Ill is Chronic", will he consider expediting the survey now under way to establish the need for the expansion of Hervey Bay Hospital facilities, with a view to alleviating the stated yearly shortage of hospital accommodation in Maryborough by the provision of sufficient accommodation at Hervey Bay?

Answer:—

"The Honourable Member would be aware that the report in the *Maryborough Chronicle* to which he refers related principally to the private hospital sector. In the public sector, the Maryborough Hospital provides a total of 232 public beds in the general and maternity section, with the daily average in 1972-73 being 179. These figures would not indicate a shortage of public beds at the Maryborough Hospital. The in-depth study at present being undertaken by the Departmental Health Services Planning and Development Unit will be assessing hospital needs for the Maryborough area, including the needs of the Hervey Bay District."

HOUSING COMMISSION OPERATIONS, THOZET ROAD ESTATE, NORTH ROCKHAMPTON

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

(1) With regard to the proposed construction of 110 houses in the Thozet Road area of North Rockhampton, how many have been completed or partly completed and how many are occupied at present?

(2) How many of the proposed houses will be sold and how many will be available for rental?

(3) When will tenders be called for further construction in this area?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) "On the Thozet Road Estate the first section which has been built out contains 50 houses and 10 aged persons units. The balance of the estate provides for 131 sites. Contracts have been let for 20 houses of which 4 are completed and 11 are under construction. Seven

of the 20 houses are the subject of purchase applications. Further applications may come to hand for the balance and any not purchased will be rental. Tenders for a further 7 houses closed on October 30, 1973. Tenders for an additional 8 houses in another area at Rockhampton will be called shortly."

EARLY OPENING OF T.A.B. AGENCIES, MELBOURNE CUP DAY

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

Will he recommend to the T.A.B. that all agencies open at 8 a.m. on Melbourne Cup day so that patrons can place bets on their way to work and thus relieve the serious overcrowding of agencies that occurs each year during the lunch-hour?

Answer:—

"As in previous years additional office hours will be observed on both Monday and Tuesday, November 5 and 6, 1973. In the Brisbane metropolitan area and in main provincial cities and towns T.A.B. offices will open at 7 a.m. on Tuesday, November 6, whilst in other locations they will open earlier than usual depending on local conditions. Notices of extended hours are placed in the T.A.B. offices and in newspapers by advertisement."

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS, POLICE INSPECTORS

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

Since January 1, what are the names of serving policemen who have been promoted to the rank of inspector, in what class or grade and in what months and how many of these have since resigned, in what months, and what were the reasons?

Answer:—

" Month	Name	Grade
January	McGrath, D. T. ..	4
February	Pitts, A. V. ..	4
May	Beattie, M. D. ..	4
May	Chalmers, M. G. ..	4
May	Hale, S. M. ..	4
May	McDonnell, E. J. ..	4
September	Beavis, R. ..	4
September	Begg, J. ..	4
September	Gorman, J. C. ..	4
September	Johnson, K. ..	4
September	Lewis, T. M. ..	4
September	MacDonald, V. A. ..	4
September	Gannon, L. E. ..	4

None of these Commissioned Officers has resigned during this period."

SUBSIDY FOR FODDER CONSERVATION

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

As an abundant season is presently being experienced over almost all of the State and as stock figures, particularly in sheep lands, are well down, with grasses unused, has any Government thought been given to a subsidy incentive to conserve fodder by baling or by silage, with the added advantage that such a scheme could help control bush fires?

Answer:—

"Conservation of hay and silage is a normal sound agricultural practice. It should not require the inducement of a Government subsidy for farmers and pastoralists to adopt such a practice which is obviously economically advantageous to them."

RUST DISEASE IN WHEAT

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

(1) Is rust appearing in wheat crops and presenting a crisis in regard to what was expected to be a bumper crop?

(2) Has rust appeared in crop varieties previously considered rust-resistant and is the heavy wet season contributing to other disease attacks?

Answers:—

(1) "While leaf rust has been widespread the more devastating stem rust has generally been at a low level. This is undoubtedly because a large proportion of the total acreage is planted to varieties such as gamut, gatcher and timgalen, which are still resistant to all known field strains of stem rust. While some yield losses can be expected from leaf rust in all crops, this is normal and does not present a crisis in the industry. Some severe losses due to stem rust may occur in late crops of susceptible varieties such as festiquay and wren but these represent only a small percentage of the total acreage. I might add that festiquay is an early variety, and because the rains did not arrive until late in the season it was not planted. If the rains had arrived early I personally would have planted festiquay, but because, as I say, the rains came late, I did not plant any of that variety."

(2) "There have been no reports of stem rust in gamut, gatcher or timgalen, the principal resistant varieties being grown. The wet mild season has however resulted in unusually high levels of diseases such as glume blotch, yellow spot and powdery mildew which are generally insignificant in Queensland. Black point may be expected to be worse under these conditions also."

PASTURE LEGUME, SIRATRO

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

Has the pasture known as "siratro", which is highly regarded as an introduced improved grass on cattle lands, been investigated by his Department as a harbour for various small-crop diseases and, if so, is this factor likely to prevent further expansion of siratro pastures?

Answer:—

"The pasture legume siratro has been found by officers of my Department to carry halo blight of French beans and steps have been taken to prevent its chance spread where this might have a serious impact on the bean industry, as in the bean seed quarantine area of the Burdekin. However, as measures are being considered to minimize the disease risks, it is not likely that this factor will significantly affect further expansion of siratro pastures."

NATIONAL FITNESS REGIONAL OFFICER,
NORTH QUEENSLAND

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

As there are National Fitness officers in the Cairns, Ingham, Townsville, Ayr, Mackay and Mount Isa areas, has consideration been given to appointing a regional officer to co-ordinate the admirable efforts of the officers and perhaps represent them on a North Queensland basis?

Answer:—

"In introducing the Estimates of my Department on Tuesday last, I referred to the fact that proposals to assist in extending the activities and influence of the Queensland National Fitness Council for Sport and Physical Recreation, within the community included the appointment of Regional Planning Officers in Northern, Southern and Western locations as expansion of staffs takes place. Such appointments would enable a better co-ordination of services given by the Council. At this stage, there are areas of Queensland still not being serviced by field staff of the National Fitness Council. Attention is being given to rectifying this situation before any appointment of Regional Officers."

TAKE-OVER OF WEEDMANS LTD. BY
SPORTSCRAFT HOLDINGS PTY. LTD.

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

(1) As the Minister, in discussing the plunder of Weedmans shareholders in a recent open-line radio programme, endeavoured to excuse his lack of action by

asking who was going to "bell the cat", will he personally take action against Weedmans directors under the Companies Act and the Securities Industry Act on the basis of the board's letter to shareholders, which revealed that the Sportscraft group purchased 9,000 Weedmans shares in a period when discussions were proceeding about a takeover by Sportscraft, which the Board of Weedmans failed to disclose to shareholders?

(2) When will he take action against Sportscraft for breaches of section 69E of the Companies Act relating to disclosure of all changes in shareholdings, especially as this group was convicted for similar breaches in Victoria?

Answers:—

"By way of preamble, I think we should all be warned about accepting briefs. It is obvious that the honourable member for Brisbane has accepted a brief in this matter and has asked this question without having checked the facts or followed the events in this Chamber when similar questions have been asked."

(1) "Enquiries into matters concerning Weedmans Limited and Sportscraft Holdings Pty. Ltd. are being pursued by Inspectors from the Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs.

(2) Sportscraft Holdings Pty. Ltd. is not registered as a foreign company in this State and I have no influence on that company's obligations in respect to corresponding legislation in another State."

FAMILY-LIMITATION UNDERTAKING REQUIRED BY FINANCE COMPANIES

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

(1) Has he noted various statements recently in the media wherein certain finance companies were asking applicant couples to sign an undertaking that they would not have children or additional children in their families?

(2) As this highlights the arrogance and impertinence of these companies and as their action is reportedly directed towards Catholics and many others with firm religious convictions in this regard, have any reports been made to his Department complaining of the situation?

Answers:—

(1) "No."

(2) "Not to my knowledge."

MISLEADING AND FRAUDULENT ADVERTISING

Mr. K. J. Hooper, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Justice,—

With reference to an article appearing in *The Courier-Mail* of October 22 under the caption "'Face up' on advertising", wherein he stated that in most cases advertising has been deliberately misleading and deceptive rather than dishonest or fraudulent, what is the difference between the terms and are the effects on the consumer any different?

Answer:—

"I welcome the belated interest of the Honourable Member concerning my address to the Federal Conference of the Australian Association of National Advertisers. If he desires to learn something about consumer protection and the advertising industry then I will be delighted to make available a copy of my address on request. If he does ask for a copy, I trust that the Honourable Member shows it to his Federal colleagues as the advertising industry shares the concern I expressed about unnecessary, stifling controls of the kind that the Federal Minister for the Media seems determined to force on the advertising industry and the media generally."

REORGANISATION OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLY ADMINISTRATION, FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

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

With reference to a statement appearing in *The Courier-Mail* of October 30 and an A.B.C. News Service item concerning the future re-organisation of electricity supply by 1975 and the statements attributed to him that four main distributing boards are planned, is he in a position to enlarge on that statement and, if so, will he allay the fears of the employees concerned and the citizens of Far North Queensland by indicating that the Cairns Regional Electricity Board will continue under the new scheme and/or will remain centred and administered at Cairns for the Far Northern Electricity Area?

Answer:—

"I am aware of the statements referred to by the Honourable Member for Cairns and I am correctly reported as saying that four main distribution boards are planned for Queensland. I am not in a position to enlarge very greatly on the statement at the present time because I plan to provide this detailed information to representatives of the Electricity Supply Authorities of Queensland at a special seminar to be held in Brisbane on December 6 and 7. My officers are actively preparing for this

seminar all the details necessary to fully inform the industry and the public of the Government's intentions. However, I can assure the Honourable Member that the North Queensland Electricity Board will be charged with the responsibility of serving the citizens of Far North Queensland and, in order to do this, the work presently being carried out by the Cairns Regional Electricity Board will have to continue and substantially the same work force will be required. I can also assure the Honourable Member that there will be no retrenchments because of the re-organisation and that no present employee will be disadvantaged thereby."

EFFECT ON FISHING INDUSTRY OF POLLUTION, GREAT BARRIER REEF AND GULF WATERS

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

As Cairns, Innisfail and Townsville are the main sources of supply of fish, has any in-depth study been made, or is it likely to be ordered, on the effects of oil and/or other pollutants in Great Barrier Reef and Gulf waters and the effect they may have on future fish receipts by the Fish Board?

Answer:—

"Considerable fundamental research is being carried out throughout the world into the effects of oil and other pollutants on coral and other marine life and my Department keeps itself closely informed of developments. No in-depth studies are being carried out by my Department in the Barrier Reef or Gulf regions."

DECEASED PRISONER, THOMAS ROBINSON

Mr. B. Wood for **Mr. Baldwin**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Tourism,—

(1) With reference to a prisoner known by the name of Tom Robinson, last reported to be in Wacol Gaol, is he still alive and, if so, what is the state of his health and, if not, on what day, at what estimated hour and where did he die?

(2) If Robinson is dead, at what time was his death discovered and will copies of the report of the circumstances of his death, the result of the post-mortem and Coroner's report and the Certificate of Entry of death be tabled?

(3) Is there any known next-of-kin not in prison and, if so, was that person advised and on what date?

(4) If the prisoner is dead, where and when was he buried and, if not buried, where is the body and what is the Government's intention?

(5) If there is another prisoner named Robinson to whom the foregoing questions might apply, will he kindly apply them?

Answers:—

It would appear that the Honourable Member is alluding to a prisoner named Thomas Robinson who was held in H.M. Prison, Brisbane and not in H.M. Prison Wacol. In relation to this prisoner, the following Answers are supplied:—

(1 and 2) "The prisoner is not alive. He died at H.M. Prison, Brisbane on October 6, 1973. After examination by Dr. Harvey, Acting Government Medical Officer, Dr. Harvey made the following entry in the Medical History Book:— 'Prisoner Thomas Robinson 6-10-73 found hanging off wall with strip of sheet. Still warm. (Found at 6.50 a.m.) Examined by Dr. Harvey at 7.20 a.m. Dead.' Signed Dr. Harvey 6-10-73. The death was reported to the Coroner as required but the Coroners Act does not come within my control."

(3) "Yes. A sister was advised on October 6, 1973."

(4) "Mt. Gravatt Cemetery on October 22, 1973."

(5) "See preamble to Answer."

EMPLOYMENT FOR DISPLACED SAND-MINING EMPLOYEES, NORTH STRADBROKE ISLAND

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

(1) With reference to reports which I have received from residents on North Stradbroke Island concerning the imminent reduction of sand-mining operations, have any companies signified that they intend to cease operations within the next three years and, if so, how many employees will be affected?

(2) If companies are considering this step, will he confer with his colleagues on ways and means of retaining the population on the island by providing alternative employment?

(3) If operations are to cease, will he consider the introduction of a re-training scheme?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) "I have received no intimation of any such intention and I do not believe there is any such intention at this time. I find a good deal of irony in the expressed concern of the residents because usually applications for mining leases on the Island are resisted strenuously and vocally by some residents and bodies on the Island."

ABORIGINES CONVICTED OF INDICTABLE OFFENCES

Mr. B. Wood for **Mr. Baldwin**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Conservation,—

(1) How many Aborigines registered with his Department have been convicted of indictable offences during the last ten years and, of these, how many have been (a) discharged and (b) paroled?

(2) How many received sentences of more than three years or the equivalent?

(3) How many are detained at (a) Brisbane, (b) Wacol, (c) Stuart, (d) Palen Creek, (e) Numinbah, (f) Cherbourg and (g) elsewhere?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) "The statistical data requested is not recorded by my Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs. I am advised that no State Government Department identifies by race statistics of this nature."

ERADICATION OF HYACINTH, FITZROY RIVER, ROCKHAMPTON

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

(1) As the efforts by the Rockhampton City Council to eradicate the hyacinth infestation in the Fitzroy River have apparently failed and as the city reaches of the river are again almost covered by this pest, will he have investigations into the control of hyacinth given the highest priority by his officers?

(2) What further assistance, financial and otherwise, is now contemplated by the Government to aid the council in combating this serious threat to the city's watercourse?

Answers:—

(1) "Hyacinth in rivers is a non-agricultural problem. This Department however does and will continue to cooperate in any way possible with any investigations required."

(2) "I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by the Honourable the Acting Premier and Treasurer in relation to the question of subsidy on October 9, 1973."

WINDING-UP OF MUTUAL HOME LOAN COMPANIES

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

Further to my Question of October 19 concerning the Mutual Home Loan Companies, is he now able to give more up-to-date details regarding the Government's efforts to wind up the companies?

Answer:—

"The Honourable Member's Question concerns the winding up of 'Mutual Home Loan Companies'. I understand this reference to be in relation to the following companies—Federated Housing Fund of Australia Limited; Federated Housing Fund Management Company Limited; The Mutual Home Loans Fund of Australia (Qld) Ltd.; Mutual Home Loans Management Co. (Qld) Ltd.; Northern Mutual Loans Limited; Services & Management (Qld) Ltd. The petitions to wind up these companies have been set down for hearing before the Supreme Court, Brisbane on November 19 and 20, 1973."

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Mr. FRAWLEY: I ask the Premier: As the People's Republic of China was apparently informed that "Advance Australia Fair" is the Australian national anthem, has he been advised of this proposed change in the national anthem?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I have not been advised that it is the intention or the thought of the Commonwealth Government to change the national anthem to "Advance Australia Fair". However, I noticed in the Press the fairly clear indication that the Prime Minister asked the People's Republic of China to play "Advance Australia Fair" as our national anthem.

Mr. Tucker: Don't be petty.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: There is nothing petty in this. It is a vital issue and concerns many people who are proud of both our national flag and our anthem. If the Prime Minister makes any such arrangements, he should—

Mr. B. Wood: It's nice to see you supporting Butler. You carry his trademark.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I ask the honourable member for Barron River to cease interjecting.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: If the Prime Minister or the Commonwealth Government has decided that "Advance Australia Fair" is to be our national anthem, the people of this nation rather than his masters in Red China should be informed.

I also noticed that at the welcoming ceremony "Advance Australia Fair" was played by the Red China Army, which was used to suppress the people of China, and also those of Tibet. I also read with considerable concern that at the same ceremony the Prime Minister said that China today is the symbol for Australia, and that its way of life and system of government are what the Commonwealth has chosen in changing its policy concerning life in this nation. He made a clear-cut declaration. (Opposition laughter.)

Opposition members may laugh, but many people in this nation are deeply concerned about these things.

Mr. Wright: You are sick. You would make anyone vomit. You are a shocking person.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. Frawley: He is a traitor.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I ask the honourable member for Murrumba to cease interjecting.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: It has been claimed that I am a shocking person. If anyone is shocking it is the Prime Minister, who went to Red China and said that its policy and attitude is the symbol on which we should pattern our way of life on a national basis. These are serious matters to those people of Australia who want to preserve their rights and freedoms.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: Opposition members can say and do what they like, but they cannot ignore cold, hard facts. One thing is sure: I will always speak about the seriousness of these situations, regardless of what they are. It is obvious that honourable members opposite are deeply concerned about this, but they do not like to admit it.

To answer the question concisely, the Prime Minister should consider our free way of life and the opinions of the people of Australia before making statements on behalf of the Commonwealth Government and adopting attitudes such as he did yesterday in Red China.

CLOSURE OF REDGATE STATE SCHOOL BY QUEENSLAND TEACHERS' UNION

Mr. WHARTON: I ask the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities: Has he read the report in today's "Courier-Mail" headed, "Cattle smell to close a school", which reads—

"The Redgate State School . . . will close from today, on the instructions of the Queensland Teachers' Union."

Will he inform the House what authority this union has in such matters?

Sir ALAN FLETCHER: The honourable member has given me a photostat copy of the Press article. However, I noticed it myself, and I read it. I am a little worried by it, and also a little saddened. I am concerned about the very point underlined by the honourable member for Burnett, namely, that the teacher at this one-teacher school will comply with the direction of the Queensland Teachers' Union to close the school as from today. This is a pity, because any such action should not be taken in this way.

I think I should tell honourable members that this is a small school that could have been closed before, but, in conformity with the department's usual standards, we asked the parents of the pupils if they wanted it to close. Not unanimously, but in sufficient numbers, they said, "Could you keep the school open until the end of the year?" Again in conformity with the usual practice, we agreed to that request. The end of the year is the more usual time for taking such action, as it is then more easily done. This is what was decided in respect of the Redgate State School.

My department then received a complaint from the Queensland Teachers' Union—not from the teacher—that there was a very bad smell at the school, and the Regional Director and an inspector were asked to visit it. They reported that there is a cattle property not far from the school, and that in wet weather it is probable that a smell comes from it. I do not know if the wind was blowing from the opposite direction when they visited the school, but they said there was no very offensive smell when they were there. As all of us who know anything about cattle are aware, the smell would have been offensive had there been any wet weather.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I think the honourable gentleman has answered the question sufficiently.

At 12 noon,

In accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 307, the House went into Committee of Supply.

SUPPLY

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE—ESTIMATES— THIRD AND FOURTH ALLOTTED DAYS

(Mr. Wharton, Burnett, in the chair)

ESTIMATES-IN-CHIEF, 1973-74

TOURISM, SPORT AND WELFARE SERVICES

CHIEF OFFICE

Debate resumed from 30 October (see p. 1410) on Mr. Herbert's motion—

"That \$1,457,049 be granted for 'Tourism, Sport and Welfare Services—Chief Office'."

Hon. J. D. HERBERT (Sherwood—Minister for Tourism, Sport and Welfare Services) (12.1 p.m.): After listening to the contributions of honourable members to the debate on Tuesday, it was very clear to me that there were no major areas of complaint about the administration of my department. In the opening gambit there were some snide personal criticisms of me by the honourable member for Brisbane, who gave a very weak lead to the Opposition when opening the debate on its behalf. I have become used to such criticism from him; but if he remains a member of this Assembly much longer, he will learn that personal attacks are not acceptable to the Press, that they prefer attacks on policy, particularly when the member concerned is leading the debate for the Opposition. The honourable member forgot, I think, that I have recently been to most of the centres that he visited during the winter recess, and I assure him that most of the people whom I met in those centres were not very impressed by his attitude towards them.

The honourable member also spent some time suggesting that possibly there was some sort of rift between myself and my colleagues over the issue of a casino. Of course, honourable members on this side of the Chamber are not subject to direction and can make their own decisions on matters such as that. I have made my position on the issue quite clear publicly on several occasions, and I can at least claim that I have the courage of my convictions and do not change them for the sake of expediency.

The honourable member ended his comments on the question of the establishment of a casino by asking, "How can you assess public opinion?" I suggest that if he does not know how to assess public opinion, he should not be in the political arena. If ever he has misjudged public opinion, he certainly has done so on the casino issue. The ordinary citizen could not care less about a casino as he could not afford to

visit one, and I think that if the honourable member went out into his electorate and conducted a public-opinion poll he would find that his supporters are not at all interested in having one established in this State.

The honourable member's attack on the Queensland Government Tourist Bureau and some of its branch offices also is not borne out by the facts. As I pointed out in my opening remarks, the Tourist Bureau's collections from tourist bookings are running at an unprecedented high level, with clear indications already that last year's record total will be surpassed in the current financial year. Takings have already passed the \$1,000,000 mark in a month for the first time—they did so in August—which surely indicates that the bureau's standing with the public and the tourist industry in general has never been higher.

There also was criticism to the effect that the bureau is only a booking agency and does nothing to promote tourism in this State. That is quite wrong. The promotional campaign undertaken by the Queensland Government Tourist Bureau in the past ten years is the envy of all other State Tourist Bureaus. The allocation of \$411,000 to the bureau for promotional activities this financial year is far in excess of the amount available to any other State bureau. The Queensland Government Tourist Bureau produces a high-quality promotional film each year, and its wide and varied campaign includes an extensive advertising programme in the other Australian States and overseas. If the honourable member had taken time to study the annual report of the Director-General of Tourist Services, he would know just how much the bureau does each year to promote the State's tourist attractions.

The honourable member mentioned also that the Government had not spent the \$50,000 that was allocated last year for the preservation of pioneer tourist attractions. He should have remained silent on that point, as it was stated quite clearly at that time that the allocation was being made available on the basis that matching grants would be received from the Commonwealth. The Federal Government indicated that it would be making funds of this nature available, but none were forthcoming for Queensland. It refused to approve a grant to Charters Towers, claiming that the town had no international tourist content, then gave the Government of Western Australia money for the rebuilding of a cattle station in the Kimberleys. That was quite blatant discrimination. The fact is that because Commonwealth money was not available, the Government of Queensland could not spend the money it had available. The honourable member's comment, therefore, should have been the last to be made by an Opposition member.

The Government's policy is that its responsibility is to promote Queensland's tourist attractions as a whole, and that the job of local promotion is one for the local authority and private enterprise in the district concerned. We will make the cake, and then we will invite them to carve it up. In this regard, it was very interesting to hear the comments of the honourable members for South Coast and Surfers Paradise, both of whom seized the opportunity once again to push the attractions of the Gold Coast area and to refer to some of the problems facing it. Those two honourable members have done a wonderful job in promoting their district. It is a great pity that the third honourable member from that area does not adopt a similar stance.

I felt personally that one of the most constructive Opposition speeches during Tuesday's debate was that made by the honourable member for Pine Rivers, who indicated that he shared my concern in the area of unmarried mothers and the need for more efficient day-care centres. When the full impact of the new regulations concerning these centres is apparent, I think he will find a definite improvement in the over-all standard of the centres and that some of the shabby back-yard facilities will disappear. This certainly is our objective.

I can assure the honourable member that the future needs of society are being considered in our present prison-rebuilding programme. We have no intention of making prisons into facilities merely where people are locked away from the community for periods of time. Our plans are designed to train prisoners, and to develop within them the right attitude towards work. But we also have to remember that prisons are places of detention, not holiday camps.

As usual, the honourable member for Chatsworth made a well-considered commentary on the problems facing my department and society generally in the areas of both children's services and prisons. I agree entirely with the sentiments he expressed on the question of unmarried mothers keeping their children, and I have endeavoured to make myself clear on this point for some months. My officers and I will not stand in the way of any young unmarried girl in choosing to keep her child, but we feel it is our duty to point out to such girls, before they make up their minds, the problems that lie ahead of them. I contend that not sufficient thought was given to this aspect when the Commonwealth Government decided to fix the level of its unmarried mothers' benefit.

I was pleased also to hear the honourable member's comments about discipline in the schools. The moment we take away the right of teachers to discipline children within reason, we will put the final nail in the coffin of our society. The attempt by certain rat-bags to threaten teachers with legal action

over normal disciplinary actions is just another phase of the current attack on the standards in our society.

The honourable member referred to the need for social workers in schools. I know he will be particularly interested when I say that there has been a preliminary discussion between the Director-General of Education and the Director, Department of Children's Services, and arrangements are in hand for the skilled officers of each of their departments to discuss this matter so that there can be the closest co-ordination between the school and the home. Many of the problem children in schools are already known to the Department of Children's Services, and there would be considerable overlapping and further dispersal of social-work services if this function in the two departments was not co-ordinated.

The honourable member also referred to the matter of laws relating to deserted fathers. A joint committee of officers from the Department of Justice and the Department of Children's Services has already been examining this question, and they have submitted a report which is now under consideration.

The honourable member also briefly mentioned the subject of the establishment of historic villages. I completely agree that this type of project is extremely valuable to the future of our tourist industry. There are several in existence at the moment other than the one in his electorate that he commented on. There is an excellent one at Laidley, which is attracting many visitors.

The honourable member for South Brisbane mentioned the provision of \$50,000 in the Estimates for the preservation of historic buildings as tourist attractions. He also is unaware that it was because of the Federal Government that we were unable to spend that sum. We have money available this year, and we hope that action by the Federal Government will enable us to spend it. We are making a submission to the Federal Government on the guide-lines for the distribution of these funds.

It was interesting to hear the comments on the Woodford prison by the honourable member for Murrumba as the parliamentary representative for that area. We believe that this project, when completed, will provide young offenders with the best facilities of their type in Australia. It will also solve the problem of run-aways from Westbrook. The people in the Westbrook area will no longer have to put up with continual absconders. My department has always believed in the need to segregate young prisoners from hardened criminals, and the Woodford prison will enable us to do this. The matter of housing prison officers up there is being handled satisfactorily.

The honourable member for Murrumba, as a former top athlete, and one who has devoted considerable time to this sport, is possibly more qualified than anyone else in

this Chamber to speak on the need for a new major athletics track in Brisbane. I have been aware for some time of his concern about the poor track surfaces here, and earlier this year I arranged for the Director of Sport to investigate the different types of artificial tracks and their cost.

My department also received a submission from the Queensland Amateur Athletics Association for a large-scale and costly project at Ballymore Park, but the submission was on the basis of the State Government meeting the total cost. The matter has been considered by the Government, but the magnitude of the grant requested to one sporting organisation raises serious problems, and certainly would require solid justification. We therefore have suggested to the association that, unless it can obtain some other source of finance to complement a contribution by the State, a more modest approach should be considered. Many other sports have similar problems of finance, but they, at least, have come up with a contributory proposal rather than a request for a grant to cover the total cost.

The substance of the speech by the honourable member for Albert was an attack on the operations of the Queensland Government Tourist Bureau, in that he claimed that the Bureau was doing virtually nothing to promote the State. I draw the honourable member's attention to my remarks on this aspect earlier today, and also to the contents of the Annual Report of the Director General of Tourist Services. I repeat that the Bureau is the largest State promotional bureau in Australia and does more in this field now than at any time in its history.

If honourable members on the other side of the Committee and their party are really concerned about this, I cannot understand why they, when last in power, gave the Bureau only a miserable \$16,000 a year for promotion. We have increased this by more than 25 times. I support the continuation of the role of the Bureau as a selling agency because it has been patently obvious in recent years that the travelling public welcomes the security of a Government agency in view of the failure of some of the private enterprise agencies.

The honourable member mentioned the possibility of greater co-operation between Queensland and Tasmania. I point out for his information that for years we have enjoyed a close relationship with Tasmania, and the Tasmanian Government Tourist Bureau is actually the agent in that State for our own Bureau.

In his speech, he also made representations on behalf of the Beenleigh Junior Rugby League and the Beenleigh Bowls Club. I have had these matters checked and neither has made an application to my department. If they do at some time in the future, the applications will be considered on their merits.

The honourable member for Merthyr outlined clearly the enlightened thinking in the Children's Services Act and the facilities contained in the Act to avoid giving children criminal records. He also pointed out the difficulties facing the department at the Wilson Youth Hospital, where the facilities are taxed to the limit and, in some instances, over-taxed. His remarks were an indication of the growth of the delinquency problem in Queensland and the cost that will fall on the taxpayer unless a halt can be achieved in the general deterioration in family life which is occurring at present.

He also spoke of the work of the Juvenile Aid Bureau, and I support his remarks. As I said in my opening speech, the Bureau is now a part of the Department of Children's Services and the call on its services is no lighter than when it was with the Police Department. It has a vital role to play and I am sure that, when the Cabinet sub-committee which is examining its operations submits its report, there will emerge a stronger organisation to combat the rising incidence of anti-social behaviour in children.

I felt that the honourable member for Rockhampton gave a well-considered speech on national fitness and he no doubt used to advantage his experience as chairman of the local area committee. He did refer to the need for the appointment of a national fitness officer in the Hinchinbrook area, but I point out that Mr. B. A. Jones was appointed to that position and commenced work in the area early this year. I noted his remarks about the status of national fitness generally, and I would remind him of the increased allocation in this field in the past 12 months. The question of expanded responsibilities and co-ordination with the Department of Sport has not been overlooked and discussions have been held in this regard. I have already made several firm promises to the National Fitness Council in respect of my attitude to them.

Although the effluxion of time prevented the honourable member for Nudgee from developing his argument, I gathered the impression that he had some sympathies with the projected Yeppoon development. In view of the tremendous amount of rubbish that has been circulated on this matter, I would like to place on record the correct story.

The project would give Queensland the largest resort complex in Australia, and possibly the world, and one of the country's largest conservation undertakings. Mr. Iwasaki will develop the area at no cost to the State and no loss of the State's resources. If the venture does not succeed, the building and land still must remain in the State, so there certainly would be no loss of any State asset.

Irrespective of the defence policies of the Commonwealth Government of the day, Australia's future security depends on its ability to develop its resources and increase its wealth. This cannot be done without capital,

all of which, unfortunately, is just not available within Australia. Such a massive project at Yeppoon would attract other undertakings to the area, and thus lead to the development of a part of the State which probably would remain idle for the next 50 years.

Many of those people who have misgivings about it at the present time will change their view when they see the plan. I have seen a similar resort built by Mr. Iwasaki at Ibusuki on Kyushu Island in southern Japan, and the only word to describe it is "magnificent". We have nothing like it in Australia, and there are very few resorts anywhere else in the world that could compare with it.

Most of the \$20,000,000 or more which Mr. Iwasaki wishes to outlay at Yeppoon on the first stage of the project will be spent on Australian materials and on wages to Australian workmen. There is no doubt about his bona fides financially; this has been carefully checked, not that it was really necessary to do so.

When completed, the resort will provide jobs for over 1,000 Australians. Where Mr. Iwasaki finds it necessary to employ a Japanese in a particular position, an Australian understudy will be appointed immediately and will take over from the Japanese as soon as training is finished. Every international hotel in the world employs some Japanese on its staff as interpreters and cooks, as do the international hotels already built in Australia. However, Mr. Iwasaki has clearly stated his intention, and the Japanese that he employs will be repatriated as soon as he can train local men to take over from them.

The resort will mean hundreds of thousands of dollars a month to the Central Queensland economy in purchases of supplies to cater for guests, laundry, fuel, and so on, as well as the spending by the tourists themselves.

There is no secrecy surrounding his plans. He laid his cards on the table in Rockhampton some months ago in discussions with community leaders, and his ideas have been fully published in the local Press.

Mr. Iwasaki has made it clear that he will take the project to Western Australia or New South Wales, where he also owns land, if Central Queensland does not want it. He has received very good offers from both of those States, particularly from the Labor Government in Western Australia, which is attempting to attract him there. However, he believes in Yeppoon.

Mr. Iwasaki attempted to make the venture a joint one, but no Australian investor would touch it because he does not expect any profits for at least five years. Most Australian investors want immediate returns, and they simply cannot be obtained from a project of this nature. Therefore the "wise" Australian investors kept out. I do not intend to comment on the viability of the operation, but

it is a fact that probably more lucrative avenues would be open to Australian investors. The result is that Mr. Iwasaki has decided to go it alone. However, he is still open to offers from any one who would like to come in with him.

Many Japanese tourists will visit the complex, but I make it clear that it will not be a Japanese resort. The main part of it will meet European standards in style and accommodation for local and overseas visitors who require Western-type facilities. These will be provided in the form of an international village. In other words, an Australian who stays there would, if he wished, be able to experiment with a Japanese room for one night, but would be able to obtain more comfortable accommodation the following night. Mr. Iwasaki intends to develop units according to all types of international accommodation, so that people can experiment if they desire.

One important aspect to honourable members is the protection of the foreshore. It will not be affected. The proposal put forward by Mr. Iwasaki leaves a buffer zone between the resort and the beaches. He is not going to touch either the beach or, more importantly, the dunes behind it. The buffer zone will be left free from interference, and no roads will be constructed between the buildings and the beach. Anyone who wants to go to the beach will be able to walk from the property through to the beach.

There will be several miles of park land and picnic areas for the general public. Mr. Iwasaki intends to have a huge bird and animal sanctuary, a golf course, swimming pools and a huge hotel, which will be designed by an American firm of architects based in Hawaii and specialising in Pacific resorts.

The story about a Japanese enclave is simply not right because, quite obviously, he wants as many people as possible to visit the resort. If he can attract people there for a day's picnic at the beach, it is fairly obvious that they will spend some money there and so benefit his operation. The several miles of park land, which will be open to the public, is not accessible in its present state.

There are to be no high-rise buildings in the project. Buildings will be set amongst a mass of trees and shrubs that are to be planted about two years in advance of the construction work. In Japan, I saw a very big nursery in which Mr. Iwasaki has been experimenting with Australian eucalypts. One of the strangest aspects of all is that he was attacked over acquiring land in a certain area in which he was not really interested. The Australian owner was cutting down natural growth to develop the land as cattle pastures. He bought the land to preserve the natural timber so that the native birds would not leave the area.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. HERBERT: It is all very well for honourable members opposite to joke about this, but it is an extremely serious matter, and we have investigated it very closely.

Mr. Iwasaki is possibly Japan's leading practising conservationist. He has already obtained advice from the chairman of the Japan National Park Authority, and he has donated several national parks to Japan. Despite the high cost of land in Japan, he has acquired areas which he considers to be beautiful and has handed them over to the nation. His commercial background lies in the timber industry and he owns extensive tracts of forest country. He could quite reasonably use for timber production much of the land he has acquired, because he is an expert in this field.

He has stressed that he does not want to build a Japanese resort. He wants an Australian resort—manned and managed by Australians. He does not intend to advertise it as a Japanese resort in Australia, for the very good reason that people who want to visit a Japanese resort will go to Japan, where they would probably find infinitely better ones. He wants an Australian resort that will attract people from everywhere.

The Commonwealth immigration laws govern the entry of Japanese into this country, although I saw in this morning's Press that Chinese are to flow in to take up jobs here. At the moment, Japanese can enter Australia only on tourist visas.

All visitors to this resort will have to travel by Australian airlines, buses, trains or cars from Brisbane, the nearest international airport, or Townsville, if a certain proposal ever gets off the ground. Financially, the prospects are enormous.

During question time this morning, I received an urgent Rockhampton telegram, which states—

"From the Yeppoon Chamber of Commerce re Courier Mail Monday last statement of 80 per cent opposition to Iwasaki—suggest check accuracy stop our observations this area suggest real opposition almost negligible.

"John Bowen, Secretary"

I emphasise that that telegram was not promoted by me or any of my officers.

Mr. Wright: I also received a telegram this morning. It reads—

"Please insist on comprehensive land-use survey Capricorn coast with full public participation on tourist resort discussions.

"Dalton, Capricorn Coast Protection Council"

Mr. HERBERT: He holds meetings attended by three people—and then issues statements.

The telegram I read was sent by a very well-known organisation, the Yeppoon Chamber of Commerce.

I have outlined the plan as it was presented to me, and I accept it as holding out tremendous possibilities for Central Queensland. I also know that if Mr. Iwasaki gets the venture off the ground he has in mind many other ideas, including the sending of Central Queensland students to Japan to further their studies of the Japanese language. He runs an overseas accommodation centre in Tokyo, to which he sends students from all over the world. That accommodation will be available for Central Queensland students.

He has many other plans. But—and it is a very big "but"—his proposal has to be approved by the Federal Government, because the few million dollars he already has in this country is not adequate for the job. All that can stop him now is Federal Government intervention. If it intervenes, it will be a very sad day for Central Queensland.

I appreciate the emotional attitude of many people to Japanese. I share it, and I do not need my R.S.L. badge to recall bitter memories, but we live in a changing world. The Japanese are now the world's greatest travellers. In fact, 1,500,000 of them travelled overseas last year. We would injure only ourselves if we refused to welcome them as paying visitors.

The honourable member for Windsor dealt with a number of deficiencies in the Commonwealth social security benefit structures, such as the unmarried mother who has her baby outside Australia and returns unable to get any help from the Commonwealth until she has again been resident here for a period of five years. His remarks have been noted, and these deficiencies will be brought to the attention of the Commonwealth.

He emphasised the need for re-training of prisoners and is aware of the steps we are taking in this direction.

The honourable member for Belmont supported, I am pleased to say, the continuation of the Juvenile Aid Bureau, and he will have noted my remarks on this organisation earlier in this debate.

He referred to the failure of the Government to pay prison trade instructors the wage paid to those in the Education Department. Prison office trade instructors are paid a lower rate than the trade training officers in the Department of Education, but the conditions of employment are quite different. The Prisons Department does pay some training officers from the Department of Education at the appropriate rate.

One of the problems in the tourist industry is the lack of reliable statistics on growth rates and so on, and I was interested to hear the comparisons made by the honourable member for Mirani between the value of tourism and that of sugar in his area.

I am well aware of the beauty and tourist potential of the Finch Hatton Gorge and I am sympathetic to his representations to

have the road into that area upgraded. I walked in. It is worth the walk, but it would be a lot simpler with a good road.

The honourable member for Everton joined several others who earlier supported the retention of the Juvenile Aid Bureau, and I was pleased to have his comments on the usefulness of this Bureau. However, unlike him, I will not attempt to be a clairvoyant and anticipate what the final recommendation from the Cabinet subcommittee will be.

As I have said previously, the increase in public interest in the preservation of historic buildings has been quite amazing in recent times, and this was also reflected in the remarks of the honourable member for Toowong. As well, he supported the preservation of historic villages, and I am sure that we are going to see some further projects in this sphere in the not far distant future. The Townsville Branch of the National Trust has already accepted Ravenswood as its responsibility. It was obvious from his comments on imprisonment and its purposes that the honourable member for Toowong, as usual, had done a great deal of research in the preparation of his remarks.

He also supported the honourable member for Murrumba on the need for a better athletics track in Queensland, and I have already mentioned the problem that exists in that area. I certainly hope that something can be done in the foreseeable future.

I will bracket my replies to the honourable members for Port Curtis and Ipswich West, as they both criticised my comments on working mothers. Unfortunately, their criticisms were based on a newspaper headline and not the contents of the story, with the result that they gained the wrong impression.

I clarified my position at the close of Tuesday's debate, but I re-emphasise that my remarks were not directed against all working mothers. I was concerned with those who have tended to neglect their families by putting their jobs first, and I can produce many instances in the records of the Department of Children's Services to support my contention.

The honourable member for Port Curtis also asked for comment on the fact that only \$117,000 was spent last year on sporting assistance. The explanation is actually given in the report of the Director of Sport, but the position is that the amount spent was less than half of the total approved. Many of the claims up to 30 June last were for progress payments only, and subsequent claims are still being received and paid.

In other cases, the clubs and associations concerned have not claimed the subsidies as approved, possibly because of some temporary breakdown in the administration of their sport. They have all had problems with contractors, who have been trying to

obtain cement and other materials that are in short supply. This has held up construction, in many cases for months.

I valued the favourable comments of the honourable member for Ipswich on welfare matters concerning my department. His practical experience in this field, particularly his help in hospital matters in various Government institutions, has been invaluable. He has been able to give advice with a sound professional content—and without charging the common fee! The job that he has done on the relevant committee has been very much appreciated. The submission that he made to the House on Tuesday evening clearly demonstrates the appreciation that he has of the many facets of my administration.

I express similar sentiments about the contribution of the honourable member for Townsville. However, I think he will be pleased to know that there are actually about 72 sports known to be played in Queensland. That is almost double the number that he mentioned, and even that was many more than the figure we had in mind originally. Queensland is indeed a sporting State, and I think this speaks volumes for the future strength of our society. There are in Queensland 72 sports that are strong enough to support a State executive organisation.

The honourable member can also rest assured that high priority is being given to the two projects that he mentioned, namely, extensions to the Carramar Home and the Remand and Assessment Centre in Townsville. Both are urgently required, and they are being treated accordingly.

I have dealt briefly with the speeches made by various members on Tuesday, and I look forward to further contributions today. In conclusion, on behalf of my officers I should like to thank honourable members who made complimentary remarks about their efficiency and dedication. They are certainly deserved. Public servants are only human, and they appreciate it when someone says to them, "Thank you."

Mr. HARVEY (Stafford) (12.33 p.m.): In rising to speak on the Tourism, Sport and Welfare Services Estimates, I say at the outset that I look upon this department as one that is involved with human beings. It is not a department that functions with bricks and mortar, bitumen roads, high-rise buildings, and things of that type. It is one that is concerned with people and their leisure, pleasure and recreation activities. It also deals with those who need understanding and assistance to guide them along the right and proper paths in life.

At the outset, I pay a tribute to two of the Minister's senior officers, namely, Mr. Charles Clark and Mr. Cedric Johnson. The Public Service is indeed very fortunate to have in its ranks such dedicated people. From the circles in which I move, I know

that their co-operation, assistance and understanding is appreciated throughout the community. I have had no direct association with other officers who are under the Minister's jurisdiction, nor have I heard anything against them in the carrying out of their responsibilities. However, as I have already mentioned, I have heard a great deal of commendation of the two officers whom I have specifically mentioned.

I note that the total allocation in all fields under these Estimates is \$27,400,000. The Treasurer made it clear when presenting his Financial Statement that an additional \$137,000,000 would be allocated from Consolidated Revenue to the various departments, representing an increase of 21.3 per cent on the corresponding figure for the previous year. I consider that, in the light of the 21.3 per cent increase, the Minister's allocation from Consolidated Revenue should have been in excess of \$17,300,000. In fact, I think it should have been well over \$18,000,000.

I am wondering whether the reason for the reduction was that some of the Votes were left unspent. If I had been in the Treasurer's position, I would have said—I have done so in the past in another place—"As you did not spend the money I allocated to you last year, there is no justification for increasing the allocation for the current year." Everyone would then go through his Estimates with a fine-tooth comb.

Over the years, the expenditure of this department from Consolidated Revenue has increased as follows—

	\$
1964-65	3,800,000
1967-68	5,700,000
1969-70	7,500,000
1972-73	15,300,000

For 1973-74, \$17,354,000 has been allocated from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for this very worth-while department.

When replying to the comments of another honourable member, the Minister mentioned that, although \$437,000 had been approved for expenditure through the Sporting Bodies Assistance Fund, the fund ended the year with a credit of \$319,000—in other words, only \$117,800 was used. The Minister said that moneys had been allocated to certain sporting bodies which, perhaps because of contractual commitments or the unavailability of supplies, were not able to make use of them in the financial year. Would it not be appropriate, when allocating funds, to ensure that the bodies to which they are allocated can use them immediately? Because of the escalation in costs today, the \$319,000 left unspent by the respective bodies to which it was allocated will not enable the corresponding amount of work to be carried out in the current year. With the value of the dollar decreasing as it is, I believe that moneys should be allocated

to other bodies if those to which they are allocated originally cannot make use of them.

Initially, \$400,000 was provided in the Loan Fund Account last year, but in fact none of that money was made available by way of loan. I acknowledge that certain work on National Fitness centres was carried out by the Department of Works—to the value of about \$228,000, I think—for ablution blocks and other amenities at various places throughout the State. However, expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, Loan Fund and Trust and Special Funds did not bear any resemblance to the amount originally voted.

The Treasurer pointed out that the additional revenue that came into the State through various avenues amounted to \$29,000,000. Although \$14,400,000 was provided originally in the Consolidated Revenue Fund, the Government was able to spend \$15,300,000, and that may be the reason for the reduction in expenditure through the Loan Fund. In my opinion, this is something that must be watched carefully in proper budgeting. We should ensure that the moneys allocated for a particular purpose are used by the appropriate section of the department. If it does not use them, they should be made available to other sections of the department where they can be used. With the present escalation in costs, we must ensure that we get value for money.

Let me turn now to the subject of deserted wives. I note that the over-all expenditure of the Department of Children's Services increased by \$2,523,000, to \$8,600,000. Much of that expenditure is attributable to payments to deserted wives. We know that under the Commonwealth agreement the Federal Government meets half the cost involved. However, I am very concerned that many people attempt to exploit this field. On figures I have seen, both the Queensland Government and the Western Australian Government must be concerned about the number of malingerers in this regard—husbands and wives who mutually agree to live apart so that they can get out of their financial difficulties, and subsequently come together again.

Mr. Herbert: We keep records, so that if they come together again we can get in touch with the father and recover the moneys spent by us in supporting his family. Many people are unaware of this. They think they can come together again and that we will forget about it, but we don't.

Mr. HARVEY: I am very pleased to hear that. It is difficult to catch up with these people. Quite often the genuine case suffers because of the malingerer.

We have to remember that there are deserted husbands as well as deserted wives. When a family is deserted by the mother, the father has to make arrangements for somebody to care for the children and assist in the home while he is at work.

The Commonwealth Grants Commission shares, with the respective States, half the cost of these allowances. From that source, in 1969-70 Queensland received \$426,000. In 1972-73 we received \$1,736,000. When we take into account the matching allocation from the State, we realise the enormous escalation in this commitment. For the nation as a whole, in 1969-70 the total Commonwealth grant for deserted wives was \$1,882,000. In 1972-73 it was \$9,748,000. That must be a matter of concern to us all.

The Department of Children's Services is very concerned for the welfare of children. Let us consider the number of children who have been brought before the courts. Last year there were 5,128 proven offences by children under 17 years of age. Of that number, 210 were committed by children under 10 years of age compared with 95 in the year ended 30 June 1965, an increase of 115. That indicates a need for all sections of the community to be concerned about the welfare of youth in this State.

Today we are living in a society that is mentally, physically and socially ill. It is a society that needs a far better understanding of moral responsibility and acceptance of obligations. The great majority of the world's population is living in and around cities. More and more high-rise buildings are springing up around Brisbane, at the same time bringing increased dangers to children.

We acknowledge what has been done in family assistance. In 1971-72 assistance was granted to 2,992 families, comprising 6,654 children. In 1972-73 assistance was granted to 3,790 families, comprising 8,046 children. I believe that one of the greatest problems in our society today arises not so much from the laws of the land as from lack of parental responsibility. There are too many "week-end" orphans—too many children who are permitted to roam the streets and look after themselves. Parents are prepared to bring children into the world but are not prepared to face up to their parental responsibilities.

Unfortunately, these children are enticed into those environments in society that can do nothing but lead them at an early age into the wrong paths in life. Generally, when this happens they do not change their ways but continue through life as citizens who do not play a worthy part in society. I commend the department for what it is doing in this regard. I also commend it for what it is doing to help other organisations in society deal with this problem. But the problem involves more than legislation, and more than the Police Force or any other Government department. It involves personal community participation in putting these young people on the right and proper path in life.

I was fortunate on one occasion in having the opportunity to travel overseas, and I was very impressed with what was being done in this field in one city in particular—Kansas City—where committees have been established

to provide services not only in the welfare sector but also in other fields of activity. Sports and recreation in many fields are organised for children, as well as involvement in such areas as human relations and community affairs. I believe that every member of this Chamber has a responsibility to encourage various welfare functions and public relations activities in which all sections of the community, young and old alike, can participate.

We should all bring ourselves into closer contact with our environment and with human needs, and this, of course, starts with town planning. Too often are our town planners so involved with such things as high-rise structures and freeways that they completely forget about open space, parks, and recreation facilities. Thus they create an environment that rears the wrong type of citizen.

I believe that the Children's Services Department could be extended to cover such matters as human relations. If the department and the Minister are interested and are not already in possession of it, I am prepared to let them have the material I obtained about the Kansas City structure as it relates to welfare, human relations and community-involvement activities, covering such a wide spectrum as to ensure that society lives, functions and acts as a humane organisational structure rather than one in which people are placed second to the bricks and mortar that are used so freely in our society today.

When I look around Brisbane these days, I am more than ever convinced that youths who are involved in organised sport and other recreational activities very seldom go wrong. In many instances those children who either are not guided along the right path or do not follow recreational pursuits have too much idle time on their hands, with the result that they run foul of the law and ultimately become sour on society.

This city contains insufficient open space in which children can engage in recreation and sport. Although the park space that is provided might be adequate to meet the needs of suburbs containing single-family homes, it is not sufficient in those areas where there is a preponderance of multi-unit, high-rise buildings and multiple-family dwellings. In these suburbs the area of open space should be enlarged at a rate commensurate with the increase in the number of young people.

Experience gained in cities such as Stockholm has shown that the greatest problems arise in areas of concentrated population. I would hate to see any reduction in the size of our back-yard areas or the 24-perch allotments. When children are playing in their own back yards, at least they are under the supervision of their parents, who know where their children are and what they are doing.

Mr. Kaus: You don't get much playing area in 24 perches.

Mr. HARVEY: At least it is bigger than the playing area that will be available with the development of cluster-type dwellings such as those envisaged in legislation that recently passed through this Parliament.

In our society there is no such thing as the naturally bad child. Children become bad only if they are permitted to wander along the wrong paths. All honourable members should therefore regard the welfare of their fellow human beings as a matter of paramount importance, and we should do all in our power to ensure that the children of today become the worthy citizens of tomorrow.

(Time expired.)

Mr. KAUS (Mansfield) (12.53 p.m.): I am very pleased to be able to speak to these Estimates. In the brief time at my disposal I shall direct my comments mainly to welfare, prisons, tourism, sport and national fitness.

I am sure that the Minister, as well as honourable members generally, will agree with the sentiments expressed by the honourable member for Stafford. However, no-one could be blamed for thinking that in the present enlightened community the welfare of citizens would not present the problems that were associated with it, say, 30 or 40 years ago. Surely it receives the same consideration from the present generation as was given to it by earlier generations.

"Welfare" is still very much the operative word, although the emphasis has shifted considerably in what is termed the "permissive" society. Unfortunately, certain people are of the opinion that it does not matter how they behave. Others, who pose an even greater threat to the community, profess to find some worthy principle or enlightened approach to life in doing what they feel like doing. Certain members of the community discard any notion of duty to one another. They consider any form of discipline to be repressive.

The most disturbing change in recent years is not that we have discarded some of the old rules or developed new standards of conduct, but that we have allowed many people to become careless and even openly defiant about the rules of conduct and the standards of behaviour. Equally disturbing is the tendency in some quarters to make a virtue out of this defiance by saying that it is a freedom—that those people who are defiant are more enlightened and liberated than those who are not.

The term "permissive society" only becomes defensible—and can only be true in fact—if it means that society, expressing itself by the laws made by the majority, through accepted standards of conduct permits certain actions to be performed by members of society. Unfortunately, in today's jargon many people interpret "permissive society" to mean that any individual can do whatever he feels like doing. These people have given themselves permission to disregard the remainder

of society. They are attacking society itself and disregarding the feelings of others. This is both selfish and anarchical.

Behind this looseness in conduct, I believe there is looseness in thinking and that those among us who are called "squares" must do something other than condemn, protest and prohibit. It is our duty to demonstrate the falsity and danger of the excuses being made, or the philosophies advanced, to justify actions that we cannot accept.

We hear today a great deal about the danger of destroying our highly industrialised civilisation by polluting the physical environment, poisoning the air, denuding the land and contaminating the seas, and we are all deeply concerned about it. In fact, we are spending millions of dollars annually to combat these things. But, throughout the centuries, have not other civilisations also been choked or poisoned by moral pollution? This is just as great a threat in our so-called permissive society, but what positive steps are we taking to repel and overcome it?

Recently it has become patently obvious to me that permissiveness is having serious detrimental effects on the welfare and standards of our present-day youth. I believe it is my duty to reveal these facts and to denounce publicly those who are clearly exploiting our young people. Many of the philosophies I have referred to are directed at achieving greater personal freedom, particularly for young people, but in many cases they are leading to a breakdown of the family unit. That is quite obvious today. We only have to read Mr. Clark's wonderful annual report, which discloses all the relevant facts and figures, to realise what is happening. Although I know that, as a rule, honourable members usually read only what they want to, I urge them to study this report closely because it affects the whole of the community and its future citizens.

Actually, the youth of today is no different from the youth of 50 years ago. Over the years the spirit of adventure and the will to achieve have characterised our young folk. The only difference today is that there are many more distractions, temptations and avenues of excitement open to them. No doubt, if parents generally were to control their children we would never read about tragedies such as the one recently that involved two young girls. Unfortunately, there have been quite a few similar tragedies in recent times. If parents were to exercise a little more control over their children and have a greater say in what they do, and also show them a little more love, things would be vastly different. I will deal further with this subject later in my speech.

These things, combined with the natural physiological characteristic in young people in their teens to move away from the family and seek new friendships and associations with other young people, have focused the spotlight on the need for youngsters to be

taught how to use their leisure hours beneficially, and how to take advantage of these greater freedoms without jeopardising standards that have stood the test of time and that the majority of those in our community wish to uphold.

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

Mr. KAUS: Before the luncheon recess, I was speaking of greater freedoms that have stood the test of time and that the majority of those in the community wish to uphold. To date we have failed in this direction, and the instability in our society is reaching alarming proportions. Whilst only a minority of the population are involved in this trend, our future welfare certainly is at stake if the rate of deterioration is allowed to continue.

The more serious aspects of this are juvenile delinquency, broken homes, illegitimacy and disease associated with sexual relations. I shall deal first with delinquency. In the 12 months ended 30 June this year, no fewer than 3,269 children (2,685 boys and 584 girls) appeared before the Children's Courts throughout Queensland, an increase of 12.92 per cent over the previous year's figure of 2,895. In a period of seven years, the increase was 122 per cent (compared to 100 per cent over a five-year period). I think you will agree, Mr. Wharton, that this is something to be concerned about, particularly when it is realised that this increase has outstripped the population growth by more than 20 times.

When we look deeper into the figures, it is seen that nearly 70 per cent of these appearances concerned offences against good order and property, which is in line with the defiance and lack of respect for others that I mentioned in the opening few minutes of my speech. This contention is also supported by the fact that, in the area of children committed to the care and control of the Director of Children's Services for anti-social behaviour, the number has risen by almost 122.2 per cent in seven years.

To further emphasise the point I am making, it will be noted that in the cases so far mentioned males easily exceeded females in the number of appearances and the number who went before the courts on offences against property and good order. However, when the number of children committed to the care and control of the Director for being uncontrollable is examined, it is seen that girls outnumbered boys and represented 55 per cent of the total. A very high percentage of these cases involved morals. In fact nearly all of them did, although it is heartening that, on this year's figures, the proportion has dropped to 46 per cent.

The situation regarding illegitimacy is just as alarming. The rate of ex-nuptial births in Queensland for the 1971 calendar year was 12.16 per cent—the highest yet recorded in this State.

The figure for the previous year was 11.3 per cent, and five years ago it was 9.82 per cent. In 1966, the number of illegitimate births totalled 3,232 and, in 1971, this figure rose to an all-time record of 4,859. Here again there is every reason for concern when it is realised that one in every eight babies in our community was born to an unmarried mother. The figure for this year is down to 3,832, so there is an improvement in this regard.

Another area with long-range repercussions is that of paternal desertion. It is best illustrated in its financial implications because other effects cannot be assessed. In the 1968-69 financial year, the department paid out \$432,156 in aid to deserted wives, wives of prisoners, unmarried mothers and other mothers who were not eligible for Commonwealth social services. In the year ended 30 June 1972, the total for the same assistance reached almost \$2,500,000, and in 1972-73 it reached \$3,900,000. This is a substantial increase over last year's figure and there seems to be no sign of any abatement.

Apart from the monetary cost, the intangible effect on families, particularly the children, through emotional disturbances cannot be estimated. These broken homes, of course, set the basis for increased anti-social behaviour, as was reflected in my earlier figures.

All the problems that I have dealt with paint a very sordid picture, and one that is revolting to most of us. They are undoubtedly the product of permissiveness. They produce a rising stream of children to be cared for and controlled by the State, and a heavy demand on the highly qualified staff of our welfare services.

But what are we doing about it? The silent majority, which abhors what is happening, remains silent. The entire responsibility cannot be sheeted home to the parents. Many parents are failing because they are confused and do not know how to handle the problems and benefits, as they did not experience these things in their own youth. It is the responsibility, therefore, of the community as a whole to provide the necessary guidance and the standards by which participation in society is measured.

Having set these standards, each one of us has a duty to ensure that they are not eroded by the vocal minority who want us all to live by their beliefs and tastes. The annoying feature of this movement is that its sponsors never produce an alternative to our way of living. If our society is to be replaced, then let us first see what it is to be replaced with. The results to date, some of which I have outlined, are not, to say the least, very impressive.

The further impending changes to our rules and standards will, I am sure, bring greater confusion, distress, danger, and eventual collapse, unless those of us who do not agree

with these changes take a hand in forming public attitudes. We have no cause for complaint about a permissive society if we ourselves, by apathy and neglect, take no part in shaping standards of conduct in our country, and thus by default have given the permission.

I notice on page 8 of the annual report of the Director of the Department of Children's Services that it has been decided to establish a hostel for the accommodation of problem girls, and that the length of their stay will depend on their ability to cope in three problem areas. It is said that the hostel represents a new means of caring for problem girls.

To my mind, there are no "problem" girls; there are only girls with problems. The girls who will be cared for in the hostel will be those who have nowhere else to go, and those whom no-one wants. They will be girls with every problem in the book. They will be girls who miss the love of their mothers, fathers and families, and in the hostel they will be surrounded by people who care for them. I hope—indeed, I know—that, under the care of Mr. Clark and his staff, these young girls will be loved and cared for.

Dealing now with tourism, I know that the Director and his staff do a wonderful job for Queensland. I have mentioned in previous Estimates debates the desirability of establishing a scheme under which people could have holidays on farms. I have here an article in which it is suggested that the tourist industry in Victoria should diversify into farm holidays for city people. It quotes a Mr. Parkes, of the Victorian Senior Young Farmers, as saying that he has been a very keen advocate over the years of farm holidays. According to Professor Hirsch of Oxford University, we are entering a leisure era. As he says—

"Signs which point to this include the huge numbers of people who never work . . ."

Perhaps he is anticipating the effects of the implementation of some of the Federal Government's policies next year. He said that the introduction of a 35-hour week, quotas applied to production in many fields, and, generally, modern technology are assisting man to produce his needs so easily that we have to revise our thinking of doing a hard day's work for a good day's pay. It is about time people decided to do that, having in mind the increase in the cost of living, but no-one seems to want to work.

Increased leisure time, greater prosperity, the overcrowding of major cities and the increased mobility of urban dwellers are opening up a whole new concept of farming. I hope this is being kept in mind. I know that already some farm holidays are available in the Far West, but it would be pleasing

to know that there were farms just outside the city where city children could enjoy a holiday.

I congratulate the Minister and the staff of the new Department of Sport. In my opinion, the Minister and the Government have done a fantastically good job in setting up this department, and already many people have benefited from grants for sporting assistance. As the Minister mentioned this morning, 72 different sports have benefited, and all of them will make good use of the money that has been given to them. I hope that in the next couple of years \$1,000,000, \$2,000,000 or even \$3,000,000 will be spent for the benefit of the youth of this State and, indirectly, for the benefit of future generations. Assistance such as this will help in keeping children and youths out of prison and away from the Commonwealth and State welfare departments.

I know that on occasions the Minister is called upon to open new cricket ovals, and so on. I hope we will not see him driving a tractor, as we now see the Lord Mayor doing at the cricket ground at Woolloongabba.

(Time expired.)

Mr. CASEY (Mackay) (2.28 p.m.): At the outset, lest the Minister may misinterpret my remarks at a later stage, I express my thanks to him for the courtesies he has shown me through the various departments in his portfolio in the two years since these Estimates were last debated in this Chamber. Although the Minister and I do not see eye to eye on several matters, I am aware of and appreciate many of the things done by him, particularly for tourism in this State.

I also express my thanks to Mr. Cedric Johnson, the Under Secretary of the department, and congratulate him on what he has achieved during his first year in office.

I have spoken on other occasions about my old friend Mr. Joe Wilson of the Tourist Bureau, and I am a firm believer in and supporter of the work that the Queensland Government Tourist Bureau is doing over the length and breadth of Australia.

My congratulations are extended to Mr. Charles Clark of the Department of Children's Services, and through him to Mr. Ron Brown, the local area officer in the Mackay district, for their wonderful work. This is a difficult department to administer, and the compassion and kindness shown by both Mr. Clark and Mr. Brown, his officer in Mackay, are deeply appreciated by all who come in contact with them.

Mr. Ron Leahy, the Director of Sport, has had a particularly difficult first year in office. Every sporting organisation in the State has been crying and pushing for support in its time of need. Some of them have not understood the correct way to approach the department, and Mr. Leahy has come through a difficult year in excellent fashion.

One other officer of the Minister's department to whom I express my appreciation is Mr. Jack McCarthy of the Relief Assistance Branch. Any honourable member who has had dealings with him would deeply appreciate the co-operation, support and assistance he gives so readily to help people in difficult circumstances, particularly those in regional areas and provincial cities. He does an excellent job, and, through the Minister, I express my personal thanks to him.

As tourism legislation is rarely before us, I intend to devote most of my time today to that facet of the Minister's administration. It is one facet that I know something about, as my own area is one of Queensland's—indeed Australia's—best and most important tourist areas. While on the subject of tourism in Mackay and district, I take the opportunity to express my deep appreciation of and thanks to Mr. Bill Ware and the entire staff of the Queensland Government Tourist Bureau office in Mackay. They are an excellent advertisement for the bureau. The Mackay branch recently celebrated its 25th anniversary, and Mr. Bill Ware, Mr. Frank Ball and the other gentlemen who have been in charge of the branch at one time or another have certainly engendered wonderful public relations in the Mackay community. I would suggest that the Mackay office is probably one of the best run and most efficient in the State.

I was interested in the Minister's comments on air fares. I am prepared to go a little further than he did. Low-cost overseas charter air fares with the offer of special package-holiday deals, sometimes at half the normal air fares, are responsible, as a good Australian would say, for "cutting the guts" out of the profitability of Queensland's regional tourist industry.

Qantas, Australia's national airline, offers package holidays from southern capitals to places like Singapore and Fiji, to name only two of our tourist competitors, on a much more attractive basis than T.A.A. and Ansett Airlines offer holidays to North Queensland resorts. These two airlines claim that they are helping people. Indeed they are. They have introduced low-cost fares and provided assistance and support for various resorts, particularly Barrier Reef resorts and other resorts in northern areas, but when their recent so-called 15 per cent reduction was introduced we found that Mackay, Rockhampton and other northern tourist areas were certainly not "in the swim".

One of the biggest problems is that these two airlines will not charter. That is the secret of success in organising package-holiday deals. That is the "swim" that Qantas has got into, and it has proved very profitable. Whether it is that T.A.A. and Ansett are tied to certain Civil Aviation Department requirements I do not know, but they will not charter. The introduction of special charter services to various regional tourist

resorts and the entering into deals with tourist agencies by these two airlines would mean that much more attractive holiday jaunts to Queensland regional areas could be offered to people in the southern capitals.

As Mr. Leahy would realise, sporting bodies suffer from the lack of support by airlines. Northern sporting bodies have to travel 200 or 300 miles to compete with teams in other cities. From Mackay, for instance, we travel regularly backwards and forwards to Mt. Isa, a distance of 600 miles, to compete, at a very high cost because we cannot get special charter rates from our internal airlines. These airline companies are helping to retard the growth rate of tourist development in the regional areas of this State.

Even worse, of course, is the silly tandem system that the domestic airlines operate—this so-called "rationalisation". It fairly "bugs" air travellers to see two D.C.9's at an airport, each of them only half filled, following each other into and out of the same places. If the airlines offered special cheap fares so that their planes could be filled, they would be far better off and would encourage the growth rate of the tourist industry in regional areas of Queensland. Qantas has been very successful in operating special package tours. It is prepared to fill the seats on its aircraft by entering into special arrangements with the various travel groups and other component sectors of the industry.

While I am on the subject of airlines, what about a family deal from the airlines of Australia—T.A.A. and Ansett Airlines—that will assist families in the community to travel? I recently saw figures showing that only 5 per cent of those who travel, including people using their own vehicles, comprise family groups of more than four people. In other words, couples with more than two children cannot afford to travel and visit the tourist areas of this State, or of Australia. This is because of the high cost involved in moving a family. I believe that if the internal airlines would "come to the party" and provide family-package deals, as is done by Qantas and Air New Zealand, they would improve their financial position by filling every seat. This is happening with Air New Zealand. Virtually every seat on aircraft plying between Australia and New Zealand is filled. One can go to the New Zealand Government Tourist Bureau—or even to the Queensland Government Tourist Bureau—and arrange a family package deal under which the husband can travel to New Zealand for the economy fare, the wife for half fare, and every child aged between 2 years and 18 years for half fare. This is a wonderful offer, and I think our internal airlines should take a leaf out of that airline's book. It would certainly assist families in the community to undertake air travel.

T.A.A. and Ansett are among the major beneficiaries in the Australian travel industry, yet their high fare structures militate against overseas tourists travelling within Australia. Statistics show that 70 per cent of international tourists who come to Australia remain in the capital cities where they arrive and do not leave them. Something also has to be done to encourage Australians to travel within their own country. Distance, combined with high air fares, is the biggest hurdle. I know that the Minister and the Director-General of Tourist Services are very concerned about the situation, and should have every co-operation in their fight to force the internal airlines to "come to the party".

The situation in the tourist industry is somewhat alarming in that Australians going overseas are taking almost twice the amount of money from Australia that is coming into this country from tourism. It is going to Fiji, New Zealand, Singapore, Tahiti and Bali, to name but a few of our main competitors in the Pacific area. These places are developing outstanding resort accommodation, which is being paid for by Australians who are going from their own country to these places under special package deals offered by Australian travel agents. Our own resorts are not able to provide improved accommodation standards because of the lack of support from Australians. Similar remarks apply to the Iwasaki deal, which is much in the news at the moment. We want a better deal for Australian resort operators, particularly those who know and understand the problems of operating along the coastline, before we bend over backwards to encourage Japanese participation in the Australian tourist industry.

Taking the matter a little further, I believe that our travel agents are not playing ball as they should. Newspaper advertisements feature overseas package holidays only. Let anyone walk the streets of Brisbane and see what is featured in the windows. Last night I went for a walk around the city streets and I could not find one travel agent offering a package deal or travel to a Queensland tourist resort. All of them, including the R.A.C.Q., Queensland's own motor organisation which one would think would sponsor motoring tours within the State, were advertising holiday trips on P. & O. and other ships to places all over the world. They should be featuring holidays for Queenslanders, and Australians, at some of our own resorts. Indeed, the only place that advertises Queensland tourist centres strongly is the Queensland Government Tourist Bureau. Travel agents are our salesmen in this industry, and they should make a move towards sponsoring Queensland resorts. They are not being given a great deal of encouragement by the Australian Tourist Commission—but therein lies another tale.

We are living in an age when simply one telephone call arranges accommodation, transport connections, financial arrangements,

entertainment—the lot. The international tourist is a very sophisticated person, and I believe that we in Australia are only "kidding" ourselves when we talk about our international importance. In the eyes of the international tourist we are still the great unknown and primitive land. The great majority of the world's people live in the Northern Hemisphere and prefer to visit areas north of the Equator. Most people who live in the Southern Hemisphere, like Australians, are keen to visit the Old World when they travel overseas. This situation has prevailed ever since man first began to travel. It was no accident that Australia was not really discovered until Captain Cook made his historic voyage; it was simply because no-one wanted to journey to this part of the world.

Although the 20th-century international traveller may have sufficient money to visit Australia, he does not necessarily have the time. Quite often he travels on an organised package tour. Therefore, accessibility to the places he wishes to visit is of paramount importance to him. Our inaccessibility to overseas tourists is the main problem that Australian tourist promoters have to overcome. I can see the purpose behind the opening remarks of the Director-General of Tourist Services in his annual report.

We in Queensland must improve our tourist services to world standards. We need volume for our own country so that we can meet the attractions offered by overseas package tours. I also have in mind the provision of duty-free shopping and the offering of something different to travellers. I have already pointed out that with greater co-operation from our internal airlines we could offer travellers more attractive air fares. But, as well, perhaps the Commonwealth Government could be prevailed upon to declare certain resort areas as duty free for visiting shoppers.

As to the other point—the offering of something different—Queensland has something that cannot be found anywhere else in the world—the Great Barrier Reef. The Australian Tourist Commission has recognised this fact, and in 1970 it commissioned world authorities on tourism—Pannell, Kerr and Foster—to compile the Great Barrier Reef Visitor Plan, which was published in 1971. Since then a Government-sponsored committee has studied the recommendations put forward in that plan. However, nothing has eventuated. In fact, nothing has happened since the plan's forerunner, the Harris, Kerr and Foster Report, was published in 1965.

In the intervening period the growth rate of tourism in Queensland—and, for that matter, in Australia—fell far behind that of Japan, Fiji, New Zealand and Hawaii, which, as I have said, are only a few of our tourist rivals in the South Pacific. It is important to note that each of these countries offers

concessions to the developers of hotel-motel-type resorts. I believe that we in Queensland must act on the recommendations put forward in the Great Barrier Reef Visitor Plan.

Firstly, the State Government should take the immediate step of establishing a Great Barrier Reef Authority as a statutory body to act as a Government agency and co-ordinate and direct the tourist development of the reef. Such a body could act as guide and mentor to the private sector, and also play the role of environmental guard and protector of the entire reef area. I believe that its functions could be similar to those of the Northern Electric Authority, and also of the Snowy Mountains Authority, which controlled the development of the magnificent Snowy Mountains project to the advantage of both New South Wales and Victoria. A Great Barrier Reef Authority could also compile the statistical information and data so necessary in guiding the tourist industry. However, most importantly, it could channel capital—even Government capital—into the proper development of tourism by providing the necessary subsidies and incentives.

The increase in the number of overseas visitors of 32 per cent in two years, as forecast in the report, has not eventuated. Whilst mainland accommodation has kept pace with the predicted development, island-resort accommodation has failed to do so. This highlights the problem that confronts island tourist resorts in attracting capital. I believe that the \$200,000 allocated in the Budget to the development of tourism will achieve very little. The Commonwealth might assist through the Australian Industry Development Corporation. After all, it is far better to have the support of that body than of Mr. Iwasaki, from Japan.

If that support is not forthcoming, the State Government should use the S.G.I.O., its own investment authority. I have advocated this on former occasions. If the S.G.I.O. can help to finance a fertiliser project, electrical-equipment sales, and land development, why can it not participate in expanding the tourist industry? Every other State in Australia has some kind of tourist-development authority, and, to use the Duke of Edinburgh's own words, it is about time Queensland "got its finger out" and established its own Barrier Reef Authority.

In 1975 the Pacific Area Travel Association (P.A.T.A.) Conference is to be held in Australia. By then we must be able to show these people, who are selling travel throughout the Pacific area, something impressive. We must show them that we are on the move, rather than lagging behind as is proved by current statistics.

While on statistics, I return to the local scene in the Mackay district. Recently the honourable member for Mirani referred to the Mackay Regional Study and the tourist development that it forecast. The projected figures were completely wrong. In the three

years since the report was compiled relative to the important tourist area of Mackay and district, the figures have lagged behind expected results, simply because people in the southern capitals have been enticed to participate in package-holiday tours to overseas countries.

Mackay is indeed fortunate in being the main gateway to the major holiday resorts on the Barrier Reef, as well as the Finch Hatton Gorge and Eungella areas, which were referred to by the honourable member for Mirani. The Eungella Range is one of the most beautiful and promising tourist areas in Queensland. The Eungella Chalet has been taken over by new proprietors, who are doing a wonderful job to encourage tourists to the area. The existing operators of our remote tourist-resort areas, such as the McLeans on Brampton Island, the Nicolsonson on Lindeman Island, the Mountneys at Happy Bay and the Flynns at Eungella, who are dedicating their lives completely to the tourist industry, should be supported by the Queensland Government through its tourist authority rather than that it should be bending over backwards to help Japanese people who want to come here and develop their own resorts.

I congratulate the Government on its move to establish—as I urged in 1969—an educational programme, with suitable courses for training future managers, caterers and assistants for the tourist industry.

(Time expired.)

Mr. ROW (Hinchinbrook) (2.48 p.m.): The inclusion last year of Sport in the Minister's portfolio has proved to be a very worthy innovation on the part of the Government. I am pleased at the obvious progress made in the promotion of sporting organisations. The announced increase of \$3,100,000 in the Estimates for the coming year is indeed indicative of the worthiness and potential of this venture. I congratulate the Minister and his staff on the great progress made in organising this service in such a short period. The allocation to the Sporting Bodies Assistance Fund has been increased from \$117,000-odd to \$819,000-odd, which shows that the response to the scheme has been very good. My experience in my electorate has been that there is no end to inquiries from all kinds of sporting bodies that are keenly interested in taking advantage of the assistance provisions. I hope that, with this assistance, more sporting bodies will be able to establish themselves on a sound foundation.

The promotion of sport is a very essential service, particularly for young people who are faced with social pressures. The somewhat easy-going attitude to voluntary recreation is inclined to diminish in modern society, with the pressures of life and commerce and, I suppose, the fight for survival in our advanced social state. This activity undoubtedly requires a greater contribution from

the common pool of resources and needs to rely less on individuals, who do not have the time or facilities to do the promotional groundwork in the establishment of sporting bodies, as they did in days gone by.

I refer especially to junior sporting organisations. Whilst we realise that schools do a good job in the promotion of sport as part of the school curriculum, this aspect of education probably is, to some extent, diminishing by reason of the requirement of higher academic standards. Young people stay at school longer in their formative years than they used to, and their sporting activities must be subsidised and promoted to a greater extent by Governments. I am pleased that Queensland is the leader in the field of assistance to sporting organisations. It is a great credit to the Minister and the Government that the State has this honour.

Australia's record over many decades in both professional and amateur sport is, to a great extent, taken for granted, but we should pause and consider its record, particularly in the international field. Remembering some of our great cricketers, tennis players and athletes of bygone days, and the advent of the Commonwealth Games, it is essential that Government assistance be given to the promotion of sport in order to maintain Australia's prestige and status in international sport.

Acknowledgment should be given to the many worthy volunteers who have worked for the promotion and welfare of sport in this country. There may be many throughout Queensland today who have contributed voluntarily to the advancement of sporting activities, but now feel that this spirit is being usurped by a more commercialised approach to sport. I think it should be recorded that the work done by these people has not been overlooked, and it is hoped that, in the same spirit, there will be harmony between voluntary efforts and Government-assisted promotion and development of sports facilities.

I think the establishment of athletics facilities solely for public purposes, as has been mentioned today by other speakers, is an essential part of the service to which the people are entitled. I believe that the more public facilities the Government can provide, first in the larger centres and then, if possible, the small provincial centres, perhaps in co-operation with local authorities, the better it will be for non-professional, and, I suppose, professional sport in this State.

Another subject of interest to me in the Minister's portfolio is tourism. I was rather interested in the Minister's reference to the preservation of historic buildings as tourist attractions. I have been a little concerned in recent times to find that well-meaning organisations, when endeavouring to restore and preserve buildings deemed by local opinion to be of historic merit, often

encounter difficulties because of such things as local-authority building standards and fire-prevention requirements. If the preservation of historic edifices is to be properly fostered, I think a great deal of groundwork will have to be done by local authorities. There will have to be co-operation between local authorities and bodies interested in this type of preservation to ensure that justice is done where there is merit in the preservation of old buildings and the spirit to preserve them is willing.

Considerable reference has been made in this debate to the proposed Japanese tourist venture at Yeppoon. I was very interested to hear the Minister's comments this morning on this aspect of the tourist industry. I agree entirely with the Minister's statement that such a large venture would be very difficult to finance from funds available in this country. I know that there are honourable members opposite who are philosophically opposed to large-scale foreign investment in this country. However, I still think that the availability of finance is a very important matter, and that we should put practicality ahead of emotion.

I believe that the tourists attracted to this State by such a large enterprise will undoubtedly form the promotional nucleus of the whole tourist industry beyond Rockhampton and Yeppoon in the central region. I do not exclude the southern regions, but one naturally tends to think in terms of going north and developing beyond the capital and the larger provincial cities in the southern part of the State.

I am firmly of the opinion that the development and promotion of the tourist industry will be given a great impetus by the establishment of a large complex such as that envisaged in the Japanese proposal for Yeppoon. However, unless there is adequate co-operation between all the authorities involved in the development of infrastructure promotion in the northern areas of the State, we will find ourselves in the position of having one large complex and stopping there. That should not be allowed to happen. If we are to receive the full benefit from foreign investment, without getting the name of a source of profit for some external recipient, we have to develop subsidiary industries along lines that will achieve maximum benefit from the overseas development capital.

With the provision of roads linking the developed beef-road areas west of the Great Dividing Range, the north-west, the rather attractive channel country and the coast as far north as Cooktown and down as far as Mackay, there are many areas in Northern Queensland where infrastructure development could take place quite readily and be of great benefit to the tourist industry in particular. There could be a network of roads linking the highlands of this State with the

coastal plains and the more densely populated areas. In my opinion, unless a promotion campaign is implemented fairly quickly, development areas within the State will be isolated, which would be very undesirable for the State in general.

I was interested also to read the Estimates and hear the Minister's comments on the provision of children's services in Queensland. With the growing needs of society, it is almost impossible to assess the value or foresee the potential of these services. Of course, I do not mean by that to cast any aspersions on the rising generation. I do not think that there are any more problem children now; as the honourable member for Mansfield said earlier in the debate, there are more children with problems. Those problems probably arise because of the social pressure of the day, and I am pleased to see that the Department of Children's Services is now receiving attention.

The improvement and upgrading of prisons is another feature that will be of lasting social benefit to the State and to the rehabilitation of people who are unfortunate enough to be social misfits or who, for some reason or other, fall foul of the law. I have never been one to condemn any person who finds himself in a situation where society demands that he pay a penalty. After all, these people are human beings and they deserve every possible opportunity to rehabilitate themselves. The more we can rehabilitate, the better it will be for our conscience as a Government. Those who are charged with the welfare and care of these people have a tremendous responsibility. Many men in these positions have become nervous wrecks. The upgrading of available facilities must help to improve the whole structure of the penal system.

Since I have occupied a seat in this Chamber, I have been amazed at the number of people who depend very greatly on social service payments. It is rather disconcerting to learn of some of the factors involved. The activities of various voluntary organisations such as the Blue Nursing Service, Meals on Wheels, and others that I am not as well acquainted with, have greatly relieved the suffering of many people. I believe that there are marginal cases who are just as deserving of social service payments as those who are clearly provided for in the legislative provisions. I think those provisions could be widened to some extent. I have in mind infantile cerebral palsy cases and infantile paralysis cases. Persons in those categories are entirely and totally dependent on the daily care of others, usually parents or relatives.

Some of these sufferers live to an old age and some pass away in early adulthood. While they live they are a great strain on, and cause a great deal of suffering to, those who care for them. The area of domiciliary nursing benefits could be broadened to include

these people. I hope that consideration will be given to that aspect of social service. Another thing that worries me is the number of what could be regarded as border-line cases that receive benefits without justification. I refer particularly to unemployment relief paid to people who live in communes and are commonly referred to as "hippies", and who have no intention of working.

(Time expired.)

Mr. K. J. HOOPER (Archerfield) (3.8 p.m.): In rising to speak to the Estimates of the Department of Tourism, Sport and Welfare Services for 1973-74, let me say at the outset that I agree with the criticism voiced by other speakers on this side of the Chamber of having tourism, sport and welfare services, which include prisons, all together in the one department. I consider that the welfare section alone warrants a portfolio of its own. For the life of me, I fail to see how any Minister can efficiently administer such a diverse portfolio. I should have thought that the disastrous example of their former Federal colleague, Mr. Peter Howson, the former Minister for the Environment, Aborigines and the Arts, or, as he was more popularly known, the "Minister for Everything", would have taught members of this Government a lesson. Incidentally, Mr. Howson was cast into oblivion at the last Federal election. But one thing is consistent about the Tories: they never learn by their mistakes.

Today, I propose to address my remarks to the welfare section of the portfolio. Firstly, I should like to commend the Federal Minister for Social Security, Mr. Bill Hayden, on the introduction of the supporting mothers benefit. This is long overdue, and it contrasts starkly with the callous indifference of the previous Tory Federal Government. As the Minister pointed out on Tuesday, this new supporting mothers benefit will be paid to unmarried mothers, deserted de-facto wives, de-facto wives of prisoners, and other married or unmarried women supporting children on their own.

The new benefit is calculated on the same basis as the widow's pension, and it attracts a number of very attractive fringe benefits, such as reductions in radio and television licence fees, and telephone rentals. The rate of pension is \$21.50, plus a mother's allowance of \$4. An allowance of \$6 is paid for a child under six years of age or an invalid child. \$4.50 is also paid for each child. \$4 can also be paid to assist with rent or board and lodging. In contrast with the State, where the supporting mother is only permitted to earn an additional \$10 with her family assistance payments, the Australian Government permits these pensioners to earn up to \$26 a week extra. I think you will agree, Mr. Dean, that this is a much more realistic and enlightened approach.

Mr. Porter: Where is the Australian Government?

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: I am not accepting any interjections from the paranoid member for Toowong.

In his speech the Minister made mention of the increasing numbers of single girls who are retaining their babies. I somehow feel that the Minister's attitude epitomises the old Victorian father, who, when his daughter returned home with a baby in her arms, said, "Go! Never darken my doorstep again."

Let me read a reported statement of the Minister published in "The Australian" of 1 September 1973—

"There had been a significant decrease in adoptions by people who were not relatives of unwanted children," he said. Mr. Herbert said the Federal Government's policy of paying \$32 per week to unmarried mothers was in fact creating some serious social problems. This trend where unmarried mothers kept their babies, had forced the Welfare Department to restrict the number of adoptive parents. Increased Federal allowances look attractive on the surface and were influencing young unmarried mothers to keep their babies' Mr. Herbert said.

Is this a bad thing? I venture to suggest that in the great majority of cases the natural mother is the ideal person to raise the child.

Mr. Porter: Why?

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: The honourable member for Toowong was not born. He was issued. Surely, in this so-called enlightened age, the stigma of illegitimacy should not be used to hound a mother to have her child adopted.

I often feel when this subject is being discussed that the effect and not the cause is being debated. One way to overcome partially this problem of illegitimacy, I feel, would be the introduction of a well-researched course in sex education and family planning in our high schools.

I want to turn now to the problem of "latchkey" children, which the Minister mentioned. I agree that it is a serious social problem. It is brought about by economic necessity. It is a sad indictment of our society that the family of today is of necessity a "two-income" unit. This is partly brought about by the low wages paid to the semi-skilled and unskilled worker. If his family is to obtain slightly above the basic necessities of life, it is imperative that the wife work.

As large sections of industry look on the working mother as vital to their economic survival, I feel it is incumbent upon the industry to provide, or at least to contribute to the provision and maintenance of, on-the-job child-minding centres. My inquiries tend to confirm the existing evidence, which shows that the overwhelming majority of mothers of dependent children go out to work for

financial reasons. The interest and social contacts of the job are quite important, but are of secondary consideration. A small pilot survey undertaken by the Melbourne University showed that working mothers of pre-school children work to supply the socially created needs or wants of their families. Such views suggest that in households where the mother does not undertake outside employment, the families are at a grave economic disadvantage compared with the community at large. The number of "single-income" families with children that suffer economic deprivation is not known.

Mr. Porter: Why don't you ask Tom Burns when he comes back from China?

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: Apart from the paranoid tendencies shown by the honourable member for Toowong, the evil is in the eye of the beholder.

I am hopeful that the inquiry into poverty that is at presently being undertaken by Professor Henderson will bring the true facts to light. If the facts as revealed by the survey on poverty in Melbourne undertaken by the Brotherhood of St. Laurence are any guide, I feel that we are going to be shocked when the true position is revealed. At the moment we have only exposed the tip of the iceberg.

Some authorities hold to the view that young children have an absolute need for continuous care from mothers or permanent mother substitutes. They claim that the deprivation of such care may result in nervous disorders and instability of character. A contrary view is that a mother's absence due to employment need not be detrimental to child development, and that quality, rather than quantity, of mothering is the important factor. I have a sneaking suspicion that the Minister holds the former view, that is, that children need continuous mother care, and that if this is not forthcoming, as in the case of "latchkey" children, they are all potential delinquents. I hope the studies being undertaken by the Federal Social Security Department into the feasibility of a variety of support payments for non-working mothers will come up with some worth-while answers to this pressing problem.

Mr. Porter: They will be different from those in any other country.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: I think the honourable member for Toowong is different from most other honourable members; he is a relic of a bygone age. He has never had to work for a living; he was born with a silver spoon in his mouth.

Mr. Porter interjected.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: If the honourable member had any more brains, he would be half-witted.

What the Minister has to realise is that it is very difficult to bring up children on the present lousy full male rate of pay. How

much harder is it, then, to rear a family on family assistance of only \$30 to \$40 per week? I know from bitter personal experience in my electorate the heartbreak caused by the inability of a deserted wife or widow to give her children the little extras, such as a school outing, that are regarded as the norm by most children. Surely the aim of any social welfare system is to produce, through a range of social policies, a social environment in which every individual has the opportunity to develop his unique potential, and in which various supports are offered to those individuals who, through some acquired disadvantage, need special assistance.

In recent years this Government's policy towards personal welfare services has been to treat them as worthy charitable ventures—to be given some assistance by the Government. The old saying was "the deserving poor". There has not been any recognition that personal welfare services, as well as income supports, should be treated as a right, thus removing the stigma of charity that has for too long been associated with them.

The Minister is indeed fortunate in having such dedicated and capable public servants as Mr. Clark, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Zerk in his department. Without them, he would be faced with a disaster.

Whilst on the subject of children and child care, I should like to express my support for the family-type home, as opposed to the institution, that has been established in various parts of the State. On a recent visit to these homes I was impressed by the home-like atmosphere and environment that existed under the care of the dedicated house-parents. In this sort of family-type situation, I feel sure that the trauma and neurosis frequently experienced by children who go through institutions will be greatly minimised, even though it cannot be completely eliminated. Unfortunately there is not enough of this type of home in Queensland, and I urge the Minister to take immediate steps to provide more of them throughout the State.

In conclusion, I urge the Government to place greater emphasis on the welfare section of this portfolio, and so lift it from its present position of the "tail-end Charlie".

It would be remiss of me if I did not pay a tribute to the sterling service rendered to this State by the retiring Comptroller-General of Prisons, Mr. Stewart Kerr. Queensland has been very fortunate in having a man of his calibre in such an important position. I wish him a long and happy retirement.

Mr. MILLER (Ithaca) (3.19 p.m.): Anyone who listened to the previous speaker could be excused for gaining the impression that he was in favour of State control of children such as exists in Communist countries. I certainly hope he is not. Like other members of my party, I would much rather see

children cared for in church homes than in State institutions, such as State child-minding centres.

The honourable member was critical of the fact that sport and children's services had been combined in the Minister's portfolio. I must agree that the subjects are poles apart, but I personally believe one has a great bearing on the other. The control of children through sporting organisations plays a very important role in reducing the number of delinquents. If we had more sporting bodies and facilities, we would have fewer children appearing before our courts. Although it appears, superficially, that these facets of the portfolio are poles apart, one has a great bearing on the other.

Like every honourable member, I am concerned about the number of young people appearing before our courts. The increase is caused mainly by a lowering of community standards. And we can blame not the young people, but the community itself, for the lower standards that young people are happy to accept. In many instances they are encouraged to break the law by the examples set by older people. A typical example of this was the Sydney occurrence only last week, when a crowd at the Trades Hall took control of the streets.

The Comptroller-General of Prisons (Mr. Kerr) pointed out in his report that he was alarmed by the change in attitude of many young prisoners, who totally oppose authority. He believes that stern measures are called for in appropriate cases. I agree with him. We certainly need strong, stern measures to overcome such problems. But, again, can we blame young people when they are encouraged by their elders—and in many cases by their parents—to break the law?

I think every honourable member who has spoken in this debate has referred to the problems created by broken homes. In many instances broken homes are responsible for the attitude adopted by young people. Today, many young people do not have the benefit of a father's advice, which is a severe handicap.

The Federal Government has promised the State Governments financial aid to provide sporting grounds and facilities. The A.L.P., in its Federal policy speech, stated that it would like to see State schools used as community centres. This is one suggestion by the Federal Government that is worthy of consideration. Any money that we can spare should be diverted to providing suitable sporting facilities for young people, not to buying grounds and then raising more finance for suitable accommodation and halls. Wherever possible, let us provide community gymnasiums so that the school-children and young people in the area may use the facilities after school hours.

It is very important that young people should feel that they are part of the community, and not outside it. Many young people are frustrated after leaving school because they have not been able to cope with school life. They feel that they have let their parents down by being inadequate at school, and by going to work instead of to the university or the Q.I.T. Instead of joining a sporting organisation, they join a group of larrikins on the street corner, which is where most of our problems originate. It is essential that we should get young people into gymnasiums and sporting bodies so that they feel that they are part of the community. In my area, the Bardon Youth Club has had accommodation, but it looks like losing it. I am concerned about what the 200 or more young children will do if we cannot find alternative accommodation for them. They have been given every opportunity to participate in sport and gymnastics. Anybody who can reach the top in gymnastics must have a fine athletic body and a keen, alert mind, and his moral standards must improve as a result.

I hope that we can provide community centres for our youth. We are providing them for our aged people, and this is very good. But we should try to overcome some of the present problems of overcrowding in Children's Courts and children's homes by providing community centres for youth. Many schoolgrounds could be used for this purpose. The Rainworth school in my area has enough ground for half a dozen gymnasiums, if the money was available. Ithaca Creek school is another, and I am sure that many school grounds could be used to much better advantage than they are at present. Let us establish youth clubs and get them into buildings.

The Bardon Youth Club is facing an expenditure of \$70,000 if it has to erect its own building. I cannot see any sporting body, comprising parents from every walk of life, raising \$70,000. It is simply not possible. Another organisation in my area is the Youth for Christ Organisation. It is not connected with any particular church. But it goes out into the streets and encourages young people to come in off the streets and attend its meetings. It is doing a marvellous job. At present, no assistance is allocated to it.

In the Financial Statement, the Treasurer referred to assistance to other organisations. I hope that the Youth for Christ Organisation will be one of them. The Treasurer said—

“A new scheme will be introduced in the current year to assist those youth groups which do not benefit under the State's existing arrangements of assistance to sporting organisations. These include such organisations as girl guides, boy scouts and similar groups.”

I hope that the Youth for Christ Organisation is one of the “similar groups”. I have seen this organisation at work. I have seen its members take hoodlums off the street and children from homes in which they should not be living and put them into decent homes where they can live with other young people, and so make a success of their lives.

This organisation is very keen to have a sporting area in the country to which it can take young people at Christmas-time for a camping holiday. If the Government has a disused hospital, I suggest that instead of selling it for a mere pittance, it should lease it to an organisation such as this one. It would be put to far better use in that way, and the return would be much greater than the measly \$100 which the Government gets for such buildings sold for removal.

The Minister spoke of assistance grants. I am very grateful for the grants that are being made to sporting organisations. The Bardon Youth Club benefits each year from such a grant. Should we, at this stage, stop and look at what we are doing with grants, consider the amount of money the Commonwealth Government intends to give the States (I hope it gives every cent it can because, if we are to overcome the problems in our community, let us start in this area), withhold grants for 12 months and then commence the construction of buildings? Let us develop some of these centres. I cannot see much sense in training officers to handle young people if there is no centre in which to train them. This is the problem in Bardon at present.

I am also concerned at the effect on children of the one-parent situation. The Divorce Law Reform Association in Brisbane has a wonderful scheme. It suggests a committee to investigate couples wishing to be divorced. I realise that this matter is not within the Minister's portfolio, but the young people living in institutions are the end result, and I am hopeful of reducing the number of broken homes.

The Department of Children's Services investigates couples wishing to adopt a child, and assesses their suitability. Although I know that this would involve much preliminary work, I am wondering if the department could establish a committee to investigate marriages before they reach the divorce court. If the department is capable of saying, “This is a suitable family to adopt a young child”, it should also be able to say, “This marriage is breaking down, and for a specific reason.” It should be the endeavour of the department to save marriages. If it is able to do that, it will save itself a lot of work. Many children appear before courts and enter institutions as a result of the one-parent situation.

Mr. Bromley: You don't see much of that with families who have adopted children.

Mr. MILLER: They are whole family units. The department investigates couples to decide if they are suitable to adopt children, and for the most part they are successful. I am wondering if the department could not similarly investigate marriages before they break down and end up in court.

Mr. Davis: What has this got to do with children's services?

Mr. MILLER: The honourable member asks what this has to do with children's services. Most people who appear in divorce courts have children, and many of those children finish up before the Children's Court. I am sure the honourable member has seen this happen somewhere along the line. I know of many one-parent families who have had problems with children.

I now want to make a few comments on prisons. I am happy to see that more and more prisoners are being housed in single cells. This is most essential. It is now my hope that in some way or other they can be made to pay for their good accommodation. I mentioned this matter last year, and I raise it again now. I want to see all prisoners working; I do not want them sitting down idle. The Minister referred to prisoners having the right attitude to work. I agree with him; I hope every prisoner can be given the right attitude to work. At the moment, because of overcrowding at Brisbane Prison, I do not think that prisoners have this attitude.

I am wondering if prisoners could, in some way or other, become part of the working community. There is at present a shortage of labour, yet hundreds of prisoners are sitting round or working for only four hours a day. They could be employed clearing up at the side of railway lines, cleaning Government buildings, or excavating for building construction. I would not care if they worked in a quarry. I am concerned that prisoners will not develop the right attitude to work if they spend most of their time sitting down doing nothing. Honourable members know that if a person sits down long enough doing nothing, he loses his inclination to work.

I know that the Minister wants to overcome the problem but he wants to do it within the gaol system. I do not think that that can be done. Gaols will never be large enough to house all prisoners and give them sporting facilities, and at the same time provide sufficient workshops in which they can work. I am quite certain that industries could be found within the community that would be prepared to employ these people.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: At award rates of pay.

Mr. MILLER: Of course. But, after they have been paid award rates of pay, I think that they should pay for their accommodation, and the charge should be a little higher than they would have to pay at Lennons Hotel. (Opposition laughter.)

The honourable member for Brisbane laughs. Why should they not help to ease the burden that they are placing on the community? We did not ask prisoners to commit crimes. They decided of their own accord to do the things that put them behind gaol walls. If a prisoner was living at home, he might have to pay \$10 to \$12 a week in board to his family. If he stayed in Lennons Hotel, it could cost him \$100 a week.

Mr. Wright: It has been estimated it costs \$2,000 a year to keep a prisoner.

Mr. MILLER: That figure is not correct.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dean): Order! Will the honourable member please address the Chair.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. MILLER: The Department of Social Security will probably put many more people into gaol. If they are prepared to pay unemployment benefits of \$102 a week to a man, his wife and three children between the ages of 16 and 21, I wonder how many people will want to work. They will try to remain on social service for as long as possible. When the Commonwealth Government will no longer pay unemployment benefits of \$102 a week, I wonder if they will be prepared to go to work. A man receiving \$102 a week in social service benefits for himself, his wife and three boys between the ages of 16 and 21 will not take a job unless it pays him \$102 a week.

Honourable Members interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dean): Order! There is too much cross-firing in the Chamber.

Mr. MILLER: If a man receives \$102 in unemployment benefits, one cannot blame him for not taking anything less if he goes to work.

Mr. Wright: How much does it cost a year to keep a prisoner, if you say it is not \$2,000?

Mr. MILLER: I cannot recall the exact amount, but I know it is nowhere near \$2,000. Perhaps the Minister might tell the honourable member when he replies.

The Minister has referred to the fact that prisons do not make criminals. However, I wholeheartedly support the building of the new prison at Woodford.

Mr. Davis interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Brisbane must not interject from other than his usual place in the Chamber.

Mr. MILLER: At Woodford, young criminals will be isolated from older criminals. Young people who go to gaol are usually not hardened criminals, but in the past they have been mixing with hardened criminals. Because of that, prisons in this State have

made criminals, and I believe that the new prison at Woodford will provide the ideal solution to the problem.

Mr. Wright interjected.

Mr. MILLER: Stewart Kerr is a wonderful person, and I congratulate him for all the good work he has done. However, he is not the only person who should be congratulated. For example, the head of the probation service is another dedicated public servant interested in the parole of prisoners. Mr. Kerr, in co-operation with the Government, has done a marvellous job. He has made suggestions which have been adopted—week-end detention, release-to-work, and so on—and have proved helpful to the Government in its efforts to prevent young people from mixing with hardened criminals. I am happy to see the new prison at Woodford operating, even if only partly. The sooner it is finished and operating fully, the happier I will be, because it will take young people away from places such as Boggo Road and put them into decent accommodation.

I am concerned about sporting clubs having to depend on raising money in bars, and particularly through gambling. It was a well-known fact before the last State election that certain sporting organisations had power-points installed in the walls of their club houses in the hope that the A.L.P. might become the Government and they would then be able to instal poker machines.

(Time expired.)

Hon. J. D. HERBERT (Sherwood—Minister for Tourism, Sport and Welfare Services) (3.38 p.m.): Both on Tuesday and today it has been quite obvious that there is no real opposition to the operations of this department in its first year of life. However, there are quite a number of points that I wish to take this opportunity of answering.

First, the honourable member for Stafford quoted figures for some years back. I realise how he extracted those figures, but the comparison he made is hardly fair because 1972-73 was the first year in which the present grouping of the department was in existence. Taking figures for subdepartments out of other portfolios does not really work.

In relation to the provision of \$400,000 in the Loan Fund Account for the payment of subsidies to charitable institutions towards the cost of capital works, this amount has now been provided in the Consolidated Revenue Fund and the expenditure for this purpose is shown as \$323,046. That, of course, is at the request of the Treasury. In previous years, provision for the payment of subsidies on non-capital expenditure was included in the Consolidated Revenue Vote, and the transfer of the provision brought both capital and non-capital payments under the one heading.

I was interested in the honourable member's comments relative to Kansas City. There is the big difference, of course, that

local authorities in the United States of America do welfare work, and there is also a considerable difference in the way in which that work is handled, as the poor of New York could tell the honourable member. However, the department will be pleased to receive any material he might have on the question of community development, because at this stage it is vitally important. Any material he may furnish will be carefully examined to see whether it has application to the Queensland situation.

The honourable member for Mansfield gave us a very careful appreciation of the moral position. His thoughts parallel my own. Most thinking people have much the same feelings about the moral situation.

When we look at Queensland's population figures and realise that almost 1 in 20 boys aged 16 years are destined to appear before a court, we must agree that it is a very high average. It means that in every school class in Queensland one youngster will be making a court appearance while he is still a child. We have for a long time been talking about figures. When we speak about 4.28 per cent, I do not think people realise it means that more than one boy in 25 will be making a court appearance. That means a lot of youngsters over a period of time.

Mr. Jensen: Have you the remedy for it?

Mr. HERBERT: If I had the remedy, I would be canonised. Nobody has been able to find the remedy. All we can do is put every effort possible into making people realise just how serious the problem is. There are all sorts of associated problems. It augurs very badly for the future. Last year the greatest increase in sexual promiscuity amongst girls appeared in the 13-year-old age group. To most of us a 13-year-old girl is still a child, but some of their activities are anything but childish. As the indications are that the increase is greatest in this age group, in a couple of years' time, when legally they are still children, we will probably have an even greater problem than we have today.

As to the honourable member's invitation for me to get on a tractor at the next opening of a cricket oval, I was Minister for Labour for many years and the last thing I would do would be to get on a tractor without a ticket to operate it or one that would authorise me to operate it. Sometimes when I see photographs of Clem Jones on a tractor, I wonder what the relevant union is doing about non-union labour driving a tractor around an oval.

The honourable member also offered suggestions about farm holidays. As he indicated, we have a number of western properties on the books for the accommodation of visitors. In all, we have 10 station properties and two farm properties listed. There is a constant demand for this type of holiday. There are many people today who have lived in a city all their lives and

have not had a back paddock to roam around in as most honourable members did in their childhood. For that reason, holidays on farms have a special significance for city dwellers.

The honourable member for Mackay spoke about domestic airlines not allowing charters. In actual fact, that is not quite true. They arrange charters for special purposes if they have aircraft available. But they will not approve of a fare that permits of the packaging of tours that would compete with those that they themselves provide. In other words, they will not allow an agent to enter into competition with them. One of the great problems the domestic airlines have to face is the application of curfews, which prevents them from utilising their aircraft from late evening until early morning. As they cannot use their aircraft during those hours their fares are higher than those charged by airlines in overseas countries that can work their aircraft round the clock. If curfews did not exist and airlines could operate throughout the 24 hours, the economy of their operations would be much improved. They would have to offer much lower fares for the late night and very early morning flights to fill the aircraft, but they would do that to make ends meet. That would partly solve the problem.

Many years ago a flight used to leave Hayman Island after midnight bound for the South. Most of the holiday-makers would hardly be in a condition to realise whether they were on an aircraft or not. That is not the sort of hour one would choose if one were not on holidays, but for the holiday-makers on Hayman Island it was a great thing. However, that flight was brought to an end by the curfew. The Tourist Ministers' Council has for many years been arguing this point with the Department of Civil Aviation, and I have been continually talking about the situation in Queensland. A parallel situation exists in Western Australia, where there are long distances to travel and the costs involved militate greatly against internal operators.

Another department that is involved in this matter is the Customs Department. When an Australian aircraft leaves an Australian airport and lands in another Australian airport, full import duty must be paid on the fuel. However, if it flies to Fiji, this duty is not payable—and, incidentally, the rate of duty is very high. In actual fact, it is much cheaper for people to travel overseas than within Australia. This might be all right from the Customs point of view, but I think the Treasury should have a finger in the pie, as these people spend hundreds of dollars of Australian currency overseas while our own resorts are not getting from visitors the money they look forward to receiving.

Mr. Casey interjected.

Mr. HERBERT: This could not be properly equated. I agree with the honourable member's comments on travel agents. After all, they are in the industry to make a profit, and they can make a quicker and larger profit by selling an overseas tour than by selling one within Australia.

Next year—and, incidentally, I started this off—the theme for Tourist Development Week will be "See Australia First". More and more people from Brisbane who have never been further north than Noosa are now travelling to England. Next year we will have a heavy campaign on seeing Australia first, and, through the Queensland Government Tourist Bureau, will be urging Queenslanders to travel within their own State. We hope this will have a beneficial effect.

The Great Barrier Reef Visitor Plan, which has been mentioned, has received the consideration of the special committee set up by Cabinet, and its reports are now with the Co-ordinator-General. These things move rather slowly at times, but at least they are moving.

The statistical information that was mentioned by the honourable member for Mackay depicts quite a true situation. In introducing the Estimates I mentioned that we will be appointing a research officer to the Tourist Bureau this year, and one of his first tasks will be to update the comprehensive visitors' survey that we had undertaken by the University Economics Committee in 1970. By next year we should have an updating of these figures, and we hope that the appointment I mentioned will help us in our future planning.

There is one bright star on the horizon in relation to air fares as they affect Queensland. It is a fact that 75 per cent of our 2,000,000 tourists each year arrive here on wheels, either by motor-car or bus. No-one can drive a motor-car or bus to Fiji or New Zealand, so that air fares affect only 25 per cent of our tourist trade. This is one of the reasons why the Minister for Main Roads has been pushing ahead with the upgrading of certain coastal roads. We can then persuade more and more people from the South to come here by car and go further north than they have been doing in the past. We are now advertising in the South that it is possible to travel to Mossman on a bitumen road. Of course, many people are going right through to Cooktown. As I said earlier, 75 per cent of our tourists presently come from the South by car, and we can continue to build on that.

The honourable member for Hinchinbrook referred to the establishment of the Department of Sport and some of the problems we have met. Queensland is a sporting State, and there is no doubt that we were surprised at the tremendous response when we started this department. Nobody imagined that it would be quite as big

as it now is. It is true that we will face considerable trouble in meeting the full requirements of all the sporting organisations that have lodged applications this year. In one year, work costing \$3,600,000 has been submitted for consideration.

Mr. Jensen: You should cut out all the professional sportsmen.

Mr. HERBERT: They have been cut out. We do not handle any of the gambling or professional sports, or licensed premises, so that all the money goes into areas of greatest need. I will be making further comments on this matter when I deal with the speech of the honourable member for Ithaca.

The honourable member for Archerfield made the type of speech that is to be expected from the back of a truck out his way. However, it did not have very much relevance to these Estimates. An unusual feature about it was his commendation of Mr. Hayden. There is one thing: Mr. Hayden will certainly go down in history, and his unfortunate successor will have a terrible job trying to straighten out the problems that he has created.

The honourable member went so far as to criticise the State pension to deserted wives. I point out to him that we pay it for the first six months only because the Commonwealth Government will not pay anything during that period. At least we give a deserted wife something to keep her going. The honourable member claimed that the Commonwealth Government is better than this Government because it pays the same amount of money after a delay of six months. If the Commonwealth would meet the debt from the time it was incurred, a deserted wife would find it much easier to live. As far as the Commonwealth is concerned, for the first six months she can live on air. Fortunately, as I say, the State Government comes to her rescue.

The honourable member also had something to say about mothers who work. This situation is well appreciated by the Government. On more than one occasion I have clearly stated my attitude towards this problem, namely, that my concern is for children whose mother, for a variety of reasons, neglects them. Those children become the responsibility of the general taxpayer.

As for the honourable member's sudden interest in family-group homes, I remind him that it was this State Government that introduced them in Queensland, and it is the Government's policy to promote them in every way. Most of the churches have become involved in these homes. In fact, the denominational bodies are doing a wonderful job. The vast majority of youngsters who go into the homes are given a real opportunity in life, one that they would probably not have had under any other circumstances.

The honourable member for Ithaca stressed the need to encourage youth organisations. This is another area in which the demand has surprised my department. I was aware of the problem that confronted the Bardon Youth Club. Its representatives had told me that it will not have a local hall, and this is a tragedy.

The Budget allocates \$150,000 for youth organisations other than sporting bodies, and Scouts and Girl Guides were specifically mentioned. As well, \$100,000 is being provided by way of the Youth Leadership Grant.

We have been in touch with all the organisations concerned and have been astounded to learn that they require millions of dollars for planned projects. It seems, therefore, that our \$150,000 will be only a drop in the bucket. It could be that eventually some of these organisations that are on the fringe of the sporting area will have a greater demand than the straight-out sporting clubs. Many of them require much more expensive accommodation, such as multi-purpose halls, community halls, and so on. The needs of organisations such as the Police-Citizens Youth Welfare Association are much more expensive to meet than those of youngsters who simply want another paddock to play football in.

Mr. Davis: Look at what the Commonwealth Government is doing.

Mr. HERBERT: What is the Commonwealth Government doing? While the State Government has been paying out money, the Commonwealth Government has only been making promises. Although the Labor Party has been in power in Canberra for 12 months, we have not seen a "cracker" from it. We want to see the colour of its money before we become too enthusiastic about what it is going to do.

As I say, we have had discussions with all the leading youth organisations in Queensland, and their needs are tremendous. It is quite obvious that both Federal and State Governments will have to provide a great deal more support in the future than has been given in the past. More work needs to be done in an area that has, up to date, been neglected.

I repeat, the Youth Leadership Grant has been increased to \$100,000 and we are already moving on this year's grant. Incidentally, the director of the Youth for Christ movement, Mr. Eric Leach, is very well known to my department. The movement participated in the Youth Leadership Grant last year, and we hope to be able to offer it further assistance in future. Even if we are only nominally a Christian society, this organisation does a lot of good work in a very difficult area. These young people are prepared to help themselves and further their own beliefs. We will help them as best we can.

Dealing now with prisons matters, release-to-work prisoners pay \$14 a week for food and accommodation in gaol. If the Commonwealth Government intends to pay unemployment benefits to prisoners on remand, I can see no reason why they, too, should not pay similarly. It would be quite unfair to say to an unemployed man who is outside a gaol, "You pay your own rent and accommodation", and at the same time say to a man on remand inside the gaol, "We will look after you. You can keep all the money you get until you are released so that you may have a good holiday." That would be ridiculous. As custodian of the people's money, I will not sign any document that will allow someone who is getting Commonwealth unemployment benefits to profit because he is in the remand section of a gaol.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: He may not be guilty.

Mr. HERBERT: Even so, he is still being fed and accommodated, and he should pay for it. Release-to-work prisoners have to pay, and we make sure that any maintenance or other orders against them are met from their wages. No-one should claim that men on remand should be treated in a better way than the genuinely unemployed man outside, who of course has to pay for board and lodging. If he were to get into strife and be sent to gaol, that commitment would be taken from his shoulders. I can see no justification whatever for that.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wharton): Order! By agreement, under the provisions of the Sessional Order agreed to by the House on 24 October, I shall now put the questions for the Vote under consideration and the balance remaining unvoted for Tourism, Sport and Welfare Services.

The questions for the following Votes were put, and agreed to:—

Tourism, Sport and Welfare Services—	
	\$
Chief Office	1,457,049
Balance of Vote, Consolidated Revenue and Trust and Special Funds	26,029,644

WORKS AND HOUSING

CHIEF OFFICE

Hon. A. M. HODGES (Gympie—Minister for Works and Housing) (3.59 p.m.): I move—

"That \$3,273,042 be granted for 'Works and Housing—Chief Office'."

It will be noted that the total amount appropriated under "Chief Office" is \$425,519 in excess of that expended in 1972-73. This increase is occasioned mainly by the need to provide for increased expenditure on salaries due to the effect of a full year's costs of the national wage increase in May 1973, the basic wage increase in February 1973 and the full effect of the Public Service Award increases operative from 24 July 1972, as well

as an increase in the number of officers employed in administration, and especially in the technical and supervisory section of the department to cope with the increasing volume of work being handled by the Department of Works.

The increase in provision in the contingencies (subdivision) over the 1972-73 expenditure has been necessary to cover the related increases in pay-roll tax which has been increased by 1 per cent as from 1 September 1973, in allowances following the increases in salaries and the wages of cleaners and watchmen, and the general escalation of costs of other items.

In moving this motion, it is appropriate that I review the activities of the Department of Works since this department's estimates were debated in the House two years ago. During this period expenditure on public buildings increased from \$45,394,955 in 1970-71 to \$60,286,559 in 1972-73, an increase of 32.8 per cent. These figures include a total of \$174,671 spent on deferred maintenance of buildings from special funds appropriated under the trust funds of the Treasury Department, \$575,329 from special grant approved by Cabinet from the State Consolidated Revenue Fund and \$1,450,000 from special grants provided by the Commonwealth Government for the relief of unemployment.

It is to be noted that expenditure on education establishments continues to absorb the major amount of funds available. In the two financial years 1971-72 and 1972-73, \$67,999,036 was expended, which was 58.37 per cent of the total expenditure of \$116,487,691.

Attention is drawn to the Works Department's spending on Government hospitals and institutions, which increased from \$2,269,240 in 1970-71 to \$3,507,588 in 1972-73, an increase of 54.57 per cent, with a total of \$6,649,958 expended in the two-year period.

Expenditure on Aboriginal establishments increased from \$2,074,122 in 1970-71 to \$2,490,974 in 1972-73, with a total of \$5,128,969 expended in the two-year period.

A total of \$3,987,351 has been expended on police buildings and establishments in the period 1971-72 to 1972-73, with an increase in expenditure from \$1,302,585 in 1970-71 to \$1,780,436 in 1972-73, an increase of 36.68 per cent.

In our sixteen years of office from 1 July 1957 to 30 June 1973, expenditure on State Government buildings amounted to \$428,383,021.

A perusal of my Under Secretary's annual report will show the diversity of functions of the Department of Works. Its functions range from the maintenance and preservation of State Government buildings, including schools, to the planning, construction and furnishing of new Government buildings and schools; paying for rented

accommodation for Government departments where required and providing services such as cleaning and watching; payment of local authority charges, electric light and power, and gas where applicable; grants towards local authority swimming pools; interest grants to non-State schools; and school improvements subsidies paid to State schools.

My department's over-all responsibility is to erect each year the maximum economic building accommodation possible with the available finance and, within its financial limitations, to maintain and preserve the Government's capital assets, which are increasing year by year with the construction of new buildings required to meet the expansion of this State.

EDUCATION

In line with this responsibility, one of my department's main considerations is the provision of buildings and facilities for educational purposes. My department has continued, during these past two years, its concentration of effort to ensure that adequate classroom accommodation is available at the commencement of each school year. Where lack of time or restriction of funds has prevented the provision of permanent classrooms, the department has provided demountable classrooms. These relocatable buildings are widely used throughout Australia and other countries. Their standard has been improved by my department over the years and they have proved their effectiveness as emergency accommodation where no other accommodation can be provided.

Changes in educational philosophy and the subsequent need for rapid and progressive implementation of new teaching methods have resulted in the continuous reassessment of current education building designs. These changes are occurring at all education levels, from primary to tertiary, and my department has been considerably involved in the development of the new designs.

Craigslea State School, which was opened for the 1972 school year, is an outstanding example of the new approach to school design at the primary school level. It is a single-storey complex with three teaching wings. All areas are carpeted throughout and have acoustic-tiled ceilings. In addition to the classroom areas, each wing has a special quiet area, a tiled activities area for art and other work and a withdrawal area. The administration block includes offices for the principal officers of the school, plus a health room, services room, work room and stores rooms. There is also a library wing, which includes a tuckshop/lunch room. Other schools constructed to this new design are Macgregor, Gabbinbar, Healy, Bray Park, Carole Park and Amby.

Apart from the recognised need to update building designs, my department meanwhile has continued with its responsibility to erect, within the limit of available finance, as

many education additions as are required in this growing State, and a total of 470 primary and 471 secondary classrooms have been provided in the period 1971-72 to 1972-73. During the same period, new high schools were completed at Woodridge, Kenmore, Keebra Park, Alridge and Blackwater.

This department has also embarked on a programme to provide libraries at State schools, and several have been built throughout the State during the last year. These are individual buildings of new design, carpeted and ventilated by fans.

The accommodation demand for secondary school buildings has caused a problem relative to suitable areas for their siting. This has necessitated the planning for erection of a number of three-storey classroom blocks. This lack of sites has also caused the amalgamation of library and assembly halls. An example of this is seen at Kelvin Grove State High School. New in the field of secondary-school building accommodation are science and administration blocks, several of which are in the course of construction.

The development of a new concept in high-school teaching has led to a comprehensive reappraisal of high school design in Queensland. Officers of my department combined with officers of the Education Department to produce a new design, after extensive studies of the latest overseas and interstate techniques. It is intended that the first of these new-look high schools, at Craigslea, will be partly occupied in 1975, and completed by 1978.

In the field of technical education, technical college development is being carried out on a State-wide basis. Decentralisation has provided major construction at Toowoomba, Ithaca, Yeronga, Eagle Farm, Seven Hills, Kangaroo Point, Mount Isa, Ipswich, Townsville and South Brisbane. Facilities provided include provision for motor mechanics, commercial studies, communications, woodworking, electrical fitting, woolclassing and other manual trades. With the growth of technical education in all fields, administrative centres have been introduced to college annexes.

To further provide better State-wide coverage of technical education, new sites have been acquired in several country areas. In Mount Isa, Cairns and Bundaberg, for instance, steps have been taken to move away from the old college grounds at present shared with the high schools. This will enable the colleges to increase in size, and also permit the high schools to expand in the vacated buildings. Mount Isa has progressed to the extent that the new college is almost complete, and Cairns and Bundaberg are well advanced in design. As a matter of interest, the site at Cairns was originally a swamp, and subject to inundation with the rising tide. My department's Engineering Branch has arranged extensive site-preparation earthworks involving a substantial

quantity of imported sand filling, which will raise the site three feet above high-tide level.

To allow a new concept of block-release training for apprentices to be implemented, a residential college is to be erected at Chelmer, in Brisbane. Block release provides a full-time course of seven weeks in each year for technical college students in lieu of present attendances of one day and one night each week. The ultimate provision is for 480 beds, with 210 to 240 in the first stage of the development. Planning is in hand for the calling of tenders this year, the first phase of the contract of kitchen, dining and one residential block of 70 beds being available November 1974, with full contract completion in April, 1975, thus enabling the scheme to operate for the start of the 1975 school year. Ultimately, this scheme is to be expanded to provide similar facilities in major centres throughout the State.

Commonwealth funds have enabled my department to undertake the provision of science blocks at high schools at Macgregor, Oxley, Richlands, Boonah, Heatley, Kilcoy, Mossman, Cavendish Road, Maroochydore, Nambour, Oakey, Centenary Heights, Rockhampton North, Sarina and Home Hill. Similar grants will enable the provision of libraries at Mackay, Rockhampton North, Kedron, Kelvin Grove, Nambour, Bundaberg and Cairns. Expenditure from these Commonwealth grants during the period under review was \$1,238,799 for science blocks and \$948,498 for libraries.

The planning and provision of facilities at schools of special education has been further developed, and new schools, to the new "open plan" design, have been completed at Ayr, Maryborough, Gympie, Redcliffe, Woodridge, Aitkenvale, Dutton Park and Mount Isa. Other schools are under construction at Aspley and Bundaberg.

The buildings for the redevelopment of the Queensland School for the Deaf at Dutton Park have been completed, and roadworks and landscaping, at present under way, will finalise the over-all improvements to this complex.

Large-scale development has continued at the institutes of technology and teachers' colleges over the last two years. During this time these seats of learning have been granted autonomy, but my department has continued its role as the building authority. Eventually, of course, these institutions will assume this role themselves. Examples of the work undertaken include the arts, crafts and music-teaching building under construction at Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education and the resource materials centre and the education and chemistry building centre just completed.

At Capricornia Institute of Advanced Education, the dining block, the engineering, arts and crafts and education buildings were completed, while current construction work includes the animal house, the service building, and block "C" of the residential college.

Here in Brisbane, additional facilities were provided recently for the School of Civil Engineering. This accommodation is a \$1,800,000 nine-storey building, which is a reinforced-concrete and brick structure with a penthouse for student and staff common rooms. The external brick walls contain an extensive duct system to contain the complex range of mechanical services necessary for civil engineering and allow for additional services to cater for changing instructional methods and advances in technology. The upper two floors are occupied by the rapidly growing School of Business Studies.

Another recently completed structure is the John Kindler Theatre, which has seating for 220 people. It has been designed for high-level acoustic quality and caters for the latest in audio-visual equipment.

Under construction at the Q.I.T. is the Physics Paramedical Building, which will cost almost \$3,000,000. It will have nine floors with a high laboratory content, and two floors of lecture theatres. The basement contains an animal house, X-ray rooms and neutron-activation laboratory.

Teachers' colleges have not been neglected, the major completed work in the last two years being: Kelvin Grove—a music building; Kedron Park—a science and music building, a swimming pool and a recreation building; and Mount Gravatt—a residential complex, a caretaker's residence and library, arts and crafts, and manual arts buildings. In addition, work currently under construction includes a library building at Townsville, an education building at Kelvin Grove, and an administration and psychology building at Mount Gravatt.

In line with educational philosophy and recent evaluation studies, a pre-school programme was introduced in October 1972. This programme will eventually provide approximately 500 pre-schools throughout the State. Schools already in operation are: Bardon, Churchill, Chermside, Murarrie, Darra and Harristown. Numerous other schools are under construction, some by day labour and others by contract. The buildings are of a design incorporating an "indoor-outdoor activity" concept. A landscaped outdoor area has equipment designed for physical and mental development of the children. The furniture in these schools is of special design for the pre-school age group.

Apart from the previously mentioned examples of achievements by my Department in providing building accommodation for the State's youth, provisions for their physical development have not been forgotten. For instance, playing fields have been approved for construction at State schools

at Hughenden and Texas and at high schools at Acacia Ridge, Camp Hill, Holland Park, Pittsworth and Woodridge. In addition, arrangements have been made for substantial ground improvements to be effected at State schools at Bardon, Corinda, Goondiwindi, Kenmore South, Richlands East and Toowong, and at high schools at Aspley, Gympie, Kenmore, Nashville and Yeronga.

The foregoing achievements in expenditure on education building have been made by a judicious balance of contract and day-labour works. It is interesting to note that my Department has accepted tenders to the value of \$44,457,968 over the last two financial years. These figures, added to the quite considerable volume of quotation works carried out within the structure of day-labour works, show the extent of contract work being performed for the Department.

Although education buildings constitute by far the major part of the building and maintenance activities of my Department, other Government sectors have not been neglected.

COURT-HOUSE BUILDINGS

New court-house buildings have been completed at Mt. Isa, Redcliffe and Holland Park. The Redcliffe building was completed at a cost of \$201,993, and has provision for both District Court and Magistrates Court sittings. The Court-house at Mt. Isa, together with the recently completed police station and quarters for single officers, completes a complex of new buildings on the police reserve. A feature of this building is the hammered-copper panels, symbolic of this copper-producing area. The Holland Park Court House has been completed at a cost of \$572,000. This building is of two storeys, and contains two Magistrates Courts and a Children's Court.

A major contract was let in March 1972 for the construction of the courts-of-law complex at Townsville. This complex was designed as an important Government contribution to the new Townsville Civic Square, which is being developed by the Townsville City Council. There are two buildings, consisting of a five-storey block containing three Supreme Courts and two District Courts and a two-storey block containing four Magistrates Courts, a Children's Court and a watch-house. The original contract was let to Welch Bros., (Queensland) Pty. Ltd., but it has since been re-let to A. V. Jennings Pty. Ltd.

Here in Brisbane, a high-rise building is under construction at 179 North Quay. This will provide interim accommodation relief for the District and Magistrates Courts until such time as stage II of the courts-of-law complex is completed. Documentation is proceeding on this latter project. In addition, a new city watch-house has been completed at Stanley Street, South Brisbane. This was a conversion of an

existing building at a cost of \$181,000, and will provide accommodation for Magistrates Court sittings.

POLICE STATIONS

Buildings for Police Department purposes have also been included in my department's programme. By far the most important project in this category is the Oxley Police Academy. This complex, specifically designed for the training of police cadets over a three-year period, represents the most modern accommodation and training facilities of its type in Australia. Stage II of this complex, involving the completion of the canteen and dining-room blocks, erection of laboratories and additional lecture rooms, has been completed at a cost of \$312,000. The dormitory block of stage II is nearing completion, at a cost of approximately \$330,000. The third stage, including the classroom block under construction, completion of resources centre, roadworks, etc., is scheduled for completion progressively by June 1974. Planning has also commenced on the gymnasium and administration building.

In addition, new police stations have been built at Texas, Moranbah, Upper Mount Gravatt, Nundah, Woodridge, Quilpie, Camooweal, Chinchilla and Cunnamulla. One at Murgon is under construction, and several others are in the planning stage.

HOSPITAL BUILDINGS AND INSTITUTIONS

During the period since the Works Department Estimates were debated in the Chamber two years ago, considerable work has been carried out at Government hospitals and institutions. The upgrading of existing buildings and the replacement of existing sub-standard accommodation has been continued, but emphasis is being placed on design and construction of new buildings for the specific requirements of handicapped, mentally ill and aged persons.

At Wolston Park Hospital, a kitchen-cafeteria and general-activities building was completed at a cost of \$758,000. This building provides kitchen services for the institution and cafeteria services for 700 patients. It also has recreational, clinical and research facilities. A complex for intellectually handicapped persons has been completed at Challinor Centre, Ipswich. It provides residential accommodation for 109 patients and special diagnostic, treatment and educational facilities for the upgrading of residents, physically and socially. It also has facilities for the development of basic occupational skills. The total cost of the project was \$1,192,000.

At Baillie Henderson Hospital, Toowoomba, construction is well advanced on a new ward complex for 120 patients at an anticipated cost of \$950,000, and construction is almost complete on a kitchen-cafeteria and general-activities centre at a cost of \$956,000. Also completed is an 80-bed nursing-care unit for aged persons at

Wynnum. This is the first stage of a \$2,700,000 development. Planning on the second stage is well advanced. Other planning is being undertaken for intellectually handicapped persons at the Baillie Henderson Hospital, Toowoomba, and at the Rockhampton General Hospital.

The women of the State have not been overlooked in the massive building programme. Remodelling and additions to the maternity section at Ipswich Hospital will be completed shortly at an anticipated cost of \$750,000, and a 24-bed maternity section at Mackay is already complete. Additions to the maternity section at Redcliffe will be the basis of a tender-call in the near future, and planning for a new 24-bed air-conditioned maternity section at Innisfail is currently on the drawing board.

Maternal and Child Welfare Services have received a new home at Clayfield costing \$355,000, and new clinics have been provided at Roma, Townsville and Dalby. Other new centres are planned for Barcardine, Gayndah, Ferny Grove and Upper Mount Gravatt. A tender for the first stage of a \$1,000,000 development of administrative, clinical and training headquarters for Maternal and Child Welfare Services at St. Pauls Terrace has been accepted.

Homes and training centres for children are other areas in which there has been continued development in recent years. At Westbrook Training Centre, new buildings for medium-security and privileged sections, together with a new kitchen and stores block, have just been completed at a cost of \$582,000. A remand and reception block is scheduled to be completed later this year at a cost of approximately \$175,000.

The privileged dormitory and living section caters for 30 privileged boys in 10-bed dormitories, with recreation rooms and dining room. The medium-security dormitory and living section is similar to the above, with accommodation for 40 boys held in slightly more secure conditions. Each of these units is built around its own central recreation courtyard, and the units themselves, together with the administration and medical blocks and a planned future gymnasium, are all grouped around a larger central court serving as a secure but free area for communication within the institution.

At Warilda Children's Home in Brisbane, a new dormitory section will be completed this year. The accommodation being provided will house approximately 100 children, from toddlers to teenage girls. It consists of eight units, each of which is differently arranged for a different age group. Each unit contains sleeping and play areas. Additional facilities include study rooms, library, recreation hall, nursing stations, overnight accommodation for nurses, medical rooms and play courtyards. This block of buildings will complete the rebuilding of

the institution, which caters for 160 children and babies in State care awaiting fostering or adoption.

PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

During the last two years my department, as well as providing many minor development works, has also been responsible for major work for Primary Industries establishments. At Indooroopilly, an agricultural chemical laboratory, incorporating extensive mechanical services and valuable laboratory equipment, has been completed. It is the major laboratory for chemical analysis servicing the Plant Industry Branches of the Department of Primary Industries. At Indooroopilly, too, a new Standards Branch building has been completed and is occupied. It houses administration and technical staff, and the methods employed and research programmes on control and improvement of standards for seeds have achieved world recognition.

The construction of a new \$1,600,000 office-laboratory complex at Toowoomba is complete. This complex contains administration and laboratory wings, store, machinery sheds and glasshouse facilities, together with all necessary mechanical services and equipment. Other major projects under way include an administration building at Hermitage Research Station, a laboratory complex at Oononba Animal Research Station, and custom services and dairy-laboratory services at Wacol. Construction work is also current at research stations at Biloela, Brigalow, Coolum, Gatton, Kairi, Kamerunga, Kingaroy, Redlands and Swans Lagoon.

PRISONS

My department has supervised the erection of several major projects at prison establishments over the last two years. At Brisbane Prison a \$1,500,000 workshops and services building is due for completion in December 1973. A reception block at the same prison has been completed. Extensive work is also being carried out at Woodford, 50 miles north of Brisbane, to establish a prison on a 400-acre site. This prison is designed to hold 250 prisoners in the 18 to 23-year age group with the object of disciplinary training, education and work-potential assessment and a quick return to community life. Each of the five-cell block groups will hold 48 men, who will live and work in groups of 24. Recreational-training facilities will be provided within the unit. Current expenditure approvals for this project total \$1,300,000. Other work has continued at Townsville and Rockhampton prisons.

ABORIGINAL AND ISLAND AFFAIRS

Extensive work has been undertaken for the Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs. A high school at Bamaga, an 11-bed hospital at Aurukun, and a school at Mitchell River are all complete. Numerous houses have been completed at centres such as Coen, Weipa, Mt. Isa, Palm Island,

Aitkenvale and Bluff. A maternal and child welfare centre has been constructed at Palm Island. A tender has been accepted for 20 residences at Palm Island, while tenders for 20 residences at Thursday Island are under consideration. Tenders have been accepted for kindercraft buildings at Bamaga, Cherbourg, Palm Island and Yarrabah.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Another major construction under my department's control is the new Queensland Conservatorium of Music. The foundations and structural framework of this five-storey studio and administration building are complete. A 400-seat theatre is part of the complex. The facilities to be provided will be a great advance for the conservatorium of music, students of music and the cultural growth of our State in general. Planning is also under way for two other major projects which, I am sure, will be of great interest to honourable members. One is the new Queensland Art Gallery, and the other is a new building and improved facilities for Parliament House.

A two-stage competition for the selection of an architectural firm to design and document the Art Gallery is complete, and the architects selected were Robin Gibson and Partners. This firm is now engaged on the planning of what I am confident will, one day, be the most outstanding Art Gallery in Australia. Here, at Parliament House, my department plans a new building to provide office and residential accommodation for Ministers, members and staff. It is expected that work will commence during the next financial year, and the total estimated cost is in excess of \$7,000,000. On completion, it is planned to renovate the existing building to restore it to a standard compatible with its function and character.

Another item important to our State's economy is the activity of the Government Tourist Bureau, and, to enable an improved service to be provided by that department, my department has recently renovated and air-conditioned offices in Adelaide Street, Brisbane, which provide ideal surroundings for the promotion of tourism. The department is also currently renovating the Sydney office of the Tourist Bureau at a cost of \$114,000. Other smaller projects are being completed within the limit of available finance. An example of this is the new Tourist Bureau branch at Alexandra Headlands, which cost \$81,000.

The projects mentioned in this review of activities undertaken by my department during the last two years are only part of the over-all departmental building programme. I have mentioned some of them in order to give honourable members a reasonable idea of my department's activities. Other items I could enlarge upon are the Public Service housing scheme, the development of National Fitness camps, the restoration and preservation of historic buildings,

and so on. In concluding this review of the activities of the Department of Works since 1970-71, I am naturally proud of what has been accomplished and at the same time confident of what will be accomplished by the department in the future.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

I should now like to review the functioning of the Police Department during the previous financial year, and its plans for 1973-74. Crime continues to increase in Australia, and throughout the world. Perhaps crime could aptly be described as one of the nation's fastest-growing industries. Nationally, in 1969 there were 134,000 selected crimes reported; in 1972 this figure had risen to 194,000.

We can gauge fairly accurately the number of crimes committed, and we can assess the loss in terms of property stolen or damaged. But we cannot gauge the intangible, but very real, damage caused in terms of human fear and suffering. Crime affects everyone, and as such is, or should be, everyone's business. Yet it would seem that in Australia there is a tendency to consider crime as being the total responsibility of the police. Crime is not the total responsibility of the police. It is a social problem that concerns the entire community. The police should not, and will not, sit idly under the pointing finger of accusation while a large section of the criminal justice system and the public in general engage in tongue-clicking over rising crime rates. Neither will the police deny their basic responsibility in the total effort against crime.

Crime in our community will continue to rise until Australians begin to expect as much from the courts, the prisons, the schools—and of themselves—as they now expect from the police.

Although crime is a national problem, it would seem that those who are closely associated with it would agree that it is best tackled at local level. I should like to see the Federal Government play a significant role in aiding the States with this urgent problem. I call upon the Federal Government to turn concern into meaningful action by the establishment of a national body to launch and finance a comprehensive, co-ordinated effort to improve the nation's criminal justice system.

I envisage that such a body would give the States the resources—they are massive and beyond State financial capacity—to improve all facets of law enforcement. The emphasis would have to be on system-wide improvements rather than piecemeal efforts that serve only to strengthen one part of the criminal-justice system while neglecting the other.

I stress here that what I have in mind is a federally financed scheme that would recognise that it is not enough to make more arrests if those arrested are merely to further

crowd the already crowded courts, causing even lengthier delays; that it is not enough for courts to convict those arrested if they are to be sent to correctional institutions that do not correct but unintentionally serve to prepare their inmates to be confirmed criminals; and a scheme that finally, but by no means least, recognises that it is not enough to turn prisoners loose on society and hope they will find a way to earn a living if adequate resources are not available to parole and probation authorities to assist them in the difficult task of rehabilitation. In short, it must be a scheme that recognises that improving each component of the criminal-justice system in a co-ordinated, comprehensive way, serves to deter crime.

I suggest that the priorities of such a body would be:

1. Improved training, techniques and equipment for police;
2. The modernisation of court procedures to reduce backlogs;
3. The development of correction programmes that rehabilitate offenders;
4. Financial support for State research and development to generate new and improved methods of crime prevention and control; and
5. A public-education programme and back-up public-relations exercise aimed at giving the community a proper perspective of police problems, encouraging crime prevention, improving the police image, and boosting the numerical strength of the Police Force."

PRESS RELATIONS

Now and again, in certain sections of the Press there appear, from people who ought to know better, comments which suggest, directly or indirectly, that there is some easy, overnight solution to the crime problem that for mysterious and perverse reasons of its own the Police Department deliberately ignores. This is, of course, absolute rubbish, as no serious student of the system would deny. However, the long-term effects of such irresponsible statements could be quite serious in terms of police morale—and public respect for law and order in general and the police in particular. In our efforts in Queensland to combat crime, new ideas and techniques are being tried out, and old methods and policies re-examined, often, quite naturally, with reluctance in some sectors. I urge those commentators to help produce the mental climate necessary in the community by ensuring that innovations are critically examined, not rejected out of hand.

CRIME PREVENTION: PUBLIC RELATIONS

As I said earlier, it is too common nowadays for the police to be expected to shoulder all the responsibility for crime in the community. In an effort to overcome and change this attitude, increasing emphasis is being placed on crime prevention and public

relations. It is obviously vital that every effort be made to mobilise citizen co-operation in the fight against crime. We are encouraging our police officers to learn to identify themselves with those they have been trained to protect—to respect their civil rights and understand their fears, hopes and ambitions. However, in terms of crime prevention, the public itself can do a great deal. Every day, without fail, thefts and offences are reported that could have been avoided had basic security precautions been taken. Too many break-ins are really walk-ins, and too many thefts are really give-aways. Many crimes are committed by opportunists—and the public are giving the criminals too many opportunities by not locking up their homes and cars securely.

VICTIMLESS CRIMES

Throughout the year I have been disturbed about comments made—doubtless by well-meaning, but I think ill-informed persons—concerning what is called "victimless crime". They argue that crimes without complaining victims should not be considered criminal. But I believe there is a larger, if less vocal, group which supports the view that such laws should be strictly enforced.

The true nature of the so-called "victimless crime" is offensive to most people. These include prostitution, homosexual practices, obscenity, gambling and drug abuse. It has been argued that to legalise such crimes would enable police to deploy man-power against seemingly more serious crimes, that is, those with complaining victims. It is contended that such offences should be accepted as manifestations of an enlightened public morality, and that police control must be viewed as an unwarranted abridgement of individual freedoms. However, such a point of view, I think, displays a dangerous naivete which does not consider the pernicious nature of so-called "victimless crimes."

Crimes of the "victimless" type attack the individuality, which is so highly valued by Australians. They have an eroding effect upon our principles and values, and particularly upon those directly involved. For example, the prostitute's personal morals are subjugated by organised crime activities, and the innocent child is witness to perverse acts of homosexuality in the confines of a park or public lavatory. Richard G. Kleindienst, former Deputy General of the United States, put it this way: "Wholesale lawlessness generally depends upon 'victimless crimes' for continuing financial support."

PROSTITUTION

The assertion that a licensing system would remove prostitution as a source of income for the underworld—Young Labor has this idea—is simply not valid. Most clients of prostitutes are not interested in conventional sex; they want something exotic. It is not unreasonable, therefore, that such clients would go outside the legalised system

for their gratification. In addition, State supervised houses could not offer the anonymity or privacy now afforded by prostitutes.

Young Labor and such organisations have claimed that legalised prostitution would help eliminate sex crimes. In my book, this is a false claim. The rapist desires only rape, the sadist enjoys only beating or murder, and the child-molester lusts after only children. I say that prostitution is a predatory evil which, by preying upon society—and, let us not forget, prostitutes alike—feeds the insatiable appetite of organised crime, fosters all sorts of criminality, spreads venereal disease and victimises and depraves the prostitute.

HOMOSEXUAL CONDUCT

Here again, it has been argued that consenting adults should be able to engage in such practices without legal restraint. This view disregards the fact that often such conduct conflicts with the welfare and safety of society. Many homosexuals lead outwardly normal and productive lives, but others are emotionally unstable and prone to violence. They do seduce minors and they do indulge in indecent conduct in public.

Mr. Bromley: You seem to know all about it.

Mr. HODGES: This is how the Labor Party was born.

The occurrence of homosexual crimes against juveniles is not a fact that can be minimised. There is evidence that, for a number of homosexuals, the adolescent represents the primary sexual object. It should be noted that many arrests for public acts by homosexuals are the result of complaints from mothers that their children inadvertently witnessed such acts in public lavatories and park rest-rooms. It can be seen, then, that homosexuals often victimise large segments of the society, and, while they may or may not be cured, legal sanctions are necessary to control those who publicly commit transgressions against the innocent.

Mr. Davis: This should have been brought up at the Liberal Party Convention.

Mr. HODGES: It would be no use bringing it up at the Liberal Party Convention. I could bring it up at the Young Labor Convention. I received a letter from that group this morning, as follows:—

“The above Branch wishes to express its disapproval of claims in the press of a crackdown on under-age drinking while many more offenders of a much more serious nature go unpunished. It is our opinion that the police surely have more important duties to perform than terrorise young people innocently enjoying a drink at a hotel on a week-end.”

That is the attitude of the Labor Party.

OBSCENITY

In March 1971, the Chicago police broke up a pornography ring that used 11 and 12-year-old girls as models in the most perverted scenes imaginable; and I think it is probably true to say that, although adults may purchase pornographic material, it is seen by a great many younger people. To think that we can saturate the adult population with pornography and effectively isolate their children from it is, I think, a pipedream.

It has been argued that in Denmark, where all obscenity is legal, unrestricted sex crimes dropped by 31 per cent in 1969 following the legalisation of pornography; but these arguments fail to take into consideration that serious sex crimes, such as rape, have not decreased there, and that minor sex crimes are now either legal or frequently are not reported. As befits the criminal nature of pornography, the people who provide the action—the actors, actresses, photographers, etc.—are often on the fringes of part of the underworld. Experience here and overseas has shown that some of the hard-core performers are often, for want of better words, pimps, prostitutes, drug addicts, or criminal types.

NARCOTICS

The use of narcotics is another so-called “victimless crime”, about which it is often argued that it concerns only the drug-abuser and therefore should not involve criminal penalties or compulsory treatment. Yet morphine and heroin, and other opiates, are not only extremely addictive, physiologically and psychologically, but their use can, and often does, result in debilitation, disease and death.

Of the psychedelic drugs, of which LSD is perhaps the most powerful, there are many problems, not the least being brain damage from prolonged abuse. Of marihuana, it is claimed by advocates for its legalisation that it is relatively harmless, with a low abuse potential. Yet the American National Institute of Mental Health has developed substantial evidence that marihuana use may indeed cause brain damage, the irreversibility of which is yet a matter of study. Drivers under the influence of marihuana have been proved to be dangerous. This is especially true at night, when the drug serves to intensify glare.

The advocates of the legalisation of this drug discount any relationship between marihuana and the user's eventual progression to other harder drugs. Yet there is a wealth of evidence overseas, and in Australia, that heroin addicts and other hard-liners began with marihuana. There are other associated problems, notably the cost involved in maintaining a drug habit. In the United States, where the problem is acute, it has been estimated that the average narcotics addict needs upwards of \$US60 a day to maintain his habit. Since many of them are unable, because of the effects

of the drugs, to hold regular employment, they seek other means of financing the habit. Doubtless many crimes are committed by drug addicts seeking money to buy drugs, or stealing the desired drugs themselves. In Brisbane, this would be true to some limited extent. Drugs are stolen from doctors' cars, chemists' shops, and so on. It is clear then that the "victimless crimes" of narcotics and drug abuse actually involve many victims, among them diseased or deceased drug-users, and victims of break-and-enter offences carried out by drug-users.

DRUNKENNESS

This is another apparently victimless crime, yet there are good reasons why I think it is erroneously labelled. Among them are these—

1. Many drunks are easy prey for muggers. There are files feet thick in police headquarters of incidents in which men and women have been attacked and robbed, and were too drunk at the time to even know the sex or colour of their assailants.

2. Many people under the influence of drink do things they would not normally do. How many times have people told the courts, "I wouldn't have committed such-and-such a crime if I hadn't had a few drinks too many"?

3. Some drunks can be particularly offensive by urinating in public, using abusive language, and so on. In my book, these are offences against good order, and incidents that the decent, law-abiding citizens should not have to tolerate.

GENERAL—VICTIMLESS CRIMES

From each act labelled a "victimless crime" flows a stream of murder, suicide, accidental death, disease, disorder, violence, corruption and offensive behaviour. Uncontrolled victimless crime is a quick route to a deteriorated quality of society. The public must continue to protect itself by insisting on the maintenance of sufficient legal sanctions against those acts speciously referred to as "victimless" in order that the criminal-justice system may be afforded the ability to protect society.

ORGANISATION

The improvements in organisational structure introduced in 1970-71 have been consolidated and have functioned most efficiently in 1972-73. These changes in departmental structure included the appointment of three assistant commissioners, four regional superintendents, and four staff superintendents for training and administration, and for Brisbane regional crime and traffic. Despite the success of these major organisational improvements, the position is being constantly reviewed to ensure that the highest degree of efficiency is maintained.

Where necessary, further changes and improvements will be introduced from time to time.

During 1972-73 various functions previously under the control of an inspector of police at Petrie Terrace Depot were reorganised and placed separately under more appropriate sections. This change provided the services of an additional inspector for utilisation elsewhere to better advantage, and included the transfer of probationary training to the Police Academy at Oxley. An inspector has been placed in charge of a personnel and welfare section to assist the Assistant Commissioner (Administration) in relation to transfers, welfare of personnel, recruiting and related matters. In view of the substantial involvement of civilian personnel in Police Department functions, improvements in departmental structure are not restricted to the Police Force itself. Full consideration has therefore been given to the need to develop further the objective of a Police Department organisation consisting of police, public service and other civilian employees working in an integrated relationship to provide as efficient a service as possible. A great deal of methods study and reorganisation planning has already been undertaken with this object in view and this work will be continued.

MORALE WITHIN THE FORCE

As morale and efficiency are somewhat interrelated, some consideration should be given to whether changes in established procedures have improved efficiency. With a large organisation such as a state-wide Police Force, it is not always possible to trace cause and effect, and sometimes other guides as to worth should be noted.

Overall, the Police Department has produced very good results in 1972-73, reversing long-term trends in crime and solving more offences than ever before. These may not all be related to new programmes developed by the force, but could be traceable to social forces which at last may be providing some restraints on the growth of criminality.

In searching for other guides as to assessment of changes introduced, it is of interest to note that a number have been followed or envied by other forces throughout Australia. It is considered generally that confidence of Queenslanders in their Police Force is high. Part of this confidence may stem from the fact that Queensland has more police to population than any other State, its Government spends more money per capita on police than any other State, and its police enjoy better conditions than ever before.

Mr. Bromley: And you interfere more than anybody else in the Commonwealth.

Mr. HODGES: I should like to report to the Committee that the honourable member sends me more letters complaining about police than any other member of this Assembly.

Mr. Bromley: I challenge you to produce them.

Mr. HODGES: Duties and responsibilities are now being clearly defined for each position in the force so that each man, from constable to assistant commissioner, knows exactly what he is responsible for and what facilities are available to him to meet these obligations. Members who do well can therefore now receive public commendation for good work; members who skimp or evade their share can be identified. In many cases, neither was possible under the previous system. Favourable records and commendations were granted to 82 members for outstanding police work during 1972-73.

The vast majority of police are welcoming the changes that are being introduced to bring the Police Force into line with the most modern thinking. The force is shedding itself slowly of the many duties it does for other departments. Opportunities to improve professional standards have been provided by the police arts and sciences course, unique to Queensland, and in-service training for supervision and detectives is now available, plus many other courses at other institutes of learning. Our Police Academy is one of the leading police-training institutions. From these facts a reasonable conclusion can be drawn that the force is in good shape. We would like to see fewer resignations and better recruiting results, but in a State with such good employment prospects these difficulties are to be expected and are not peculiar to the Queensland Police Force at this time.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The establishment of the Police Academy for the training of cadets has been one of the most outstanding benefits introduced for the uplifting of standards of police officers in this State. At June 30, 1972, there were 142 cadets in training at the Police Academy. Cadets at levels I and II were engaged in courses which were purely academic, while cadets in stage III received instruction in subjects concerning the basic police functions, including introduction to law enforcement; the law and the legal system; patrol techniques; police procedures, etc.

Substantial benefits have arisen from in-service training at the Queensland Police College, Chelmer, since its establishment. A number of in-service courses concentrating mainly on supervisory training techniques were held in the first half of the year, but in the latter half of the year the college concentrated on special crime-investigation courses.

The police arts and sciences course, established in 1971 in co-operation with the Department of Education, has been most successful, and approximately 500 police personnel are currently enrolled in this course. Other courses attended by Police Department staff include those conducted by the Australian Institute of Management, university, and other institutes of learning, and the Australian Police College at Manly, New South Wales.

OPERATIONS

The Operations Centre at Police Headquarters is now fully functional and is the controlling point for radio and telex-communication services throughout the State and interstate. This centre is sectionalised to include P.A.B.X. telephone switchboard, metropolitan mobile patrols operations, information processing and distribution, general broadcasts to police stations and facilities for co-ordination and direction of intelligence during major State disasters or emergencies. Police radio facilities in Queensland have been progressively extended and modernised, and this will continue. The benefits of the "Ansafone" service which enables field investigators to telephone and electrically record details of offences are now fully appreciated.

During the year there were few public demonstrations and these were generally orderly. The Public Order Squad assisted local police at holiday resorts at Christmas-time to maintain control of some large groups of irresponsible revellers. There were no declared disasters during the year, but State disaster control groups in each district maintained their state of preparedness. Many searches for missing persons both on land and sea were organised by police.

During 1972-73 \$1,088,861 was expended on the purchase of additional and replacement motor vehicles and motor-cycles, the provision of additional motor vehicles and the replacement of a number of motor-cycles by traffic-pursuit motor vehicles being included in the expenditure involved. Motor vehicles in use at 30 June 1973, including motor-cycles, totalled 743.

PLANNING AND RESEARCH

The Planning and Research Section with a staff of police officers and civilian members, some with appropriate academic qualifications, has greatly assisted in the administration of the Police Force. One of the principal tasks of the section has been the collection and analysis of data to allow effective employment of police staff throughout the State. During 1972-73 an extensive survey was begun to determine the work-load in criminal investigation branches throughout the State. It is anticipated that an interim report will be presented before January 1974.

The section has also been involved in studies into the procedures associated with telex equipment, lost and unclaimed property, departmental form design, recruiting,

and preparation and presentation of information to community groups. Additional projects allocated to the Planning and Research Section include a review of existing procedures at the Warrant Bureau, a survey of patrol areas and work-loads for Brisbane mobile patrols, and a survey of departmental uniform requisition and supply procedures.

BETTER CONDITIONS

Increases in salaries and allowances of police officers during the year have kept conditions in that respect in reasonable comparison with similar occupations.

New police buildings were completed in 1972-73 at Nundah, Upper Mount Gravatt, Woodridge, Quilpie, Camooweal and Bowen, in addition to further stages of the Police Academy. Police station buildings are in course of erection at Chinchilla, Cunnamulla, Murgon and Stuart and, of course, further work will continue at the Oxley Academy.

PERSONNEL

The approved strength of the Police Force was increased by 157 to 3,346 in 1972-73, and 556 civilians were employed by the Police Department at 30 June 1973, an increase of 49 over the previous year. In addition, 221 cadets and 87 probationaries were undergoing training.

The actual strength of sworn-in personnel at 30 June 1973 was 3,210, some 136 below approved strength. There are obvious difficulties in securing recruits of the required physical, educational and character standards at present, owing to employment possibilities and opportunities to move from job to job. However, particular attention is being given to the recruiting aspect, and this will be referred to later in relation to 1973-74.

PLANS FOR 1973-74

In regard to the Police Department's plans for 1973-74, there are four main objectives:

1. "To reduce selected crime by 2 per cent;
2. To reduce the number of stock stolen by 10 per cent;
3. To reduce motor vehicle casualty accidents by 2 per cent; and
4. To provide an average of 50 hours of training for each member of the department."

To assist in achieving these objectives, improved facilities and increased staff will be provided for, and it is appropriate that some details of the objectives and improved facilities should be given.

REDUCTION OF CRIME AND INCREASED POLICE CLEAR-UP RATE

As indicated in the Annual Report of the Commissioner of Police, the number of offences reported to the police continues to rise, there being a further increase in 1972-73. However, as has been pointed out

previously, police have little control over the causes of crime, which in the main arise from sociological and psychological factors affecting the whole community.

In a general sense, police endeavour to prevent, suppress or deter the commission of offences, and these are short-term measures only. The real controls are elsewhere in the social structure and are related to the way parents bring up their children to respect law and order and the rights of other people; the teaching of children at school to accept that moral code; and the influence of religious and other leaders in the community in reinforcing ethical standards. When these aspects are ineffective in inculcating in young people an adequate moral code to meet the challenge of today's living, the law-enforcement machinery has to be set in motion. No perfect social system has yet been introduced, but, unfortunately, in recent years the number of deviants has risen sharply. Queensland is not alone in this respect and it must be borne in mind that this is a world-wide problem.

The difficulty of overcoming these deep-seated, widespread and continuing trends to lower personal standards continues to make the prevention and investigation of crime more complex in these times. It is against this position of deteriorating trends in Australia and overseas that honourable members should consider the current patterns of deviant behaviour in Queensland. The Commissioner of Police has reported that most administrators now accept that the incidence and trends of a society's criminality can best be gauged from the levels of offences recorded by police. In their present form, however, these levels are far from satisfactory for this purpose because they do not reveal the degree of seriousness involved in each incident. For this reason they are inadequate indicators of the police work-load because they do not indicate the police time involved in each type of incident. The search for a missing child may require thousands of hours, while the apprehension of a shoplifter usually takes only minimal time, but this difference is not revealed.

The first measure of criminality introduced in the Commissioner's Annual Report for 1972-73 is a gross figure for all offences committed throughout the State during the 12 months. This total includes figures for offences against public order, such as drunkenness, obscene language, etc. Because it is a gross figure consisting of a wide variety of deviant behaviour, comment can only be of a general nature. The increase of 6,206 offences, whilst only half of the previous year's increase, is still a matter of concern. Nevertheless, the trend is in the right direction and is in conformity with the trend in the more serious categories of crime.

Experience elsewhere has shown that the public will more readily report offences to the police if they consider their complaints will be effectively dealt with. Having in

mind, therefore, the well-known discrepancies between the totals of recorded crime and the number of actual offences, one symbol of increasing police efficiency is a greater willingness of the public to complain, and one result of this improved efficiency may well be reflected in an increased crime total. Variations in reported crime can occur without any real change in actual crimes being committed, and because of this a system of uniform reporting of selected crimes was introduced into Australia some years ago. Based on American, British and Canadian procedures, it provides, for a number of reasons, a better basis for measurement of incidence and trends of criminality.

On this basis, selected crime figures for 1972-73 show an over-all decrease of 8 per cent, there being a total of 23,017 for 1972-73 as against 25,044 for 1971-72. The reversal of trends in this particular category of crime, including homicide, serious assault, robbery, rape, break and enter, motor vehicle offences and fraud, is heartening. Although the big reduction occurred in the fraud category, there was a drop in breaking and entering offences, which was probably the result of the introduction of the metropolitan mobile patrols and their hard-working crews. Continuing crimes of violence, however, are disturbing. There has been a welcome decrease in recent months in robberies in the South Brisbane area, but a series of tragic murders has occupied a great deal of police time. In many cases there is already an established and known relationship between murderer and victim. Of late this relationship has in an increasing number of cases been slight and tenuous. Investigations have been prolonged and not always successful despite the dedicated attitude of the detectives involved.

Last year it was suggested that one inference which could be drawn from tables of selected crimes as published by the Commonwealth Statistician's Office was that as Queensland develops industrially, and as the social environment more closely resembles that of its neighbouring State of New South Wales, so its crime situation would tend to correspond. However, in 1972 the New South Wales Police Department installed its computer, and as a consequence its annual crime rate figures were not strictly comparable with its earlier data. Its 1972 figures showed a considerable reduction over earlier years, and because of their large contribution to the Australian total, the Australian figure also recorded a decrease.

Probably the only valid point I can make on this occasion is that Queensland is still well below the Australia-wide figure for 1972—Queensland, 136 crimes per 10,000 population; Australia, 152. The 1972-73 Queensland figure for selected crime—minus 8 per cent—should greatly improve our comparison with all-Australia figures next year.

The two excellent features of Queensland's crime figures for 1972-73 are the decreases in the number of reported criminal offences already referred to and an increase in the clear-up rate of 2 per cent on last year's crime figures. From a police point of view, the position is most heartening, and the Police Department has good reason to be pleased with its performance.

One aspect which is causing concern, however, is the increase in stock offences and a lower clear-up rate in respect of reported offences. With the considerable increase in stock values, an increase in stock offences was probably to be expected. At a recent conference with superintendents from all police regions in the State, measures were discussed at length in an endeavour to meet the situation. One of the main problems is the fact that in quite a number of cases the complainant is not aware for some time of his stock losses. For obvious reasons, I am not making public police plans, but it is hoped they will prove effective to meet the position.

Because of the close involvement of the Police Force with the community, the importance of good public relations has not been underestimated, and the special section devoted to this work has continued to play a useful role through its various activities and the use of all available media. Under the supervision of this section is the most important officially sponsored youth programme designed to materially assist the youth of the State—the Queensland Police-Citizens Youth Welfare Association. This association has gone from strength to strength and police staff, in many cases on a full-time basis, are rendering assistance in the formation and running of the ever-increasing number of clubs in existence or being formed. A new section has been created, headed by a Director of Appeals, to assist in fund raising and the blending together of the various clubs. The work of this association is a very valuable facet of the Police Department's preventive programme, and there is every indication that its success to date will be maintained and expanded throughout the State.

Because of its vastness and uneven spread of population, Queensland faces great difficulties in providing an adequate Police Force to cover all areas, however sparsely populated. Apart from making provision for additional police required as a result of increasing population, lawlessness, traffic, tourist activities, and volume of police duties generally, full consideration is being given to increasing, wherever practicable, the usage of civilian employees to release members of the police force for active police duties.

Mr. Bromley: Round off.

Mr. HODGES: I have yet to tell the honourable member about the Commonwealth-States Housing Agreement.

Provision is being made in 1973-74 for additional staff for the Police Department, including 60 sworn-in police personnel, 150 police cadets and 46 Public Service and other civilian staff. These increases as related to over-all strength figures will, however, be offset by some adjustments in relation to the proposed transfer to the Transport Department of functions and staff associated with the issue of drivers' licences, etc.

Included in the additional civilian staff are members to be attached to the Planning and Research Section to assist in current projects and those already allocated for attention in 1973-74, which will be of great assistance in maintaining an efficient force and deploying available manpower to best advantage.

With a view to providing more effective control over specific areas, the possible necessity for establishing additional police districts is constantly being reviewed. An example of this activity is the recent decision to establish two new police districts, the Sunshine Coast and Gympie Police districts, with headquarters at Nambour and Gympie respectively, which are now operating.

An expanded recruiting section has been set up at Police Headquarters under the supervision of the inspector in charge of the Personnel Branch, as well as arrangements already in hand for a concentrated Press advertising campaign. It is envisaged that during 1973-74 arrangements will be made for officers of the Recruiting Section to undertake campaigns in other areas of the State on a mobile basis. Every endeavour will be made to boost recruiting as much as possible, in view of the existing difficulties already referred to.

Some of the additional or improved aids to assist police officers to obtain their objectives during 1973-74 include replacement and additional radio units for patrol vehicles, F.M. radio base stations at Calen, Oakey and Wallangarra, equipment to update the Bundaberg base to provide greater coverage, additional personal pocket-radios for metropolitan use and for extension to some country areas, and additional long-range transceivers mainly for northern and western areas and for stock investigation squads.

Provision is being made for the purchase as replacements for existing craft of one launch and three boats, as well as other water-police equipment. Anti-hijacking equipment is also provided for, as well as a substantial amount for the purchase of further standardised-type revolvers and ammunition. Other equipment includes additional breathalyser units, and photographic equipment for Brisbane and some country centres.

Considerable expenditure is involved in providing photocopying and adding machines to major country centres, and other office equipment includes a mini-computer and

offset printing machine for Police Headquarters. Provision for expenditure in relation to metric conversion has also been included in the 1973-74 Estimates of the Police Department.

TRAFFIC CONTROL

As in the case of crime, it is impossible to expect the Police Force to provide any effective control over the incidence and results—often fatal—of road accidents. The causes of traffic accidents are many, including psychological attitudes of drivers, influence of alcohol, driver fatigue, inattention, etc., and present a world-wide problem. Queensland is a large area of land and police cannot be stationed continuously on its many road systems. However, in the short term, police activity can influence the amount of misbehaviour on the State's highways, and every endeavour is made to devote as much police attention as possible to this area.

The objective of the police for 1972-73 was to reduce by 2 per cent the number of casualty accidents per motor vehicle. In fact the number of casualty accidents fell from 1:76.9 vehicles to 1:85.1 vehicles, an improvement of approximately 10 per cent. Enforcement rose by 4 per cent and vehicular collisions showed a decrease of 5 per cent. Unfortunately the number of fatalities rose by 46. It seems that fatalities are related to driver attitudes and mental states, and for this reason police have given greater attention to drivers under the influence of alcohol, for which charges are up by 21 per cent.

INCREASED TRAINING

In addition to general educational activities such as training bulletins regularly issued to all members, the continuance of the Police Arts and Science Courses, the police college's in-service training, attendance at courses conducted by the Australian Institute of Management, etc., arrangements have been made for advanced training courses of 14 continuous days for trainee and other constables to be held in 1973-74 at the Police College at Chelmer.

In concluding my review of the functioning of the Police Department during 1972-73 and its plans for 1973-74, I must point out that, in the activities, objectives and improvements I have mentioned, I have not attempted to give a complete coverage of all aspects of the Police Department's functioning.

The objectives for 1973-74 to which I have referred are targets which, I feel, some honourable members who are interested in the welfare of their constituents will fully appreciate. The community and the police must be united in the endeavour to overcome the world-wide threat of increasing crime and lawlessness as it affects our State; and, given community support, I am confident the Queensland Police Force will reach its announced objectives.

CIVIL DEFENCE

The recruitment, training and equipping of Civil Defence personnel, particularly in cyclone-prone and flood areas, continued throughout the year. There were 94 addresses, training sessions, exercises and demonstrations and two indoctrination courses carried out by the staff of the Civil Defence headquarters. Provincial headquarters at Cairns, Townsville and Kingaroy were inspected during the year and considered adequate for training needs. New headquarters will be established at Bundaberg in premises currently being built by the local city council. There are now 48 Civil Defence committees in Queensland—two being added (Mundubbera and Biloela) during 1972-73. Although some are not particularly active, they are meeting more regularly now that Civil Defence is assisting in civilian emergencies.

At a recent working party on communications at Macedon, it became obvious that the Commonwealth Directorate of Civil Defence desires to standardise all types of equipment—particularly receivers and transmitters. Equipment to cost about \$40,000 has been requested to meet Queensland needs during 1973-74, although last year's order for various items is still being filled.

During the year now ended, personnel from the Brisbane headquarters inspected all centres north of Rockhampton, as well as many in the southern regions, and took the opportunity to deliver new equipment to Bundaberg, Pioneer Shire, Mackay, Cairns, Townsville and Proserpine. It can be seen, then, that during the year much progress has been made. Training of Civil Defence personnel and planning for all types of civilian emergencies within the four Brisbane groups has been carried out, and the group leaders and their forces have worked hard to obtain maximum efficiency and mutual co-ordination between their respective groups.

Local controllers and instructors in provincial centres have also worked hard to bring their forces to the standard of efficiency necessary for successful operations in any emergency. They deserve high praise, as of course do the small permanent staff at Civil Defence headquarters.

I here pay a tribute to Mr. Barney Fogg, Director of Civil Defence in Queensland who will be retiring this year, for the exceptionally good job he has done. As Director, he more or less got this organisation off the ground.

HOUSING

I now turn to another responsibility of my portfolio—housing in Queensland. In this context I am concerned with the Queensland Housing Commission, co-operative terminating housing societies, and permanent building societies. The necessity to encourage the provision of dwellings has been recognised on both sides of this Chamber

as far back as 1909, when a State housing authority was first constituted. In Queensland in the past, political parties of all colours and persuasions have been staunch advocates of home-ownership.

I am well aware that, in this debate, honourable members opposite will refer to the number of persons listed with the Housing Commission for rental accommodation, either in total figures or the position as it appears in some particular centre of their electorate. This is no doubt legitimate comment. However, I am not prepared to accept any statement that may be intended to convey that the State Government, myself as Minister, or the Queensland Housing Commission, does not regard as a matter of major concern, irrespective of whether the number on the waiting list is large or small, the presence in the community of citizens and their families who are not adequately housed. In considering what has to be done in any field of Government at any point of time, and without minimising present-day conditions, there is some merit in looking at specific areas of achievement. In other words, the existence of a present-day situation does not imply neglect in past years.

Since 1945, some 52,736 dwellings have been provided—45,245 directly by the Queensland Housing Commission and 7,491 by Housing Agreement funds distributed to housing and building societies through the Housing Commission. On an average of 4.5 persons to each dwelling, we have at this moment nearly 240,000, slightly fewer than a quarter of a million, persons living in accommodation provided in this manner. Taking the past financial year alone, 3,759 dwellings financed in this manner became available for occupancy (Housing Commission new construction 1,779; Housing Commission vacancies in rental housing 1,448; society construction 532). This means that, on an average of 4.5 persons per dwelling, nearly 17,000 people moved into these dwellings during 1972-73.

Many representations are made by honourable members on behalf of persons seeking accommodation and, believe me, I do not minimise the needs of those people. However—and this applies in most areas of Government—much less is said by, or for, those whose needs are met than is said for, or by, those who are still waiting. It is our constant objective to push higher each year the number of families who obtain accommodation. I suggest that the figure of 3,759 such families in 1972-73 is not small by any standard.

CONSTRUCTION

In so far as the Housing Commission is concerned, the figure of 1,779 dwellings completed in 1972-73 is the highest since 1963-64. In each of the past four years there has been an increase in completions, and the figure for 1972-73 would have been substantially higher but for the difficulties of

building contractors in obtaining the volume of skilled labour and materials required for their contracts. In this context, it is quite significant that at 30 June 1973 the Housing Commission's contractors had 1,404 dwellings in current contracts, compared with 1,031 a year earlier—an increase of 36 per cent.

HOME-OWNERSHIP

Home-ownership through the Housing Commission continues to be popular and will continue to receive all possible support from the Queensland Government. I endorse the comment of the Commissioner of Housing in his annual report that when a young couple are able to acquire, or to enter on the process of acquiring, their home early in married life, or in anticipation of marriage, they are helping to ensure that they raise their family in an atmosphere of security, and they are acquiring an asset which, in times of inflation, is a firm investment with continuing value appreciation.

To assist young persons towards early action for ownership is one way of endeavouring to ensure that they do not have to join a waiting list for rental accommodation possibly later in life when, after meeting other responsibilities, their financial resources are not strong enough to permit them to build or purchase a home. Of 45,245 dwellings provided by the Housing Commission since 1945, some 26,614 or 58.8 per cent, were for ownership.

FREE LIFE COVER

To 30 June 1973 the amount of \$757,322 has been written off ownership accounts under the free life-cover scheme on the deaths of 219 borrowers or purchasers.

HOME-OWNERSHIP LOANS

In March 1973 the Government increased to \$12,000 the maximum loan for home-ownership. This applied to both the Queensland Housing Commission and co-operative housing societies. Much sooner than could then have been envisaged, it has become necessary to review again maximum loans if the organisations concerned are to serve families who are not in a position to accumulate large deposits. The causes of this position would be well known to honourable members, particularly those associated with co-operative housing societies, and they need little elaboration. The general and sharply increasing rate of inflation is forcing up the cost of materials and labour, while the land component has escalated beyond all reasonable expectation.

The Federation of Housing and Building Societies recently approached me in this regard. It contends that \$12,000 is unrealistic under present conditions, and instances a recent increase to \$15,000 in New South Wales. It may be argued that, while an increase will reduce the "deposit gap", it will increase monthly repayments. This must be

watched by each lending authority on the basis of the financial capacity of each applicant, but this does not preclude an increase in maximum loans. If persons on lower incomes are forced into second mortgages at high interest, or to high-interest financing institutions, in order to obtain adequate loans, they are clearly in a worse situation and are more likely to default than if they had been able to obtain full finance from the Queensland Housing Commission or a terminating society at a less burdensome rate of interest.

In its endeavours to assist families to obtain their homes through co-operative housing societies and the Queensland Housing Commission, the Government has approved reasonable interest rates of 5.625 per cent. and 5.5 per cent respectively. If we can encourage moderate and low-income families into home-ownership by schemes within their means, then we are making a positive contribution. While I deplore the continually increasing cost situation, we have had no option but to recommend to the Governor in Council that maximum loans be increased to \$15,000, and that such apply to both the Housing Commission and co-operative housing societies.

RENTAL

In regard to rental accommodation, at 30 June the Housing Commission had 18,631 rental dwellings. Notwithstanding the sale to tenants of 502 houses erected in previous years, there was a net increase in 1972-73 of 538 rental dwellings.

RENTAL REBATES

In 1972-73 there was a substantial increase in the number of tenants whose rent had to be subsidised by the grant of rental rebates. Rebates were granted in 1972-73 to 2,635 tenants, compared with 2,147 in the previous year, while the cost increased from \$370,049 to \$403,405. At 30 June last there were 1,851 current rebate cases. It may be noted that, apart from age pensioners, the largest numerical category was deserted wives.

In 1970-71 the Queensland Government reviewed the incidence of rebates of rental. Prior to that time the only State rental accommodation eligible for this benefit comprised houses erected under the 1945 agreement—that is, prior to 30 June 1956—and a limited number of one-bedroom flats. Rebate benefits now apply to eligible tenants in all State rental accommodation. The number of cases is rising year by year and, with the higher economic rentals on new dwellings because of increased labour and material costs in house construction and the increased cost of land, more income earners will necessarily become eligible.

LOCAL AUTHORITY RATES

The Housing Commission paid more than \$2,000,000 to local authorities for rates and charges during the year.

AGED PERSONS

I wish to comment particularly on the provision of accommodation for aged persons. This State has more than met its obligations under the current joint Commonwealth and State arrangements. I hope that honourable members opposite will recognise the facts and dissociate themselves from the ill-informed and inaccurate comment that has been made by some of their friends in another place. The Housing Commission has let building contracts for 621 aged-persons' units. These are widely distributed over 27 cities and towns, in addition to Brisbane. Of them, 228 units have been completed and occupied.

I should like to pay a tribute to the ready co-operation and practical help given by many provincial councils, particularly in the matter of reasonable charges for rates and services. We have also received generous support from service clubs in the various areas in taking a human interest in these elderly people and assisting in the many ways that they can. The conditions of Commonwealth contribution to this scheme require that single persons shall be in receipt of the age pension and also be in receipt of, or eligible for, supplementary (rent) assistance. They should also be living in poor or over-expensive accommodation.

It has been a source of encouragement to me and to the officers of the Commission to see the beneficial results that good accommodation at a low rental has brought about in the mental and physical well-being of these fine old people. Not only is the accommodation of a high order, but the low weekly rental permits more and better-quality food. Further, the knowledge that there is a permanence in their accommodation and that they are not liable to be dispossessed at the whim of a landlord promotes peace of mind.

The five year joint scheme with the Commonwealth runs out on 30 June 1974. The committed programme I have mentioned will absorb not only the total amount of \$5,150,000 that the State and Commonwealth agreed to find, but also a further \$400,000 which the State is finding. The Commonwealth has indicated that it desires the scheme to continue beyond 30 June 1974—and the need is substantiated by applications on hand—but it has not yet indicated the volume of future Commonwealth participation. I have asked the Commonwealth Minister to advise me on this point as soon as possible. In order to avoid a "stop-go" situation, the Queensland Government has agreed to provide further finance over the next five years, and has authorised the Housing Commission to let further contracts in the current year in anticipation of the continuation of the scheme.

DEFENCE HOUSING

I wish to refer also to the arrangements with the Commonwealth under which it takes advantage of the State's housing organisation in order to provide accommodation for defence personnel. Pursuant to the 1956, 1961 and 1966 Housing Agreements, the State has provided 2,986 houses for these Commonwealth employees. The Commonwealth provided \$23,160,000 (83.7 per cent) of the cost by way of additional loans, and the State found \$4,500,000 (16.3 per cent) from its Housing Agreement allocations. However, the then Commonwealth Government announced in August 1971 that it would not renew the Housing Agreement that expired in June 1971 but would substitute another form of housing assistance. This had the result that the Commonwealth was left without an agreement for defence housing. The Commonwealth negotiated with the States for a special agreement, under which it would find all the finance by way of loans at the long-term bond rate.

It is important to realise that the Commonwealth has an option to relinquish Defence houses to the State should it no longer require them. Whether this would suit the State or not depends on the timing, the location and the number involved. However, as these are more expensive houses than normal State rental houses, and carry a higher interest, they could require economic rents too high for persons on low or moderate incomes.

Before entering into an agreement, the State sought and obtained certain assurances from the Commonwealth and an agreement was signed in November 1972. A schedule of 319 houses was agreed upon, and the State is seeking the necessary land to permit construction contracts to be let. However, the schedule has proved very unstable, and the locations for 90 of the houses have been changed by the current Commonwealth Government.

I have taken up with the Commonwealth Minister for Housing the matter of recent public statements attributed to the Commonwealth Minister for Defence when, in Townsville, he criticised the State and said that money provided in 1971-72 had not been spent. It seems very clear to me that there is a lack of communication between the no fewer than six Commonwealth departments involved in these arrangements, namely, Navy, Army, Air, Defence, Treasury and Commonwealth Housing. How could money be provided in 1971-72 for an agreement that did not exist until November 1972, and where the schedule of locations has been so drastically varied by the Commonwealth as recently as 26 September 1973?

Following the unprecedented increase in the long-term bond rate to 8½ per cent, with possible further increases, the State has informed the Commonwealth that as such rates—introduced now as a temporary anti-inflation measure—would be binding on the

State for 53 years, the State requires a firm undertaking of a reduction to 6 per cent or less on any houses relinquished to the State.

LAND SUBDIVISION

I now wish to say a few words on land subdivisional matters, in view of certain comments by people who have not troubled to ascertain the facts. The Housing Commission desires a high standard of subdivision and amenities in its estates. Proposals for subdivision are passed to the relative local authority for consideration and comment. With proper regard to its responsibilities, the Housing Commission will co-operate with local authorities, and will meet reasonable requirements and standards within such subdivisions. It will also reciprocate co-operation received from local authorities. In its new subdivisions, the Housing Commission is prepared to provide, at its cost, new subdivisional roads and associated stormwater drainage, water and sewerage reticulation and land for parks.

PARKS

It is very desirable that an adequate number of small park areas be provided to break up the massing of houses, and provide places to which young children may be taken. This aspect of housing should have a high priority in the allocation of land and financial contributions from subdividers, in preference to schemes removed a considerable distance from the subdivision concerned or for large, enclosed sporting areas. In some instances where the Housing Commission has acquired an estate after development to requirements of the local authority, it is found that adequate local provision for parks has not been made.

SEWERAGE

The Housing Commission has always been desirous of having its estates serviced with sewerage before house construction commences. However, sewerage is a responsibility of local government, and it has been, and still is, impossible to defer the construction of homes for the needy for the sole reason that sewerage is not yet available in a locality. If sewerage is to be reticulated to a new estate, whether a Housing Commission or private project, it is essential that the local council have a functioning sewerage system within reasonable proximity. When the Housing Commission forwards a subdivisional design and the council has such a system and also a by-law whereby a private subdivider is required to reticulate sewerage, the Commission is prepared, in its projects, to meet such cost. The Housing Commission is very conscious of the urgency of housing for the lower and moderate-income groups who rely on it, and it seeks co-operation from local authorities towards expeditious consideration of subdivisional proposals in order that house construction may proceed with all possible dispatch.

GENERAL

The subject of housing covers a very wide field. It is a social undertaking with many facets. It is a matter of personal welfare to many citizens, particularly those of low income. It involves planning—estate planning, town planning, and house planning. It is a peculiar combination of business and subsidised social welfare. I could pursue many of these matters at length, but to do so would be to trespass on the time available to honourable members.

Mr. Bromley: You have been talking for an hour and a half now.

Mr. HODGES: The honourable member should consider himself fortunate that I do not speak for two hours.

NEW AGREEMENT

In closing my remarks on this section of my Estimates, I wish to say that I have not dealt particularly with the new Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement for the reason that the ratification Bill provides a specialised opportunity for the Parliament to consider this. As I gave notice of that Bill this morning, I will mention, without discussing, the principal features of the 1973 agreement. These are—

- (a) A five-year agreement;
- (b) The State will pay interest at 4 per cent on money for the State housing authority and 4½ per cent for housing societies;
- (c) A “means test” on Commission and society houses;
- (d) A tenant cannot purchase if his income has improved beyond the “means test”;
- (e) Home-ownership sales limited to 30 per cent of Commission houses;
- (f) No resale by purchaser within five years;
- (g) Societies may finance previously occupied dwellings; and
- (h) The State shall review its rental activities annually, and ensure that rents are adjusted whenever an increase appears justified.”

STAFF

The officers of the Queensland Housing Commission do not have an easy task by any means. The volume of the work causes continuing pressure on them, and patience and consideration are required from, and are readily given by, the officers in their contact with the public.

Honourable members will appreciate that over the last two or three years a combination of factors, in addition to the usual work load, has made heavy calls on the staff. I refer particularly to the two major changes by successive Commonwealth Governments in their approach to housing, to the implementation of the aged persons' scheme, and to

the service given to the general community following cyclone "Althea". It has been a matter of recent concern to me that the health of the Deputy Commissioner and certain other senior officers has necessitated their absence from duty for long periods. To them, and to all other members of the staff, and also to the Commission's wages employees, I convey my sincere appreciation for the quality of their services and their dedication to their duties in assisting the citizens of Queensland.

SOCIETIES

My portfolio includes the administration of the legislation relation to housing societies and building societies. The Co-operative Housing Societies Act 1958-1971 governs the registration and general control of terminating co-operative societies formed for the purpose of advancing money to their members for the purchase or erection of dwellings. Housing societies registered during the year ended 30 June 1973 totalled 47, bringing the number in Queensland to 723. Funds allocated to these societies amounted to \$9,948,800, of which \$6,598,800 originated from the Home Builders' Account and the Approved Housing Institutions' Advances Account. The balance of \$3,350,000 was made available by private lending institutions. It will be seen from these figures that two-thirds of the support for these societies came from direct Government funds. A total of 737 homes was financed during the year, to the extent of \$7,400,565.

The Building Societies Act 1886-1972 is designed to govern the registration and general control of permanent societies formed to raise funds from members and applying such funds to assist members in the purchase of homes. Three building societies were registered during the year ended 30 June 1973, bringing the number in Queensland to 61 following the amalgamation of four societies. Investments in permanent societies amounted to \$410,000,000 as at 30 June 1973, compared with \$254,000,000 in 1972. Liquid funds amounting to \$80,343,000 were available to Queensland building societies as at 30 June 1973. The stability and soundness of building societies operating under Queensland legislation is now well established.

It is unfortunate that measures introduced by the Commonwealth Government in an attempt to slow down the rate of inflation have resulted in the interest rates charged by permanent societies being forced to a high 8½ per cent. It seems a contradiction in terms that home-buyers must contribute to inflation control by paying more to obtain their homes. I appreciate the advice tendered to me from time to time in respect of terminating and permanent societies by my housing advisory committee.

In concluding my reviews, it is appropriate for me to express to the staffs and employees of the Department of Works and the Queensland Housing Commission my appreciation of their efforts, often under difficulties, and of

their interest in their work and the results they achieve for the State. Both the Under Secretary for Works and the Commissioner of Housing have long experience in their respective fields, and have visited virtually the whole of the State in the course of their duties. My appreciation is extended also to my subdepartments of Police, Printing Office and Civil Defence Organisation.

Mr. TUCKER (Townsville West) (5.35 p.m.): In the absence of our shadow Minister (Mr. Newton), who is presently in Melbourne attending a meeting of a Constitutional Convention committee, I reply on behalf of the Opposition.

The Minister has made the usual type of introductory address, prepared for him, I suppose, by his under secretaries and Press secretary, and, with only 20 minutes at my disposal, I do not propose to dwell on the Minister's remarks.

Irrespective of what he might say, the long waiting lists for Queensland Housing Commission houses and rental accommodation are still with us. In those circumstances, it is remarkable that millions of dollars of the allocation approved for housing during the last financial year were not spent. I am aware of the Minister's comments on this matter. However, in Townsville even supporters of his own party complained that money that was unspent should have been expended on Army houses in that city. Money that could have been put to good use to relieve a critical housing shortage, and, as well, to reduce excessively high costs, remained unspent.

At a later stage of this debate our shadow Minister and other members of the Opposition will deal with Works and Housing in great detail. Tonight I wish to concentrate on the Minister's administration of the Queensland Police Force.

Mr. Lane: Are you going to "rubbish" it as usual?

Mr. TUCKER: Just wait and see. I do not think the honourable member is a very good example of what the Police Force stands for.

Mr. Frawley: You're a very good example of a Q.C.E. yes-man.

Mr. TUCKER: And the honourable member would be a good example of a Country Party yes-man. Of course, his party's name has been changed, and I suppose that tomorrow it will again be altered. However, no matter how many times the party may change its coat, it will always be a Tory party.

I believe I speak for most honourable members when I claim that the Police Force should be transferred to a separate portfolio. It is incredible that the Police Force, which is responsible for maintaining law and order,

is attached like some kind of political afterthought to the Works and Housing portfolio, with which it has no connection whatever.

Mr. Lane: If you had your way, you would give it to Lionel Murphy.

Mr. TUCKER: At least I don't roll drunks.

Mr. Lane: Is that the best you can do? That's the sixtieth time you have given me that.

Mr. TUCKER: I cannot help it if the truth hurts.

As I say, I believe that the Police Department should come under a separate portfolio, controlled by a Minister who is responsible on a full-time basis for its administration. The unrest, disenchantment and discontent that presently exist within the Police Force are ample proof of the fact that it should not remain as a part-time ministerial responsibility, stuck haphazardly to a department to which it is totally unrelated.

Mr. Lane: You would disband it.

Mr. TUCKER: Not at all.

In case anyone should dispute the unhappy internal state of the Police Force, I quote just a few of the headlines taken from Brisbane newspapers in the past 12 months—

- " 24 November 1972 —Police strength, 225 short.
- 27 November —Police claim of low morale.
- 10 December —Shortage of Police alarming.
- 28 January 1973 —Police Force is in a hell of a mess. (in one newspaper)
- What's wrong with our Police Force? (in another newspaper)
- Ex-inspector says police in a mess.
- 25 February —Only six police for 25,000.
- 9 March —Crime clear-up rate 'deplorable'.
- 29 March —Police resent secrecy.
- 16 July —Young in crime upsurge.
- 19 July —Warning of soaring crime rate.
- 2 August —State Police Force 125 under strength.
- 11 August —Coast in appeal for more police.
- 12 September —Haven for crime here—call for more police.
- 13 October —116 resign from force.
- 14 October —Police lack is men, experience."

The spokesman in the last instance was Mr. Whitrod, the Commissioner himself.

Mr. Bjelke-Petersen: Some of your boys gave the police a lot of trouble.

Mr. TUCKER: I am not levelling these indictments; I am merely reading headlines taken from newspapers published in Brisbane. I have not been using my own words. Surely to goodness the Premier cannot claim that the Press would necessarily be on our side in this matter. That is the way the Press see the state of the Police Force in Queensland at the present time.

These are but a few of the ministerial monuments which the honourable member for Gympie enjoys in celebrating his past year's administration of the Police Force, and I could instance many others. It is a record that would shame, shock and stagger any Government that exhibited the slightest semblance of community conscience.

On 20 October, Alderman Rix even suggested that the Gold Coast City Council should consider the establishment of its own Police Force unless the Minister could guarantee a sufficient number of police in the area. The unsolved crime rate is alarmingly high, resignations are alarmingly high and police morale and police numbers are alarmingly low.

The continuing high-resignation rate among experienced men makes it impossible to mount any worth-while recruitment drive—no matter how genuine the intention. Policemen are ready to get out into almost any job they can find rather than remain in the Police Force under its present ministerial guidance.

Mr. Bruce Small: What would you suggest?

Mr. TUCKER: I am sorry; I have only 20 minutes and I want to make my points.

It is obvious that an undesirable barrier of suspicion exists between rank-and-file policemen and the part-time police Minister. It is equally obvious that, in these circumstances, the Minister is a bigger handicap to the advancement of the Police Force than Billy Bunter, the member for South Coast, would be to the favourite in next Tuesday's Melbourne Cup if he were its jockey.

There is no doubt that the first step towards restoration of confidence and unity within the police ranks should be the replacement of the present Minister. The unhealthy distrust and disillusionment within the Police Force cannot improve while the Minister retains this segment of his portfolio.

Mr. Frawley: With whom would you replace him?

Mr. TUCKER: I certainly would not replace him with the honourable member for Murrumba.

The Minister should be replaced or displaced—I do not care which—and the police portfolio upgraded and given full-time status.

On 26 August the Minister said, "The public expect too much from the police." Perhaps in some cases, this may be correct. But the people are entitled to a Police Force in which there is a reasonable degree of confidence and understanding

between the operational and ministerial levels. They are also entitled to a Police Force with sufficient experienced men and women to give adequate maintenance of law and order. Neither of these basic or essential ingredients exists in the Queensland Police Force today or even looks like existing while it is under the control of the present Minister.

If anyone questions the use of the word "control", I simply refer him to a newspaper article of 31 May 1970 in which the Minister is reported as saying:—

"I am the boss of the Queensland Police Force and no-one is going to tell me how to run it."

This was scarcely the attitude expected of a Minister who proposed to introduce change and required the co-operation of the police to make it effective. The Minister's attitude to the Police Force has, unfortunately, been dictatorial rather than consultative.

Even more unfortunately, he has adopted the same overbearing—at times insulting—approach to members of the public who have had dealings with the police. It is all very well to encourage and promote public co-operation—I believe that the majority of people are anxious to assist the police and, likewise, that the majority of police welcome the assistance they receive—but co-operation will not be engendered while the Minister uses the privilege of this Parliament to make cowardly attacks on people who have dealings with the police of which he personally disapproves.

Just over a week ago a woman who dared to protest to her member of Parliament over the handling of her two sons, aged 16 and 12, was labelled, in a police report read to this Parliament by this Minister, as a "drunken female". It was a police report, I might add, in which the woman complainant was not even correctly named.

Yesterday, during question time, we had a similar spectacle when Brian Bolton—a "Sunday Sun" journalist—was verbally assailed under privilege by the Minister. Bolton's crime, in the eyes of the Minister, appears to be that on numerous occasions earlier this year he tried to forewarn police and the Police Minister of the impending Whisky Au-Go-Go tragedy—a tragedy that claimed 15 lives. Surely this is the type of public assistance that a Police Minister should welcome; instead, he used parliamentary privilege to denounce and decry Bolton.

The Commonwealth police also forewarned the State police of the Whisky Au-Go-Go tragedy. A sergeant of the Commonwealth Police Force in Brisbane made a special visit to State Police Headquarters to issue the warning. The Minister's reaction to this exercise in police co-operation was to attack the Commonwealth Police Force. On 19 March, this year, he was quoted as saying that Queensland co-operation with Federal

police would be cut to a minimum. He added, "We will only be co-operating on major crimes."

I want to know whether this system of limited co-operation between the Commonwealth and State Police Forces was applied by the Queensland Government, and whether it still applies. Every Queensland citizen is entitled to know if the Police Minister and State Cabinet are picking and choosing the level of co-operation between the State and Commonwealth Police Forces, at the expense of law and order in this State.

The Minister tries to imply that he wants public help, but reacts violently both inside and outside this Parliament unless it suits his political purpose. Bolton is a person who enjoys far more respect in his profession than does the honourable member for Gympie in this Parliament. Queensland citizens are unlikely to tumble over themselves to help police officers if they believe their assistance will be repaid by a verbal "rubbishing" in this Chamber if it displeases the Minister. The Minister is also adept at juggling figures to prove that stations and regions are adequately manned.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wharton): Order! The honourable member has accused the Minister of juggling figures. That is a rather unparliamentary expression, and I ask him to withdraw it.

Mr. TUCKER: I withdraw it. Certain figures were given to us, and in the case of Townsville they included civilian car cleaners, the station cleaner and his wife, clerks and clerk-typists. And the figure given was supposedly the police strength! As to the improvement claimed in the clear-up of crime, let it not be forgotten that on 17 May last year the Press reported that children involved in proceedings under the State Children Act were being included in the statistics, with adult criminals, to bolster the crime clear-up rate. On 6 September of this year the headline was, "South Brisbane—A Scene of Violence." On 12 September it was, as I mentioned before, "Haven for Crime Here." And on 22 September, "The Courier-Mail" commented in an editorial, "Crime in the suburbs is rife. Houses are not even safe in daylight."

Yesterday in this Chamber the honourable member for South Coast stated that women were afraid to leave their homes for fear of being raped, and he suggested some rather drastic deterrents. There are probably more rewards now open in relation to major crimes of violence than there have ever been at any other time in Queensland's history. Not so long ago a State judge commented from the bench that a citizen would need to be a Tony Mundine to walk over to the south side of Brisbane after dark. This appears to be the type of criminal activity that the Minister applauds as a "welcome improvement".

Policemen are doing all they can, but the Police Force is seriously undermanned. Let us put this straight on the line. The police are faced with a soaring road toll on the one hand, and an alarming crime rate on the other. On top of all this, they are plagued with a Minister whom they distrust and whom, in most cases, they distinctly dislike. In South Brisbane, a stone's throw from the city centre, the bashings and robberies are frightening. People are belted and robbed in the street. On 9 October of this year, the Minister said that the police were on top in the fight against violence and bashings in South Brisbane, but I am afraid that he did not convince anyone.

I might remind him that the new watchhouse is situated in the heart of the South Brisbane danger area. Because of the situation there, I request him to instruct officers at the watchhouse to give persons being released on bail during the hours of darkness an opportunity to ring a taxi or arrange other transport from the watchhouse. I know that many people are in fear for their safety when they are released, particularly in the early hours, and forced to wander round the south side in search of transport.

In the case of the road toll, the prospect, with the Christmas-New Year season approaching, is terrifying. Every week-end heralds new deaths and maimings. Here again it is clear that the Police Force is too seriously undermanned to make an effective dent in the toll. The Government's sole answer is to talk of drink-driving and suggest increased penalties. This may be one deterrent, but I am certain the greatest one against reckless driving would be the sight of a policeman on our roads, and the knowledge that there is likely to be a policeman in the vicinity.

The lack of sufficient police is the basis of many of the problems militating against the effective administration of law and order and road safety in Queensland today. With police in such short supply, the emphasis must rest on detection rather than prevention. Their numbers are so short that holidays pose a major problem. In country stations, in particular, holidays merely mean that the stations operate at even lower strength than usual.

On 14 August, the Commissioner of Police said that the Police Force lacked men and experience. One day earlier, the Minister announced through the newspapers that 116 had resigned in 1972-73. I admit that there is a great need for the best possible training and the best possible methods, and also a great need in many cases for changes to meet present times, but, in the case of the Queensland Police Force today, the greatest need is to restore confidence; to restore trust between the Minister and the rank-and-file; and to restore the type of climate that encourages men with experience to stay in the force rather than resign to take almost any other job.

The Minister has failed to create this atmosphere. He has destroyed any confidence or trust that might have existed. The sad situation has been reached where even a worth-while suggestion (and there are very few of them) emanating from his lips is greeted with suspicion. He has created a situation in which there is only one practical solution, that is, his resignation, replacement or displacement—I do not care which—and as the circumstances deteriorate rather than improve, the sooner one of these alternatives occurs or is invoked, the better.

(Time expired.)

Mr. ALISON (Maryborough) (5.56 p.m.): Unlike the honourable member who has just resumed his seat, I shall endeavour to keep my speech on a rational basis and perhaps be a little constructive.

It is with pleasure that I speak to the Estimates for the Department of Works, Housing and Police.

Mr. Bromley: And congratulate the Minister.

Mr. ALISON: It is only proper that I congratulate the Minister on what he has done for the State, particularly in his role as Minister in charge of this portfolio. With equal sincerity I extend my personal thanks to the heads of the various departments under his control. I have had quite a number of personal contacts with Mr. Houston and Mr. Campbell and their respective officers, and also with members of the Police Force in Brisbane. Of course, I have also had many personal contacts with the officers of the respective departments in my electorate, and I can say in all sincerity that I have always received from them courtesy and co-operation, for which I am grateful.

The Minister referred in his introductory speech to the role played by housing societies generally, including permanent building societies, in this State in assisting Queenslanders to own their own homes. I wish to direct a few remarks to permanent building societies and in particular to certain practices that have evolved over the years which I think are surely detrimental to the potential home-owner and the home-owner now paying off a home.

One must remember that the purchase of a home is the biggest single contract that a large majority of people enter during their life-time. Although we cannot at all times, through legislation, prevent people making a bad buy or making fools of themselves in some way or other, there are certain matters on which we should take action to protect both the home-owner and the potential home-owner.

I refer particularly to the practice of most, if not all, permanent building societies of insisting on applicants taking out at least some new life assurance before an application is approved. They may not use the

word "insist"; but they certainly lean on applicants, who get the message that they have to take out a certain amount of life assurance cover. Whatever they do certainly works to the detriment of the great majority of people buying homes.

Let us look at the security that permanent building societies have for their investment. First, they have the first mortgage on the land and house. If they do their homework properly, there really is no way they can be caught if that is the only security they have. An exception would be in the case of a major recession and, as Mr. Snedden has pointed out, such a major recession could occur next year. But assuming that there was sane financial and fiscal control in Canberra, this would not happen and the first mortgage would be sufficient. In addition, the permanent building societies have fire insurance cover in the event of total loss of the house under mortgage, and they also have the personal guarantee of the applicants. Fourthly, they have the life assurance. Whether it is temporary life assurance, whole-of-life assurance, or endowment, it is still life assurance and is paid out on the death of the bread-winner. Last, but not least, they have the guarantee of one of the insurance companies that specialises in that type of insurance, namely, the Government-sponsored Housing Loans Insurance Corporation or the Mortgage Guaranty Corporation. Therefore, the permanent building societies have five different types of security on their investment. They cannot lose, no matter what happens.

"The National Times" this week referred to the two housing-mortgage guarantee insurers that I have mentioned. It made a couple of very pertinent comments. It referred to the Housing Loans Insurance Corporation and the United States-owned Mortgage Guaranty Insurance Corporation, and said they were making a "packet".

[*Sitting suspended from 6 to 7.15 p.m.*]

Mr. ALISON: "The National Times" said—

"During the financial year ended June 1973, HLIC's operating surplus amounted to \$1.83 million; revenue received totalled \$2.39 million and reserves of \$5.5 million have been accumulated to date."

It also said—

"In the 12 months ended December 1972, MGICA's premium income totalled \$2.7 million, profit before tax \$965,186, while reserves so far accumulated have amounted to \$1.6 million."

I contend that because of the very small claims figures shown in the financial statements of these companies, they could readily reduce their premiums which are between 1 and 2 per cent, by half without detriment to their finances, and thus save the person who borrows from the permanent building society something like \$100 on his purchase.

I do not know what the State Government can do in this regard, but I believe that we should look at it. Let us consider what it costs a young couple who are purchasing a home and need a loan of \$15,000. The monthly repayments on a loan of \$15,000 over 25 years would be about \$121. It seems to be the practice of most permanent building societies to insist that the applicant take out something like \$2,000 to \$3,000 basic life assurance cover, either whole-of-life or endowment. Whole-of-life is the cheaper form of insurance. A whole-of-life policy for a 25-year-old applicant would cost approximately \$54 a year. Premiums could be higher than that, depending on the company. The building societies then require term insurance of about \$12,000, which would cost \$36 a year. That makes a total of \$90 a year, plus stamp duty of \$4. The total cost would be \$94 a year. Broadly speaking, that is the way it is being done at the moment.

If the applicant was allowed to use existing life assurance and had sufficient cover, he would not be up for this extra \$94 a year. If he had part-sufficient cover, again his payment would be reduced by a proportionate amount. If he had no cover at all, I maintain that he should be permitted to take out all term insurance, which, of course, is insurance for a definite term. Term insurance for a cover of \$15,000 over a period of 25 years would cost about \$45 a year, or \$3 per \$1,000 a year. It would mean, of course, that at the end of the period that money would be lost. That is one way of putting it, but at least the applicant would be saved a considerable outlay over the period of the loan, and would not have the "slug" of carrying extra endowment or extra whole-of-life assurance.

It is reasonable to expect that the permanent building societies be permitted to ask for life assurance as collateral. I am not against that at all. But that is not the point. I strongly maintain that they should be made to accept suitable existing life assurance.

Mr. Jensen interjected.

Mr. ALISON: The honourable member must have misunderstood me. It is reasonable to expect life insurance. When I say that, I mean term insurance. If the applicant wants to take out whole-of-life assurance that is his affair, but he should not be put over a barrel and told, "Either you take out \$2,000 or \$3,000 whole-of-life assurance, or endowment plus term insurance, or your application will not be considered."

I repeat that permanent building societies should be made to accept existing life assurance. Where there is no existing life assurance, or if it is insufficient, the applicant should have the option, if he so wishes, of taking out additional life assurance—that is, whole-of-life assurance or endowment, or

term insurance. It is a lot of rubbish to say that insurance companies will not give term insurance alone.

An Opposition Member interjected.

Mr. ALISON: I know they do not like doing it, but it is possible to get term insurance.

It should be the option of the applicant to take out the cheaper term assurance. The permanent building societies say that the life assurance companies insist on the applicant taking out a basic life policy of \$2,000 or \$3,000 plus term assurance, even if he already has cover. He could have \$20,000 assurance cover, but he is still loaded with this extra payment. At the usual age of these people—20 to 25 years—they probably have not much money behind them. They are paying most things off, and every \$10 or \$20 a month that is added to their commitments makes life just that much harder.

Term assurance is available on its own from any reputable insurance company. Getting to the kernel of the problem, the reason for the permanent building societies insisting that the applicant take out some basic assurance is, of course, the commission payable. I am not saying that this is a bad thing, either. As I understand it, the commission is about 75 per cent of the first year's premium on whole-of-life or endowment, but on term insurance, which of course involves a much lower premium, it is only about 10 per cent. As I understand the situation, the permanent building societies depend to a significant extent on this income.

Where the applicant already has life assurance, he frequently cannot afford to take out extra life assurance. He therefore either withdraws his application and tries somewhere else—and probably meets the same brick wall in this regard—or he says, "All right, I will take out the extra insurance." He then has these extra payments to meet. Does he then try to battle through and continue paying the premiums on his existing life assurance, or does he let that insurance lapse or have it surrendered?

I maintain that an applicant should not be placed in this position. Permanent building societies should be forced by legislation to accept existing life assurance as security. Where there is no life assurance, or not sufficient, on the life of the applicant, they should be made to accept term assurance, again from a properly registered life assurance company.

Of course, the applicant must always have the option of taking out extra endowment insurance. He may wish to do so as he may not have any endowment assurance. But the option should be his. He should not be put over a barrel so that he either takes out the extra life assurance or has his application for a new home refused.

I believe that the Building Societies Act should be amended—I think this is the vehicle through which this action should be taken—and severe penalties provided for building societies that refuse to accept existing life assurance or to give an applicant the option of taking out extra insurance if he so wishes.

I should now like to refer to the Minister's reply this morning to a question by the honourable member for Mackay, whom I must commend for latching on to a fairly serious problem. The Minister quite rightly pointed out that many insurance companies that invest moneys in building societies do so on conditions that the consequent insurance business is directed to them. This is quite understandable, and I am not speaking against it. But I do not think this should be the reason. No person seeking finance should be put over a barrel in this manner.

If permanent building societies cannot operate on the permissible rate of 8½ per cent charged to lenders, without the commissions from the life assurance companies on whole-of-life and endowment assurance, I maintain that the rate should be lifted, perhaps by 1/8th per cent or 1/4 per cent. If it was lifted by about 1/8th per cent over a 25-year term, it would add something like \$220 to the cost of a home. An increase of 1/4 per cent would add something like \$450 over a 25-year period. However, the applicant would make a saving on the extra cost of the life assurance, which could amount to about \$45 a year. Over a period of 25 years, this gives a saving of from \$1,100 to \$1,200. It is therefore quite obvious, from the facts I am producing, that the applicant would be much better off even though the interest rate be lifted. But this should be done only if it is proved that the permanent building societies cannot operate on the present 1 per cent margin without the heavy commissions they get from the life insurance companies as they do at present.

Another matter regarding permanent building societies that I think we should watch with care is the trend towards amalgamations and take-overs. I can readily understand that a firm that is operating on a margin of 1 per cent—there would not be many such businesses—must of necessity have a fairly large volume of trade. I do not know at what figure such a business begins to reap the benefit from the volume turnover, but I have the impression it would need balances on first mortgage of approximately \$10,000,000 to \$20,000,000 to really be able to reap any benefit. By this, I mean that it must be able to spread the overhead among a large number of applicants. Be that as it may, I think we must keep a close watch on the situation so that we do not finish up with one or two very strong permanent building societies and a number of much

smaller ones. It is the Government's duty to maintain a healthy, competitive atmosphere.

I am not now for one moment condemning all permanent building societies, but I know that one or two of them insist that applicants for loans take out fire insurance cover on both the building and the contents with an insurance company for which the permanent building society is, quite naturally, an agent.

Mr. Jensen: What about the S.G.I.O.?

Mr. ALISON: I do not know about the S.G.I.O. However, I do know that some of the premiums charged by permanent building societies are much higher than those levied by other insurance companies. In this situation, too, the applicant is over a barrel; he has no choice. He knows that if he withdraws his application from one permanent building society he may be faced with the same demands from another one.

Mr. Murray: They have no option. It is a case of do this, or else.

Mr. ALISON: I realise that.

I should now like to refer briefly to police matters. Maryborough has a population of approximately 20,000, but it has only two traffic police and two police motor-cycles. I realise that other police officers who carry out general duties spend some time on traffic work. I do not suggest for one moment that all the residents of Maryborough own either motor-cars or motor-bikes, but certainly a very large proportion of them do. The two traffic police are required to supervise the three main highways that enter Maryborough, as well as all the other local streets. I believe that a traffic strength of two is quite inadequate for Maryborough—or, for that matter, any other city with a population of 20,000.

The Estimates provide for an increase of 165 personnel in the Police Force. Queensland has the highest rate of development in Australia as well as a steady growth in population, so I hope that future increases will be at an even higher rate. I shall be making representations to the Minister for the appointment of more traffic police in my electorate.

Mr. Davis: That will be a waste of time.

Mr. ALISON: I have a different approach to these things than the honourable member for Brisbane. I endeavour to prepare a proper case and give the appropriate Minister sound reasons. I certainly do not charge in like a bull at a gate with a lot of falsehoods.

On previous occasions I have urged the appointment of traffic wardens. Again tonight I ask the Minister to give earnest consideration to the training of such officers, who could carry out the general supervision of traffic. Of course, they must be mobile.

Mr. Bousen: Where will they come from?

Mr. ALISON: It would be relatively easy to obtain such personnel, who would not require the intense training given to police cadets. I do not see any great problem here. They would be required to carry out training within the ambit of the Traffic Act and associated Acts. I suggest that they be given the power to issue on-the-spot fines. I have been told by certain persons, "You only want to make them revenue-earners." I see nothing wrong with requiring an irresponsible motorist to meet the cost of traffic wardens' salaries and expenses.

Mr. N. F. JONES (Everton) (7.30 p.m.): In speaking to these Estimates, I shall deal first with Works and Housing and then turn to the Police Force, which is another segment of the Minister's portfolio.

The Minister made great play on the extra money he intends to spend this year on Works and Housing. He said that in 1972-73 \$31,517,876 was spent, and this year's estimated expenditure is \$48,267,302, or an increase of approximately \$17,000,000. Despite the emphasis he placed on the extra money to be spent this year, he did not tell the full story, including increased costs that will be incurred in building and construction. The list of people waiting for Housing Commission dwellings reveals that, for many years, there has been no reduction in the number of applicants.

The increase in Government expenditure on Works and Housing is barely keeping pace with increased costs. There has been no proper planning for housing, schools and police stations. The Mitchelton Police Station in my area is a classic example of lack of planning. A visit to the Oxley Police Academy to see the young people in training shows that their accommodation is equal to the standard of accommodation in some of the best motels in the city. However, after graduation, they are faced with industrial conditions in some suburban police stations which people with far lower qualifications would not tolerate. This is one reason for the high number of resignations from the Police Force. Recruits are required to have a certain standard of education. They are given training and after that are assigned to suburban police stations which lack many facilities one would expect to find in a normal place of employment in this day and age.

An examination of statistics discloses that the money spent by the Queensland Housing Commission is not keeping pace with expansion in the private sector. A table published in "Housing and Poverty" lists the homes and flats constructed by the Housing Commission as a percentage of the total number constructed between 1945-46 and 1972-73. In 1956-57, the last year of Labor in office, the Housing Commission constructed 26 per cent of the total number of houses and flats.

The figures for the following years show the trend since then:—

Year	Percentage of Houses and Flats constructed by Housing Commission
1956-57	26
1969-70	10
1970-71	9.7
1971-72	8
1972-73	6.7

If it continues, the proportion will be down to 5 per cent this year, even with the extra \$17,000,000 allocated.

It is not my intention to speak at length on Works and Housing, but before turning to the police segment of the Minister's portfolio, I wish to support a statement made by my deputy leader. He said that his belief and that of the Australian Labor Party was that, because of the importance of police work, the Police Department should not be controlled by the Minister for Works and Housing, but should have its own Minister, and that it should be one of the most important portfolios in the State.

Mr. Frawley: Who would you bring up—Senator Georges?

Mr. N. F. JONES: He would certainly do a better job.

I want to refer to the Whisky Au-Go-Go murder—a tragedy that cost 15 lives and shocked the entire nation earlier this year. It was an unfortunate episode in this State's history that has become clouded with contradictions, counter-statements, counter-allegations, innuendoes, and even more regrettably, abuse under parliamentary privilege.

On 14 March this year, the Minister for Works and Housing announced, through the "Telegraph", that, after court proceedings were completed, he would move to appoint a royal commission into allegations that police were pre-warned of the tragedy. He now claims that the allegations have been answered and that the royal commission, which he believed to be so necessary, will not be held. Let me make it clear at this point that I believe a royal commission, in the light of events, is more warranted now than it was at the time the Minister announced his support. A royal commission should be held into whether the police were pre-warned, and, if so, by whom and to what extent, and the action that was taken as a result of any such pre-warning.

It is worth noting that, on 14 March, it was the Minister himself who called for a royal commission, presumably to clear the air. It was not the A.L.P., journalist Bolton, the police, the convicted murderer Stuart, or even this Parliament. It was the Minister himself who called for it; it was the Minister himself who believed it necessary; and it is the Minister himself who today is reneging

and ducking away from his opportunity to have all the facts explained in the full glare of an open commission.

I now want to explain some of the events, incidents, and related facts involved in this sorry chapter of Queensland's history. Firstly I shall name the people who have claimed publicly, outside the privilege of this Parliament, that they warned the police.

Mr. Porter: Are you supporting the criminal element?

Mr. N. F. JONES: No. I am trying to establish whether the police were warned, and whether 15 people would not have died in that tragedy if the police had taken notice of the warning. It is in all sincerity that I raise this matter tonight.

Alleged informant No. 1 is the Commonwealth Police Force. The "Courier-Mail" of 14 March reported a statement by the Federal Attorney-General (Senator Murphy) that Commonwealth police had warned the State police—the police officer concerned was Senior Sergeant Voight—on 27 February of the impending tragedy. At this stage I refer to the Press release that Senator Murphy made. It reads—

"The Federal Attorney-General (Senator Murphy) yesterday asserted that Commonwealth police had warned the Queensland police about the Whisky Au-Go-Go nightclub in Brisbane."

The Press release is too long for me to read tonight, but I shall refer to one other part of it, which reads—

"Has the Attorney-General noted the statement by the Queensland Police Commissioner that he received such advice on Friday night—a full 24 hours after the fire which killed 15 persons and destroyed the nightclub? Who is telling the truth?"

Mr. Porter: Is this the Senator Murphy of A.S.I.O.?

Mr. N. F. JONES: It is the same person.

The officer of the Commonwealth police who gave that warning was Sergeant Bill Humphris, who is respected throughout Australia. Indeed he is a police officer who, at one time, served overseas with the Canadian Mounted Police.

I now ask the Minister: Will he admit that this warning was given, or does he allege that the Federal Attorney-General was misled and that Sergeant Humphris, an internationally experienced police figure, was merely engaging in a little fantasy when he said that he called at police headquarters, spoke to Senior Sergeant Voight and delivered what he believed and what time has proved to be a very tragic but accurate warning?

Of course, to complete the confusion on this one point of warning, or alleged warning, we have a statement from the Minister on 10 March denying that police had been warned that the Whisky Au-Go-Go Nightclub would be bombed, and on 11 March

we had a statement, quite to the contrary, from the Police Commissioner admitting that Commonwealth police had warned Queensland police two weeks earlier that the Whisky Au-Go-Go Night-club was a target for underworld violence.

Alleged informant No. 2 is John Andrew Stuart, one of the two men convicted of this murder. There are very strong claims that Stuart made numerous calls at police headquarters over a period of many weeks preceding the tragedy, alleging that an extortion racket concerning Gold Coast and Brisbane night-clubs was in the making, and that the Whisky Au-Go-Go was to be bombed. It is alleged that he spoke to a number of police, in particular a senior officer of the Crime Investigation Unit named Hicks. I want to know if Stuart called at police headquarters during the period preceding the Whisky Au-Go-Go fire; if he spoke to and warned police officers of the impending tragedy; to whom he spoke; the nature of any such conversations; and what action was taken. Or did he, as the Minister obviously believes in the case of Sergeant Humphris, also only imagine that he called at police headquarters on these matters?

Alleged informant No. 3 is Brian Bolton, the "Sunday Sun" journalist who was so maliciously maligned under privilege in this Chamber yesterday. Bolton has made a statement to police in which he states that he warned, among others, the Police Commissioner, the Police Minister, Inspector Becker, Inspector Buchanan (now head of the C.I.B.), a Sergeant Kay and a detective named Bob. His warnings followed conversations that he had had with Stuart and, in the cases of the Commissioner and Inspector Becker, are alleged to have been made on a number of occasions. He says in his police statement that he also warned the Minister in a telephone conversation of 20 February. I am informed that this telephone call occurred early on the day concerned, so it is extremely doubtful that it was affected by any over-indulgence on the part of Bolton—something that this Minister used parliamentary privilege to accuse him of yesterday.

Yesterday the Minister said that he had no conversation with Bolton. I believe now, in fairness to Bolton, that his version of that telephone conversation should also be given to the Committee, and I read his account of it from his statement to the police. It reads—

"First, on the day I started back, Tuesday February 20, I rang Police Minister Hodges on his direct office line and asked him for a statement in the form of a warning about girls hitch-hiking on open roads and leaving themselves open to rape and molestation. There had been quite a few cases in the previous weeks. While I was on the telephone to him I said, 'I suppose you've been told of the bombing threat on the Whisky Au-Go-Go'. He said, 'No, what's that all about?' I said

'I've told Mr. Whitrod and Inspector Becker of several yarns I've had with John Andrew Stuart... you know of him?... (He said "Yes") and he says that an extortion racket is soon to blow up in the night clubs in Brisbane and the Gold Coast. He says the men behind it are going to blow up an empty club first as a warning and if none of the owners take any notice they are going to blow up the Whisky Au-Go-Go because it's the easiest one to get at, while it's full of people.' He said 'No, I haven't heard anything about it. Next time I'm talking to Ray I must ask him what he knows'".

Of course, the "Ray" allegedly referred to by the Police Minister would be Ray Whitrod, the Police Commissioner.

Bolton states very positively that he had spoken to both the Commissioner and Inspector Becker before 20 February about discussions he had had with Stuart. Bolton states that he spoke with the Commissioner and other police officers on the same matter following 20 February. He says that he raised the matter again with the Commissioner on 24 February when speaking to him on another matter. Likewise he alleges that on an earlier date Becker had said that Stuart was starting to become a regular sight in the office these days.

Bolton says that he spoke to Inspector Buchanan after the Torino Night-club, which was empty at the time, had been bombed, and gave a statement to a Sergeant Kay and another detective named Bob at his home. It might be remembered that the nature of his warnings had been that an empty night-club would be bombed prior to the Whisky Au-Go-Go. There is every evidence that Bolton acted in a most citizen-like manner by relaying to the police information that he believed posed a very real danger to people and property in this State. Throughout his statement there is a clear indication that this evidence was not transmitted as events show it should have been—a clear indication that it was either disbelieved or not communicated.

I ask the Minister now: did Bolton have conversations with Inspector Becker, Commissioner Whitrod, Inspector Buchanan, Sergeant Kay or any other police prior to the Whisky Au-Go-Go tragedy in which he warned of the impending events? Even more importantly, did he have the conversation stated in the police statement with the Minister himself, and was the information conveyed of considerable importance, not "Nil" as the Minister said yesterday?

I might say, Mr. Wharton, that I have the full statement here. If I had time to read the whole of it, I think honourable members would find a few other interesting things in the statement made by Mr. Bolton to the police, and I am prepared to table it.

Mr. Porter: What are you proving?

Mr. N. F. JONES: All I am proving is that I believe there should be a royal commission into whether or not there was a warning, and whether or not any heed was taken of the warning. If there was not, then some action should be taken, because I believe that if some notice had been taken of the warning, perhaps 15 people would not have been killed in that incident.

I ask the Minister to say here and now whether these events occurred, or whether he believes that Bolton, like Sergeant Humphris and Stuart, merely imagined them. I ask him, in all sincerity, if he can honestly say to this Parliament that Bolton, a journalist recognised in his field for his accuracy, concocted some fantastic tale such as this in a police station, and for what purpose.

Furthermore, I can inform the Minister that, unlike himself, Bolton is willing and anxious to face a royal commission, repeat his statements and be questioned upon them in any way to verify their accuracy. He wants an open inquiry, but apparently the Minister, who uses parliamentary privilege in such despicable fashion to damage Bolton's credibility and character, does not.

I ask the people whether they believe Bolton, who has made his statements without parliamentary protection and wants an open inquiry, or the Minister, who uses the privilege of Parliament and does not now want a royal commission which on 14 March this year he believed was necessary. Is everyone living in a world of make-believe except the Minister? A royal commission should clear the air and, as far as I know, the Minister is the only one who does not want it.

I ask him to table in this Chamber the sections of the transcript of the Whisky Au-Go-Go trial which he now believes have removed the necessity to hold the royal commission he was prepared to initiate. I reiterate that it was not the Labor Party, it was not Bolton and it was not members of this Assembly who said there should be a royal commission. It was the Minister in charge of police himself, who was under some political pressure when being questioned in this Chamber as to whether or not the police had been warned at that time.

I ask him to say whether police were pre-warned, who pre-warned them, which officers were pre-warned, and when. I ask him now if he still denies the conversation on the telephone which Bolton alleges in his police statement.

Mr. Porter: Even if they were, so what? What are you alleging?

Mr. N. F. JONES: In answer to the honourable member for Toowong, who does not seem to be able to get it through his thick skull, what I am trying to say is that if there had been a pre-warning, I do not believe the Minister should try to cover that up. He said that there was a need for a royal commission, and I am supporting his original statement that there should be

a royal commission to decide whether or not the allegations that warnings had been given to the police prior to the incident at the Whisky Au-Go-Go were or were not true. I am supporting the statement he made that there should be a royal commission into whether or not there had been a pre-warning.

Mr. Porter: So what? What are you alleging?

Mr. N. F. JONES: If there had been a pre-warning, perhaps we should look at the question of whether 15 people were killed because of lack of action on the pre-warning.

As "Sunday Sun" said last week-end, the Minister is no longer the proper person to make a decision "Yes" or "No" on whether a royal commission should be held, although he was the one who suggested it originally. As the newspaper said, "Who could expect Caesar to judge Caesar and Hodges to judge Hodges?" It is a decision that should be out of his hands, because what has happened in this Chamber shows that it is an unhappy, contradictory event that the Minister wishes to forget about as quickly and quietly as possible.

Let me turn now to another point. Honourable members heard the Minister, when introducing these Estimates, make some comments about the number of police and his attempts to increase the number of police personnel in this State. I refer the honourable gentleman to his answer to a question I asked on 9 October 1973, which seems to me to indicate that between 1970 and 1973 the Government has not been very successful in its attempts to increase the number of police personnel in this State. If we look at the districts listed, we find that, proportionately, by comparison with the population of the metropolitan area and other areas throughout the State, the Police Force is getting further and further behind. In 1970, the Brisbane district had 275 police. By 1973 the figure had dropped to 249.

(Time expired.)

Mr. FRAWLEY (Murrumba) (7.55 p.m.): After listening to so much rotten rubbish from the honourable member for Everton, it will be a change for the Committee to get a sensible contribution from me. What rot he spoke! What else could we expect from an associate of Communists and socialist workers.

I congratulate the Minister for Works and Housing. He has a particularly difficult portfolio to administer. He is shot at, cursed and kicked in every direction by the A.L.P. Honourable members opposite use him as a whipping-boy. I have the utmost admiration for the way he handles himself in these situations.

Mr. B. Wood: Did you bring your fan club tonight?

Mr. FRAWLEY: If I had thought the honourable member was going to do a fan dance, I would have brought them.

Members of the Opposition have continually cast aspersions and doubts on the Government. Only the other week the honourable member for Albert accused us of being involved in S.P. betting. His allegations were completely untrue. No Government member is involved in S.P. betting, but I would not venture to say the same about certain honourable members opposite. As soon as the honourable member for Albert was questioned by a police inspector, he ran screaming for cover. Is that not typical of some members of the Opposition? It is a very important part of the Q.C.E.'s policy of character assassination.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition spoke about the long waiting list for Housing Commission houses. There is a long waiting list for everything in the building trade at the present time. Under the Labor Government, Housing Commission houses in this State were almost non-existent.

Acting, no doubt, under instructions from his bosses at the Q.C.E., he then attacked the administration of the Police Force. He quoted every newspaper headline he could rake up. He made one of the weakest and most ineffectual speeches I have had the misfortune to hear since I entered Parliament. The concern he expressed for the Police Force was certainly not evident in the actions of his party during the Springbok tour.

Opposition Members interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: (Mr. Wharton): Order! There are far too many interjections from my left.

Mr. Bousen interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. FRAWLEY: Thank you, Mr. Wharton. I am very pleased that you are protecting me. As a new member and being rather timid, I am being constantly harassed by the Opposition.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I do not mind interjections. Some honourable members opposite are terrified that before I am finished I will expose them for what they are.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition spoke about the high resignation rate in the Police Force. He did not tell us about some of the enforced resignations of members of the A.L.P. before the last State election—the ones they knifed in the back. Of course, he had to carry the torch for the honourable member for Everton, who is too weak to stand up for himself.

The honourable member claimed that the Minister had given incorrect figures about the staffing strength of police stations, particularly in the Townsville area. That was

a figment of his vivid and rather childish imagination. He could have told us about the false figures used by the A.L.P. to declare its plebiscites. That would have made interesting listening. The last plebiscite for Baroona resulted in the wrong man being elected, so now they are going to hold another one to try to get their "pea" up.

Mr. Bousen interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! I warn the honourable member for Toowoomba North.

Mr. FRAWLEY: The honourable member for Everton criticised police work in suburban police stations. I used to work for the Department of Works. I have been around many police stations in country areas. I know more about them than anybody else in this place.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I know more about the Charleville Police Station than honourable members opposite would.

Mr. Newbery interjected.

Mr. FRAWLEY: Murphy raided A.S.I.O. so that he could remove the files of some of his Communist mates, including Senator Georges.

Many of our police stations may be old and present a dilapidated appearance, but they are still playing a useful role in the community.

Getting onto the Whisky Au-Go-Go tragedy, the honourable member for Everton again pleaded for a royal commission. We all saw evidence of his contribution to law and order during the Springbok tour—inciting people to riot and sitting down in the street with his mate Senator Georges, now known as the "sit-down senator". The honourable member for Everton showed his complete disregard for law and order. Of course, this is a very good tactic. He tried to involve some of the public. It is a great Communist tactic to involve innocent parties in any riot. When somebody is hurt, they hope they can blame the authorities for it.

The Minister in charge of police has warned publicans to help stamp out under-age drinking. I am very concerned about this situation. There have been many convictions for under-age drinking in this State, but rarely do we see a publican convicted for selling liquor to an under-age drinker. I sincerely trust that in future a strict surveillance can be kept over publicans who sell liquor to under-age drinkers.

An Opposition Member: You are getting kick-backs.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I am not getting kick-backs from anybody.

Police youth clubs play a very important role in the work of the Police Department. There is one in the Redcliffe electorate,

whose representative here, Mr. Jim Houghton, has done a great deal for this Government since he has been in Parliament. Although this club is not in my electorate, many of the young people from my electorate attend it. I have a great admiration for the policeman who previously ran it, Constable Doug Morris, who had a wonderful influence on the youth of Redcliffe and did much to keep them off the streets. He has since resigned from the Police Force and has moved to New Zealand. He went of his own accord because he wanted to make his way in New Zealand. I regret his leaving Redcliffe, because he conducted the youth club in an excellent manner. Fortunately, his successor is doing just as good a job. I have nothing but admiration for police youth clubs.

Mr. Bousen: Why don't you advocate improving them?

Mr. FRAWLEY: Police youth clubs do not need improving—certainly not the ones I have seen. Look at the one at Lang Park! Why doesn't the honourable member get out and have a look at some of them?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wharton): Order! I ask the honourable member for Toowoomba North to cease his persistent interjections.

Mr. FRAWLEY: Let him go, Mr. Wharton. He does not know what he is talking about. He only wants to rant and rave, and try to upset me.

An Opposition Member interjected.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I would like to throw the javelin over that side occasionally.

Like the honourable member for South Coast, I am greatly concerned about the incidence of sexual offences. In 1972-73 there were 94 reported cases of rape; 173 cases of unlawful carnal knowledge, which is not as bad as rape; and 454 cases of aggravated assault on females. I believe that the present penalties are not severe enough. I think we should bring back capital punishment for rape, and to hell with all the "do-gooders", who never cease whingeing and squealing about caring for prisoners. Anyone who commits rape should be hanged, and offenders should be given the cat-o'-nine-tails for any assaults on children.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Where are you going to hang them from?

Mr. FRAWLEY: From the highest tree in Murrumba.

This year, 629 drug offences have been reported. After the last Federal election Mrs. Whitlam, at a Press conference, advocated the smoking of marijuana, saying that she did not think it did any harm. What a ridiculous thing for the wife of a Prime Minister to say—inciting young people to licence! Ever since the A.L.P. have been

in power in the Federal sphere, they have advocated the permissive society and lawlessness.

I should like to congratulate the officers of the Housing Commission, who have given me wonderful assistance since I entered Parliament. On every occasion that I have made an inquiry on behalf of one of my constituents they have gone out of their way to help me.

I have been very concerned about land acquisition and development. I understand that the Housing Commission has purchased 10 allotments in Woodford from the Caboolture Shire Council. As I said when speaking to the Estimates presented by the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Welfare Services, I hope Housing Commission houses will be provided in Woodford to warders at the new prison so that they can reside locally.

In Caboolture, six units for single age pensioners as well as for pensioner couples have been completed. They are evidence of the concern that this Government has for elderly people.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: If we didn't interject, you wouldn't be able to make a speech.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I do not mind a bit of interjection.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wharton): Order! There are too many interjections from my left.

Mr. FRAWLEY: In the Caboolture area, as at 30 June this year 67 Housing Commission homes had been completed. Another nine are under construction. In Redcliffe, 76 such houses and a total of 656 units have been built. The honourable member for Archerfield mentioned Samford. I point out to him that the Housing Commission has erected eight homes there.

The Minister has been gracious enough to have extensions carried out to various schools in my electorate. As an example, the Clontarf Beach State High School has been extended at a cost of \$61,210. Additions are also being made to the Caboolture State High School. As to primary schools, additions have been made to the Clontarf Beach State School at a cost of \$52,900; the Kallangur State School is being extended at a cost of \$52,690; and six classrooms are being added to the Kippa-Ring State School by Works Department day labour. The job is being done expeditiously and in a workmanlike manner, and I am quite certain that it will be completed in time for increased enrolments next year. As a matter of interest, on Monday morning last the pedestrian-activated lights outside the Kippa-Ring State School commenced to operate.

Mr. Leese: When is the Minister going to provide them at the Kallangur State School?

Mr. FRAWLEY: I have taken that matter up with the Minister, and I will succeed in having traffic lights installed outside the Kallangur State School, just as I did for the Kippa-Ring State School. When I take a case to a Minister, I present it properly. I do not go off half-cocked like the honourable member for Everton, who rants and raves in this Chamber about the police. On one occasion I had trouble with a drunken, no-good police officer who was a disgrace to his uniform. Instead of crying about it, I went about the matter in the right way. The officer concerned has since resigned.

An Opposition Member: You were underhanded.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I was not. He knew what would happen if he kept tangling with me.

In my electorate a pre-school centre has been opened at Deception Bay. That area was in great need of such a facility, and I am grateful to the Government for deciding to provide one there. I urge the Minister to consider the provision of pre-schools at Woodford, Samford, Clontarf, Kallangur and Kippa-Ring. Unlike members of the Opposition, who sit back and do nothing, I make continual representations on behalf of my constituents.

Mr. P. Wood: Then you made them to the wrong Minister. It is the Education Department that decides where they go.

Mr. FRAWLEY: The Minister for Works is in charge of the construction side.

Mr. P. Wood: He doesn't decide where they go. That shows how good your representations are.

Mr. FRAWLEY: How would you know?

The Housing Commission is an asset to any local authority, because in the construction of homes it complies with all local authority by-laws.

Mr. Leese interjected.

Mr. FRAWLEY: Only this morning the Clontarf branch of the A.L.P. congratulated me on the very fine representations I have made in the matter of the Hornibrook Highway. Today's issue of "The Redcliffe Herald" contains an article in which that branch of the Labor Party compliments me for the job I have done. As an illustration of how satisfied A.L.P. members are with me, they cannot even find a candidate to stand against me. They have no-one to stand against me in Murrumba because they know they are getting sound representation. I will probably get the A.L.P. vote at the next election.

The subsidy payable on a swimming pool at a primary school has been increased to \$26,000. The parents and citizens' association at Clontarf State Primary School has worked very hard for quite a long time

to raise money for a swimming pool. However, as a result of escalating costs, the latest tender price was \$66,000. With the subsidy standing at \$26,000, the association must try to find \$40,000, which will be very difficult. Although the swimming-pool subsidy has been updated I believe that, in the light of rising construction costs, we should seriously consider paying 50 per cent of the cost of any State primary-school swimming pool. I make that submission hoping it will receive the Minister's earnest consideration.

I have had a lot of trouble with the registration of builders. No doubt the legislation has experienced many teething problems. Although I believe that a tradesman should have been included on the Builders' Registration Board, I am sure that the members of the board have a deep concern for the building trade and are doing their best to facilitate the registration of builders. In some areas a low standard of building has obtained, and it seems that anything goes. I am pleased that the board is in operation, and I congratulate the Minister on initiating the move to register builders.

Hon. A. M. HODGES (Gympie—Minister for Works and Housing) (8.7 p.m.): I am absolutely amazed, disgusted and flabbergasted to think that men of supposed integrity, men who have been elected to this Assembly, could stoop as low as the honourable members for Townsville West and Everton have this evening. The honourable member for Townsville West presented a pitiful, pathetic sight when, quite unprepared, he apparently deputised for the Opposition's shadow Minister in leading the Opposition's reply to my departmental Estimates. Quite obviously he had no facts to present, and he certainly showed that he had little or no personal knowledge of police operations. He had to fall back on the now traditional A.L.P. ploy of personal, vindictive attack. Opposition members growl about monopolies, but the A.L.P. engages in the biggest monopoly in the world—a monopoly of filth. I should like to think that the honourable member's remarks reflected not his personal feelings but those of the little cog in the A.L.P. party machine that prepared the speech he presented this evening.

It appears that the enthusiasm of certain other members of the A.L.P., which is displayed in the making of unjustified, unwarranted, ill-informed and "knocking" statements about the police, has rubbed off on the honourable member for Townsville West, a man whom I previously regarded as having a mind of his own; a man I have always respected and whom I have always treated with respect, as I do other honourable members of this Chamber. After his speech tonight, however, I can treat him with nothing but contempt. His criticism of the Police Force and my administration was based almost entirely on newspaper headlines. He could not think of anything original; he merely waved newspaper articles dated from 1970 onwards. As I say, he

based his speech entirely on them; that was all he could do. It is notable that he referred not to the articles themselves but only to the headlines. Like certain Sunday-newspaper journalists for whom he apparently has some admiration, the honourable member obviously believes that he should not ruin a good story with facts.

This evening the honourable member for Everton again condemned the police. I wonder why members of the A.L.P. are continuously condemning and denigrating the Police Force of this State. The only reason I can suggest is that it is the policy and philosophy of the A.L.P. to do so. Bart Lourigan, one of the executive members of the A.L.P., recently said, "These are pigs in uniform. Kick them. They are pigs in uniform." This is the policy and philosophy of the A.L.P. Even the honourable member for Townsville West made representations to me on behalf of a man who attempted to defraud the T.A.B. Mr. Tom Burns, the honourable member for Lytton and former president of the A.L.P., was charged and found guilty of conducting a common gaming house.

The honourable member for Everton organised a rabble in the streets during the anti-Springbok campaign. Even the Federal leader of the A.L.P. (Mr. Whitlam) has said, "If you don't like a law, break it." This is the philosophy of the A.L.P. This is the reason why A.L.P. members in this Parliament condemn the police and have no reason to protect or assist them in any manner, shape or form.

The honourable member for Everton again referred to the Whiskey Au-Go-Go tragedy. He referred to a Press statement that I made. I have it here and, among other things, it says—

"The Police Minister (Mr. Hodges) said yesterday that he might press for a royal commission into allegations that Queensland police were warned about the fire-bombing of the Whiskey Au-Go-Go nightclub.

But he would do this only if the allegations were not cleared up satisfactorily in the Coroner's inquest or the trial of two men charged . . ."

There has been a coroner's inquest, and two men have been charged and found guilty. But the honourable member for Everton, who is at present conspicuous by his absence, did not volunteer to go to the Police Department, a police officer, or the coroner's inquiry. Nor did he make any representations to seek what he is trying to obtain tonight. All he endeavoured to do tonight was to "rubbish" and denigrate the police in this State.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition referred to the statements and the charge he laid against me last week. The honourable member for Everton, last Wednesday week, said, "I understand that I am now supported by a solicitor who has written to the Police

Commissioner and also the Minister concerning this incident." Yes, the barrister—he is not a solicitor—has written to me and, for the edification of the honourable member, I shall read his letter.

Mr. Leese: You are good at reading confidential information, aren't you?

Mr. HODGES: This is not confidential. The honourable member said I had received it, and I have. He referred to it.

The letter reads—

"I am a married man, born on 19 March 1931, and I reside with my wife and family . . . I am a barrister-of-law."

Amongst other things, he said—

"I could say emphatically that there was no force being used, and I could also say emphatically that no force was being used on the man who was escorted into the Police car through the rear driver's side door. I know of no force used on the person of any person in my front yard on that night, particularly during the period I observed the goings-on . . .

"I am most definite that no violence had been directed to them in any way whatsoever. Further, there was no indication whatsoever of any violence having been used. I did not witness any person being handcuffed . . . To the best of my recollection and observation he was not handcuffed. My recollection from what I observed is that none of the young people to the best of knowledge were handcuffed. I do not recollect seeing any person handcuffed that night. I would like to add that, from what I observed, the Police used tolerance and restraint during the episode . . .

"When my wife saw the article in the newspaper she told me that she intended to write a letter to Mr. Jones, the person quoted in the article, to get his facts straight before raising matters such as appeared in the article.

"I would like to add that personally I am satisfied and very happy with the way the Police handled the matter. I consider the Police Officers involved handled the matter in a good and proper manner, did not use any violence, and conducted themselves to the best of my knowledge impartially and in a proper manner."

That is the letter from the barrister referred to by the honourable member for Everton. I have no hesitation in reading it out. It only goes to prove again the lack of credibility of this honourable member, who accused me of using this place as a "coward's castle". But never once has he made a statement outside Parliament. I have answered the statements he has made. He accused me of hiding behind the privileges of this Parliament. Anything that I have said in Parliament I will say outside Parliament, and I will say it again and again.

Mr. P. Wood: Including what you said about Bolton?

Mr. HODGES: Including what I said about Bolton.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition compared me with Brian Bolton, and said that he was a better man in his capacity as a journalist than I was as a member of Parliament. That is fair enough, but if the honourable gentleman wants to compare me with that person, let me refer to a three-page letter that was written and signed by his friend, John Stuart—the man who was convicted of murder, and is now serving a term of life imprisonment.

Among other things, he said—

“I write to you, Brian, as a friend now, and as a trusted ally. I will need your help, and in return I can give ‘Mirror’ publications, through you, much that they would not be able to obtain otherwise. Kind of ‘you scratch my back and I’ll scratch yours’.”

This is the fellow who the Deputy Leader of the Opposition said has a lot of guts and integrity. Bolton, when confronted by the police, said that if the police wanted to really get rid of Stuart, it would be a good idea to give him a Christmas present in the form of a gun. I told him I strongly resented his suggestion, and saw this as a very weak effort to try to impress me. He said he only wanted to help us get rid of Stuart. There is Stuart, a criminal and friend and ally of Bolton, and there is Bolton, who says, “Give me a gun and I’ll shoot him.”

Heavens above! If that is my character as outlined by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, he has a lot coming to him. It would seem that he is completely out of touch. He accuses me, for example, of creating difficulties among police personnel, yet as recently as today the general secretary and president of the Queensland Police Union said that the union’s relationship with the department was on a high level, and they publicly stated their intention to do everything possible to help in the recruitment campaign that I have proposed.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition also accuses me of being dictatorial rather than consultative. He, or his speech-writer, ought to know that I consult senior police officers daily on all matters affecting the Police Force. Anyway, his remarks in this regard were paradoxical. He says that I want to be boss, and yet he accuses me of being a part-time Minister. He also says there should be a separate Police portfolio, but gives no indication of how the Police portfolio is in any way adversely affected by the time I spend on my other portfolios of Works and Housing.

The honourable member is right about one thing—that the Queensland Police Force is loath to give freely and without restriction any confidential information to the Commonwealth police. And who would doubt the wisdom of that, in view of the panicky, desperate actions of Senator Murphy’s midnight marauders? There is no way in the

world that the Queensland Police Force would hand over any confidential information to the Commonwealth police while Senator Murphy and his marauders are in their present positions.

Opposition Members interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wharton): Order! I warn the honourable member for Toowoomba North. I shall not warn him again; I shall deal with him under Standing Order 123A.

Mr. HODGES: This is the way it will remain on certain matters until this madman Murphy is removed from office. Obviously the Police Forces of Australia cannot work together and liaise with confidence whilst this man is free and has the power to order and execute raids that could well endanger the entire security of Australia, and undermine police power to protect the country against subversive elements. These are the issues on which every member of the A.L.P. stands condemned. Every time A.L.P. members rise in this Chamber, they condemn the Police Force and every policeman in Queensland. The number of A.L.P. members who have made representations to me to have police officers transferred from their towns is really remarkable. Obviously the Police Forces of Australia cannot work under these conditions.

I say to the honourable member for Townsville West, “Get off the A.L.P. band wagon, which is determined to crush the forces of law and order and is designed solely to discredit the police image and to bulldoze out of its path those pillars of our society that stand for decency and the other things that all Australians hold dear. Think for yourself.” While he criticised the Police Force, he failed miserably in his 20-minute speech to give one word of praise to its many achievements. Never have I heard from any A.L.P. member since I have been in this Parliament one word of praise for the Police Force. There is nothing from them but condemnation of the Police Force, and it is all because their Federal leader says, “If you don’t like a law, break it. As Bart Lourigan said, they are pigs in uniform.”

While the Deputy Leader of the Opposition criticises the Queensland Police Force, he fails to point out the many innovations recently introduced that have been copied enthusiastically by other forces in Australia. For example, Victoria is introducing a mobile-patrol system similar to Queensland’s; our cadet system is being taken up by Tasmania; the Commonwealth police and the New South Wales police want to adopt our police Arts and Science course; our newsletter, sent to each policeman to keep him up to date with moves and motives within the force, is to be copied by South Australia.

The honourable member accuses me of disregard for the public’s feelings on police matters and of failing to gain community support. I am certain that he would like

as much community support in his electorate, to get himself elected to this Chamber, as I am getting as Police Minister. He was cliff-hanging for weeks and weeks after the last election before he was finally elected, because he could not command the support of the people of his own city.

Although the honourable member accuses me, he fails to give even one instance in which I have failed, in my dealings with him—or, for that matter, with anyone else—to extend the utmost co-operation. He also fails to mention that only this week, at a public meeting, representatives of many public bodies, service clubs, business organisations and individuals pledged their whole-hearted support for a crime-prevention campaign. They, at least, showed their willingness to do something constructive to help police in their fight against crime. On the other hand, the A.L.P. is condoning and encouraging crime in every way. Members of the A.L.P. do not want law and order; they want a free and open go for subversive elements to come in. Gough Whitlam is now inviting them in from Red China and everywhere else. Unlike the honourable member, who did not suggest one constructive approach to the problem and whose remarks were designed purely to destroy the morale of the Police Force and the high degree of public confidence in law enforcement in this State, the people at that public meeting were willing to do something constructive.

I cannot speak too forcefully in replying to the honourable member for Townsville West, who has been treated by me, as I said before, with respect. I have shown him the same courtesy and extended to him the same co-operation as I have given to every other member of this Assembly, whether Opposition or Government. I have done my job and applied myself faithfully and well to government through the Departments of Works, Housing and Police. Never have I made fish of one and flesh of the other; never have I been personal in my speeches in this Chamber in the 17 years that I have been here. But tonight I have been heartily sickened by this dirty, gutter-snipe type of attack by this person who calls himself a man—the honourable member for Townsville West.

Mr. P. WOOD (Toowoomba South) (8.23 p.m.): Mr. Wharton—

Mr. Tucker interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: (Mr. Wharton): Order! I warn the honourable member for Townsville West.

Mr. P. WOOD: I think that the Minister in charge of police should have departed from the neat reply prepared for him and actually listened to what was said in the debate. He alleged that there had been condemnation from the Opposition of the Police Force in general. In fact, if he and his advisers had listened, they would

know that the Opposition's criticisms and rebukes were directed at the Minister and his administration.

I do not think that the Minister can so easily brush off criticism in the way in which he has attempted to brush it off tonight. Those honourable members who move around their electorates—and I hope that most of us do—and listen to the comments of people who read the Press reports of the recent murder trial that has aroused so much comment this evening would know that there has been public comment and concern about some of the evidence in that trial alluding to warnings which were supposed to have been given to the police. Any member of this Assembly, including the Minister, who is not aware of public comment in that respect is simply deluding himself, is not up to date, and is not well informed on public opinion.

There is a degree of public concern about some of the evidence that was presented in that murder trial, and I do not think that honourable members opposite can deny that that degree of concern exists. When honourable members on this side of the Chamber voice the degree of concern that has been voiced by them tonight—

A Government Member: Now you are squaring off.

Mr. P. WOOD: I am not squaring off. I notice that there has not been a great deal of denial by way of interjection of my suggestion that some degree of concern has been expressed about the evidence that was presented. When members on this side refer to the concern which has been expressed to them, we see the Minister react in the extravagant way he performed tonight. I do not think he helped his own cause by the manner of his response. I do not think he did any credit to his position or to this Parliament. If, tomorrow, away from the pressures of debate in this place, we dispassionately read the "Hansard" report, I think it will be agreed that many valid points were made on this side of the Chamber about the Minister's administration in the particular matters raised by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the honourable member for Everton.

It seems that police administration is receiving the bulk of comment in the debate on the Minister's portfolio of Works, Housing and Police. I, too, want to raise some matters associated with police administration. I am particularly worried about the problem of vandalism, theft and arson in schools. It is a very serious one. For some time theft from schools has been increasing in incidence. It represents a very serious loss to the Department of Education, a very serious inconvenience to teachers and a loss to parents and citizens' associations which work so hard to place in the schools much of the equipment that is stolen or damaged in acts of vandalism.

Mr. Campbell: It is always replaced.

Mr. P. WOOD: It is always replaced. But the fact that useful and expensive items of equipment are stolen means that the use of that equipment may be lost to the school for 12 months. The policy of the department is that the equipment is not replaced until the police are convinced that it is lost beyond recovery. And 12 months may elapse before that decision is made. Meanwhile the p. and c. association is in a dilemma, and the teachers are certainly in a difficult position. Even if it is a particularly important item of equipment, they have to operate without it. It is all very well to say that it is replaced, but the inconvenience caused during the period that has to elapse under departmental policy before it is replaced is a very serious problem.

It has been indicated in answers to questions asked in the House that during 1972-73 there were about 330 incidents of breaking into State school properties in the Brisbane area alone. I do not have any figures for thefts and breaking and entering of schools outside the Brisbane area. In the Brisbane area we are faced with the situation where a breaking-in is a daily occurrence. Surely that is a most serious state of affairs. The problem would seem to be increasing. In some statistics he released, the Minister for Education indicated that the loss in the last financial year was about \$6,000 less than it had been in the preceding year, but a loss of \$30,000 in equipment is a very serious one, and I am concerned at the incidence of this offence.

Many of the people who break into schools are juveniles. A pattern seems to be developing, and this is becoming a problem with certain elements of our juvenile community. If the Minister in charge of police or the Minister for Education has them available, I should be interested to see figures for schools outside the Brisbane area. I should hope that they would be lower. I am not even sure that the figure of 330 break-ins in the Brisbane area in 1972-73 was an accurate record of the number. I should hope that it was accurate. I should hope that the information tabled in the House from police sources is accurate.

Statistics were provided in respect of schools reportedly broken and entered, or where attempts had been made, during the period 1 October to 10 October 1973, some nine or 10 days. Four schools were listed. I am aware that the storeroom at the Holland Park State School was broken into between 6 and 8 October, yet that school was not mentioned in those statistics. If there is some breakdown in the compilation of statistical details there I think that rather places in doubt the other statistics. It is a serious problem and I would hope to see measures taken to prevent and minimise the incidence of breaking and entering of schools.

I am glad to see the Minister for Education in the Chamber because I know this matter deeply concerns him. I would argue that, if we could use our schools more, it would alleviate the problem. The more our schools are used and occupied by responsible people outside normal school hours and normal classroom activity, the more the incidence of vandalism, damage and theft is likely to be reduced.

I want to see our schools used to the maximum capacity. I should like to see them used during the evenings. I should like to see our school lights on for some legitimate purpose as late into the night as any responsible organisation would want to use them. I would like to see schools occupied during week-ends. I should imagine that most of the problems of theft and vandalism occur at week-ends when the schools are deserted.

My suggestion would involve somewhat of a change of attitude on the part of the Department of Education, but I am sure it would be welcomed in many circles, not the least being police circles. The more the school is used by responsible people, the less illegal usage there will be. I think that it is desirable from many points of view, perhaps most of all the educational, that schools be used for as many purposes as possible. This means opening the school at week-ends, using and developing the playground, using whatever sporting facilities are available, and using school buildings. Many of the older-type school buildings are perhaps not quite suitable for community organisations and clubs, but I know that newer-type schools have facilities which could be useful and valuable for a whole range of community organisations and clubs.

Mr. Row: What about political parties?

Mr. P. WOOD: By all means. Political parties do use schools for meetings.

Mr. Row: They do, yes.

Mr. P. WOOD: I have attended political meetings in schools and I think it is a very good use. I do not care what political party is involved.

I am suggesting that schools be used at night-time for a whole range of activities. Many schools conduct evening classes, and this is very desirable.

Perhaps we can encourage the week-end use of schools by utilising school grounds and, with appropriate sporting bodies and local authorities, jointly developing them. The school grounds are available and there could be a co-operative effort among the local authorities, sporting clubs and p. and c. associations to develop sporting facilities in them. That would guarantee their regular usage at week-ends. I think this is a proper function for school purposes. It is the sort of thing we should be looking at and developing. I think schools should be used more than just between 9.30 in the morning and 3.30 or thereabouts in the

afternoon, five days a week, excluding holidays. They are assets belonging to the community and they should be looked at and used in that light.

I think I have argued sufficiently about using our schools at night and at week-ends more than we do, and I have pointed out the deterrent effect that this would have on theft and vandalism. There are some other measures that I think we can take to protect our schools. On a trial basis, I should like to see floodlighting of some of our school areas. I notice in statistics I have here that the Indooroopilly High School and the Sunnybank High School in Brisbane were broken into 10 times in one financial year. This is a fairly high incidence of breaking and entering. I do not know the incidence of vandalism and other problems, but perhaps we could pick out a couple of schools where the problem has been severe and instal lighting as a deterrent.

I think it is widely accepted that bright lighting in premises acts as a deterrent to anyone who intends to enter the place illegally. I admit that the cost would be high; nevertheless, it would be worth while floodlighting certain schools in Brisbane that are frequently broken into. Perhaps the Sunnybank and Indooroopilly High Schools could be floodlit on a trial basis to determine whether or not the incidence of theft is reduced as a result. If the scheme is successful, it could be extended to other schools; if not, we will have learned from our experience.

The Education Department has embarked upon a project of marking its equipment. This will make it very difficult for stolen school property to be disposed of. The marks can be identified clearly and cannot be erased. I hope that all schools make use of the stencils and markings of other types that can easily be put onto expensive equipment.

I am in favour of an increase in the number of police patrols both in and around schools. I suppose it is unlikely that police officers would catch someone in the act of breaking into a school. However, if the fact that frequent patrols are carried out on school premises becomes widely known among juveniles who are likely to commit breaking and entering offences, I am sure that it would have a deterrent effect. Perhaps in his reply the Minister could give details of police patrols of schools. The problem of vandalism and theft is a very serious one, and strong action should be taken to contain it before it gets completely out of hand.

I listened with interest to the Minister's comments about the use of police and the better utilisation of the Police Force. However, I did not hear him refer at all to a scheme that was announced in Toowoomba some time after the election last year. Near election time a bit of a fuss was made

in Toowoomba—perhaps it was just coincidence—and an announcement was made that a pilot scheme would be tried in Toowoomba with the co-operation of the Departments of Children's Services and Main Roads, as well as of the local authority, to take away from the Police Department many of the duties that it had previously been required to carry out. For example, police officers are required to deliver summonses at the request of local authorities.

Mr. Hodges: Quite a few duties have been taken away from the police in Toowoomba.

Mr. P. WOOD: I would be interested to hear the details of this. I am led to believe that the local authority now delivers its own summonses.

Mr. Hodges: We are having quite a few other extraneous duties handed over to other departments.

Mr. P. WOOD: I would be interested to learn whether this step is being taken only in Toowoomba or whether it is being taken in other areas. I should also like to know whether the results of the pilot scheme in Toowoomba are being examined.

It is widely accepted that, to enable better use to be made of the Police Force, it should be relieved of certain responsibilities that could be put onto other departments and local authorities. The transport of various people is one duty that takes up a lot of police time. If it and other responsibilities could be transferred from the Police Department to other Government departments, police officers would be released to carry out more important duties. Such a step would certainly increase the effectiveness of the Police Force.

Mr. MILLER (Ithaca) (8.40 p.m.): Having heard Opposition members speak to these Estimates, I am of the opinion that they have followed a pattern set by their deputy leader, who attacked the Police Force. I am wondering whether this course has been followed by A.L.P. members to take some of the heat off the Commonwealth-States Housing Agreement. I should think that honourable members opposite would be very concerned about that agreement, which has a great bearing on the work-force of Queensland for the next five years. However, I have heard nothing from them to show they are concerned about it. Instead, Opposition speakers, including the honourable member for Toowoomba South, have attacked the police.

On perusing today's "Telegraph", I read an article attributed to Mr. Lourigan. While the parliamentary wing of the A.L.P. is attacking the Police Force, the organisational wing, on this very day, is also having a crack at the police.

Mr. Chinchin: They are on the thin line bordering on utter anarchy.

Mr. MILLER: The honourable member for Mt. Gravatt has laid it right on the line.

Over the years, we have learnt what Mr. Lourigan thinks about the Police Force. The Minister told us what he said during incidents that occurred when the South African footballers were out here.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: That is the racist Springboks.

Mr. MILLER: Yes, the Springboks.

At that stage Mr. Lourigan referred to the police as "pigs". He will never live that down. It is a coincidence that these comments by him should appear in today's "Telegraph", the day on which Opposition members are attacking the Police Force—

"Australian police had a lot to learn from Britain and West Germany in controlling large crowds," the State A.L.P. secretary, Mr. B. Lourigan said today.

"Mr. Lourigan was speaking on his return from a six-week tour of Israel, Russia and other European countries."

He has certainly been in the right areas.

The article continues—

"He was leader of the four-man A.L.P. contingent in a joint A.L.P.-A.C.T.U. party."

He then said—

"Our police can learn a lot about controlling crowds and protest marchers.

"Basically, it gets down to respect of the police by the public.

"English and West German police can control crowds and rallies of up to 45,000 and 50,000 with very little antagonism.

"Our police have to learn better public relations, and acquire a better public image."

Here is the real pivot point.

A Government Member: The "nitty-gritty".

Mr. MILLER: Yes, the "nitty-gritty".

He then said—

"The English also allow the marchers to do what they want to do."

That is the problem with the A.L.P. members. They want to see anarchy take over in Queensland as it has in other parts of the world. They want their marchers to be able to do what they want to. If they cannot, they "set up" the Police Force and try to lower its prestige in the eyes of the public.

A Government Member: Government from the gutter.

Mr. MILLER: It will be government from the gutter.

Mr. Inch: Read what it says later.

Mr. MILLER: I do not mind in the least. It then says—

"If there is destruction of property or brawling it is a different matter, and they have to step in."

I would not attempt to deny that statement, but the A.L.P. wants licence for people to do what they want to do. For instance, if they want to take over control of a street and disrupt traffic, or stop people from walking along the footpath, they believe they have every right to do so provided they do not destroy property. I do not believe they have any such right. If members of the public wish to walk down the Queen Street footpath they will do so whether or not the A.L.P. thinks they should.

I am concerned that Opposition members should continually attack the Police Force. I should think they would be responsible people trying to get public support for the force rather than trying to denigrate it every time they open their mouths.

I now intend to deal with the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement because I am ashamed of it, and I am ashamed that the A.L.P. is prepared to accept it. To give Mr. Dunstan, the Premier of South Australia, his due, I point out that he fought hard, with our Minister and other State Ministers, in an effort to ensure that it was improved. But the Commonwealth Government held out and said, "You will either take what we give you, or you will get nothing at all."

Mr. Bromley: They didn't say that at all.

Mr. MILLER: They did. I have here the report of the conference of the Commonwealth and State Ministers and, for the honourable member's information, I shall quote from it. I should like to inform the honourable member that the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement originally allowed for no sale of houses whatsoever, until that provision was opposed by every State Minister, including Mr. Dunstan. This is what Mr. Les Johnson had to say—

"I know that Ministers will be pleased to note that we have decided to change ground quite a bit in regard to the proportion of housing available for sale. At this point we are proposing that 30 per cent of the family dwellings built with Commonwealth advances shall be available for sale . . ."

This might be embarrassing to members of the Opposition, and that is probably why they do not want to talk about it. But I am concerned that housing be provided for people like building tradesmen, certain truck drivers, certain clerks and members of the Police Force, although I suppose the A.L.P. would be happy about that insertion, because members of the Police Force cannot rent or buy a Housing Commission house after 1 January next year. Are Opposition members aware of this? Nor can a building tradesman. For the information of Opposition members, I had better read exactly what the agreement means. I think you should know because it is quite obvious you do not know about this agreement.

Mr. Bromley interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wharton): Order! The Chair will not tolerate persistent interjections.

Mr. Bromley: He should be speaking through you, Mr. Wharton.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for South Brisbane will be speaking outside the Chamber in a minute. I now warn him.

Mr. MILLER: For the information of the honourable member, the agreement reads—

“To be eligible to rent or purchase a dwelling built with advances made under this Agreement (assumed to be dwellings completed during the five-year period commencing 1 January 1974), a person shall be required to satisfy a needs test as follows:—

(a) for a family, the gross weekly income of the main breadwinner (excluding any overtime and child endowment payments) during the six months prior to applying for assistance and prior to being allocated a home shall not exceed 80 per cent of the average weekly earnings per employed male unit in the State, where the family consists of a man and wife and not more than two children. This will be increased by \$2 per week for each child beyond the second. However, in cases where there is more than one regular breadwinner and where, in the opinion of the State Housing Authority, the total family income is sufficient to enable the family to obtain suitable private accommodation, the Authority may refuse an application even though the main breadwinner satisfies the means test;”

For the information of Opposition members, any person receiving more than \$83.70 a week will not be eligible to either rent or buy a Housing Commission house. The agreement, as it relates to couples without families, reads—

“(b) for a couple, including an aged couple, all without dependants, the total income shall not exceed 56 per cent of average weekly earnings; and

“(c) for a single aged person or invalid, the income shall be no more than 37.5 per cent of average weekly earnings.”

This couple cannot earn more than \$59.22 a week, which is a very low figure indeed. If a single person receives more than \$39.50 a week, he cannot apply. He would be wasting his time, as he would not be given a Housing Commission house or unit. In this situation, the A.L.P. Government, which is supposed to believe in supplying houses to the workers, makes half the work-force ineligible to obtain a Housing Commission house.

Mr. Bromley: Come and see me, and I'll explain it all.

Mr. Bousen: Bull dust!

Mr. MILLER: The honourable member for Toowoomba North says, “Bull dust”. I have just quoted from the official Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement. If one goes a little further into this agreement, it will be seen that not only can such people not buy or rent a Housing Commission house, but, if they earn more than 90 per cent of the average weekly earnings, they cannot even buy a house through a co-operative housing society.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. MILLER: As I have already said, I am quoting from the official housing agreement. Any person applying for a loan to buy a home through a co-operative housing society is ineligible if he earns more than \$92.80 a week. We hear a lot about the A.L.P. wanting people to own their own homes, and we also hear a lot about it wanting to build homes for the people. A carpenter with a very sick wife, or a chronically ill son, may want to rent a Housing Commission house. Although he is earning \$100 a week, he could be in very dire circumstances because of medical expenses that he has to meet. Under the new agreement, he would not be eligible to rent a Housing Commission house because he earns \$100 a week. I am not too sure what he will be able to do to obtain housing. He may have to live in a tent, as the Housing Commission certainly cannot supply him with a house. Regardless of the amount he has to spend on medical expenses, if he is earning in excess of the sum I quoted he cannot obtain a Housing Commission house.

Mr. Chinchin: Is it correct that if a man goes into a Housing Commission rental home under the means test and his income rises above the amount stipulated, he has to leave?

Mr. MILLER: Yes. The Government will be forced to evict any worker once his salary exceeds the percentage of average weekly earnings prescribed in the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement. There is no doubt about that. I want the people of Australia, and of Queensland in particular, to know that it is not this Government that will be evicting people from their houses. Those who have to leave will be evicted by the demands made on the State Government by the Commonwealth Government. This will certainly be of no help to the workers of Queensland. It might embarrass this Government, and for that reason I want the people to know that it is the Commonwealth Government, not the State Government, that is introducing this legislation. We merely have to go along with it.

Perhaps honourable members opposite would like to know what Mr. Dunstan had to say about this agreement, because they do not believe what I have said. I shall tell them what Mr. Dunstan thinks about this

Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement. Speaking to the Federal Minister for Housing, Mr. Les. Johnson, he said—

"I put this to you: The things that you said about people going elsewhere for finance—the working people in South Australia—are not the things that the Labor Party has said publicly. They are certainly not the things we have said in South Australia. It would be intolerable for us—I put it as strongly as that—to say to the working people whose base rates I have categorised to you and which are exclusive of overtime and not concerned with payments to other members of their families, that the rate under your means test will exclude them. They are the people we are housing and have had to house. They would have nowhere else to go in South Australia if we did not house them. If we go back to South Australia and say that they will not be housed through the Housing Trust, the barricades would be manned."

That is what Mr. Dunstan had to say about the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement.

Any member on the other side of the Chamber who believes that the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement can be changed has a very sore point to be brought home to him.

An Opposition Member: That's a lot of crap.

Mr. MILLER: The honourable member says, "That's a lot of crap". I hope the next A.L.P. member who speaks can rebut everything I have said. Honourable members opposite have such an opportunity. I have no doubt that they have been told all about this housing agreement by the Commonwealth Government. If the position is any different from what I have said, let some honourable member opposite tell us what the plain facts are. I have given the Committee the facts, and I hope they will either be disproved or accepted. I lay it on the line to honourable members opposite: disprove them, or accept them.

Mr. Tucker: We will talk at the right time.

Mr. MILLER: I cannot think of any better time than when the Works and Housing Estimates are being discussed to talk about an agreement that will come before this Parliament for ratification.

Mr. Tucker interjected.

Mr. Bromley interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wharton): Order! The honourable member for South Brisbane and the honourable member for Townsville West. There is far too much interjection. I shall deal with the honourable members if it continues.

Mr. Tucker interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! I warn the honourable member for Townsville West under Standing Order 123A.

Mr. MILLER: I wish now to deal with land. Newspapers are very quick to criticise the price of land.

Mr. Davis: Why shouldn't they?

Mr. MILLER: I agree with the honourable member that a good deal of land is very expensive. However, one never hears about the land that the Queensland Housing Commission makes available to Queenslanders who wish to build a house through the Commission. Reading the daily newspapers would lead one to believe that it is necessary to pay \$10,000 or more for a block of land. That is not correct. As a matter of fact, the dearest block of land available through the Queensland Housing Commission costs \$5,000.

Mr. Davis: Where? In what area?

Mr. MILLER: We have the city of Brisbane—

Mr. Davis: Where is the land?

Mr. MILLER: In the city of Brisbane, including Brackenridge; the city of Redcliffe; the shire of Pine Rivers; the shire of Redland; the shire of Albert, which includes Woodridge, Kingston and Slacks Creek; the city of Ipswich, which includes Gables, Goodna, Redbank and Riverview; the shire of Moreton, which includes Carole Park; Cairns; Gold Coast; Ipswich; South Goodna; Mackay; Maryborough; Toowoomba; Townsville; Bundaberg; Charters Towers; Gympie; Mt. Isa; Rockhampton; Warwick; Goondiwindi; Dalby; Roma; Gladstone; and in the remainder of the State. There are also 1,187 other allotments in the remainder of the State. Perhaps the honourable member who asked where they are did not think I had the information before me. Plenty of land is available through the Queensland Housing Commission for people who wish to build a house through the Commission.

Mr. Bromley: If they are working in Brisbane they do not want to go to Caboolture to live.

Mr. MILLER: Land is available for those who want it. The fact is that people wish to live in areas other than those in which the Housing Commission has land. That is their choice and their right. They have a perfect right to choose the area in which they wish to live. But those who cannot afford to go to areas where private subdividers are operating can go to the Queensland Housing Commission.

There is no need whatever for the Commonwealth Government, the A.C.T.U. or anybody else to consider entering land development in Queensland, or to talk about

cutting up land more cheaply than the Queensland Housing Commission makes it available, because I say it is impossible to do so.

Mr. Chinchin interjected.

Mr. MILLER: We have the example of the Brisbane City Council, which is one of the biggest subdividers of land in Queensland today. I remind the Committee that the average price charged by the Brisbane City Council for a block of land is about \$10,000—exactly 100 per cent. higher than the price charged by the Queensland Housing Commission. Honourable members opposite talk about supplying land for the workers. It is the Government of Queensland that is prepared to do something to provide land for the workers.

Mr. YEWDALE (Rockhampton North) (9 p.m.): I, too, rise to refer particularly to housing. As to the document referred to by the previous speaker, I have not had an opportunity to study it but I have very grave doubts about his interpretation of quite a lot of it. I remind him, and other honourable members, that the Commonwealth Housing Agreement is to be debated in this Chamber, when probably much will be said about that matter.

I listened very intently to the honourable member for Murrumba. He took us on a Cook's tour through housing, police, police youth clubs, builders' registration, and so on. I noticed that he spent a quarter of an hour replying to interjections.

In his Financial Statement the Treasurer indicated that in 1973-74, \$48,267,000 would be spent on home construction, of which \$17,500,000 would come from the Commonwealth Government. I would suggest that this figure represents approximately \$4,000,000 increase in home-construction finance for 1973-74. The Commonwealth Government has indicated that over-all, it will provide \$218,000,000 to the States for housing in 1973-74. The over-all allocation by the combined States for 1972-73 was \$166,000,000, and this figure was supplemented by the Federal Government by some \$6,500,000 in the second half of 1972-73. It would seem only fair to say that the Australian Government has made remarkable advances in the field of housing, and has lifted its financial support to the States to an all-time record.

The Treasurer further said that the Australian Government insisted that the scheme be basically one for rental homes, and pointed out that the Act lays down that the housing authority in the State must not sell more than 30 per cent of family dwellings. All housing society houses are for sale.

I agree wholeheartedly with the theory that no more than 30 per cent of the homes should be sold, because I feel that the situation with housing in Queensland at the present time is such that many people in the

community cannot afford to buy a home, let alone a Housing Commission home. Many people cannot raise the necessary deposit, although I will concede that the Queensland Housing Commission deposit is fair and reasonable, and the Housing Commission scheme is probably still the best in the State.

The Australian Government is in the process of eliminating stamp duty and legal fees in the New Year, thereby creating more saving for the home-buyer. This move will save a home-buyer some \$1,600 on a home and land that costs approximately \$30,000. Some people may say that the saving will not assist a large proportion of home-owners. But if some positive decision is not taken to curb the cost of land and home-building, \$30,000 for a property will be considered normal.

It is estimated that the average take-home pay in Brisbane as at July 1973 was \$85 a week. Any reasonable property for rental does not come under \$30 a week. Simple mathematics show that the average family man in rental accommodation lives on \$55 a week. Surely this shows an urgent need for housing accommodation not only in Brisbane but throughout the State. Throughout Australia, insurance and finance companies are demolishing buildings in reasonable condition and replacing them with new concrete-and-glass structures for business offices, etc. Surely Governments should be strong enough to step in and stop this type of construction, and have this finance diverted to much-needed home construction for the benefit of the family man. When these huge office blocks are completed they are not always fully occupied by firms and companies. Sometimes whole floors of office space remain vacant. I believe that this Government has the power to stop that type of development. I am informed that since 1961 there has been an increase of 623 per cent in investments in buildings in city business centres.

To my mind, because of its activities throughout the State the State Government Insurance Office is, in effect, party to this type of construction, and is thereby contributing to the continuing housing shortage. Why shouldn't the State Government Insurance Office divert some of this money into housing for the workers of the State instead of supplying cheap money to developers?

In June 1973 the Queensland Housing Commission had a waiting list of 6,006 people in need of accommodation. This included some 236 families with a priority rating and 2,770 families without any priority. There were a further 1,200 applications for age-pensioner units. These figures are based on the period up till last June, and one can only assume that a fairly substantial rise would have occurred in the figures up to the present time.

I reiterate that these figures were supplied by the Commissioner of Housing, Mr. Campbell, who also said when he supplied them that it is the policy of the Housing Commission to induce people in rental accommodation to purchase such accommodation. I wholeheartedly agree with the concept of inducing people to buy rental accommodation that they have taken up with the Housing Commission. Unfortunately, to reiterate my previous comment, many families in the community cannot afford the deposit needed to enter into the purchase of a Housing Commission home. Many people who are in substandard accommodation find that, after placing their names on the list for the rental or purchase of a Housing Commission home, they have to wait for long periods for this accommodation. They become frustrated and disappointed, look for other accommodation in the interim, get themselves bogged down in substandard accommodation and then cannot get out of it. They allow their continuity of registration with the Housing Commission to lapse, and find it too embarrassing to make further application.

I feel that there is a need to allow people into rental accommodation. The reasonable rentals charged by the Housing Commission allow them to accumulate sufficient funds to be able to purchase the home later on, thereby giving themselves some security by owning their own property. I am vitally interested in people in my own electorate who, in large numbers, are seeking accommodation. I am aware of the future plans of the Housing Commission in North Rockhampton. Only today the Minister gave this Chamber further information as to the progress of these plans. This is encouraging, but I recall raising this matter previously, when for several months the Housing Commission did not turn a hand to home construction in Rockhampton.

One of the major reasons for this lack of construction was that the very suitable building area that was available was not serviced by the local authority. I have said before that there is a complete lack of liaison between the Housing Commission and the local authority, and this resulted in the Housing Commission simply standing by, waiting for the local authority to supply the services to enable it to begin construction. This caused further delay and added to the already lengthy list of people waiting for accommodation. However, after long delays the work was commenced and some construction is now under way.

One of the problems with Housing Commission homes is the shortage of this type of accommodation. This creates very keen competition for it. The honourable member for Ithaca spoke about a means test. There is probably room for consideration in this area, as many people who are getting homes are probably in a far better financial situation than those who are not. I know it

is a very complex question, but it is a very important one to many people in the community.

Day after day, both my colleague from Rockhampton and I receive requests from people looking for accommodation. If the Housing Commission could make available suitable rental accommodation, as I pointed out earlier, this would give people the opportunity to accumulate at least some funds and establish the ability to purchase the home.

I heard a comment about the Government throwing people out of homes. I can recall an instance recently in Rockhampton when a man who had been living in a Housing Commission home for many years, lost his wife. Perhaps there was some validity in the argument that he should not be allowed to remain there on his own, but I know he was very disturbed when, ultimately, he had to leave the home and obtain other accommodation. It may be very practical and economical to do this, but after talking to this man I can assure the Committee that in his view it was not a very humane act and he was greatly disturbed by it. I suggest that the Minister and his staff consider this position when allocating homes to families. We continually receive inquiries, but we are not able to satisfy the demand.

One problem that has arisen—mainly in the metropolitan area, but it will also rear its head in the provincial cities—is the re-locating of people whose homes are resumed for the construction of freeways. Where old homes are resumed and, because they cannot be moved, demolished, the residents are forced to look for alternative accommodation. In a large provincial city, suitable alternative accommodation is simply not available. The only accommodation that can be provided for them is below standard, and the local authorities are unable to crack the whip over the heads of the landholders and force them to upgrade it. The result is that the people whose homes it is proposed to resume plead, "Don't take our homes; we have nowhere else to go."

We are continually urging people to apply to the Housing Commission for either purchase or rental accommodation, but at the same time we tell them they will have to wait a long time before they can obtain it. We point out to them that their priority is based not on the rental they pay but on the standard of their present accommodation.

A large number of elderly people apply for Housing Commission accommodation. I commend the Commission on the high standard of units it is constructing for elderly persons. However, other people who reside in substandard accommodation notice this and tend to complain, "If Mrs. So-and-so can get one of those nice units, why can't I?"

I revert to the point I made earlier concerning the expenditure incurred by the S.G.I.O. on the construction of new buildings throughout the metropolitan area, as well as in other parts of the State. I wish the Treasurer was in the Chamber to hear my remarks, because I feel that the money that is spent on those projects could be put to better use in providing housing accommodation for people who are in urgent need of it.

I had intended to develop the line of argument put forward by the honourable member for Toowoomba South in relation to the use of schools at night-time, over the week-ends and also during vacations. I suggest that the department should employ roving watchmen to patrol metropolitan schools on a roster basis. They could work in conjunction with the police, and thereby afford continual protection to schools. I wholeheartedly agree with the honourable member's suggestion that schools be flood-lit at night.

In conclusion, I urge the Minister to give further consideration to the provision of rental accommodation. Yesterday I asked him a question on this subject. To those persons who ask if rental accommodation is available, all we can say is that it will be provided only if other applications are not made to purchase accommodation. The people say, "It is quite obvious that I will not be able to purchase it. The result is that I am not going to be any better off; I will not be able to rent accommodation." A specific number of Housing Commission homes should be allocated for rental, irrespective of the number of applications for purchase. People who wish to rent homes should be able to do so.

Mr. GUNN (Somerset) (9.14 p.m.): I am pleased to be able to participate in this debate. It is interesting to note that expenditure on public buildings rose from \$45,400,000 in 1970-71 to \$60,300,000 in 1972-73, or an increase of 32.8 per cent. Expenditure on buildings has risen at an average rate of 30 per cent; on hospitals and other institutions it has increased by almost 55 per cent. In the 16 years since the Government came to office it has spent approximately \$428,383,000 on buildings. Expenditure on buildings during the past year totalled \$60,286,000. A breakdown of this sum shows that \$33,000,000 was spent on State primary schools, high schools, technical colleges, teachers' colleges and colleges of advanced education; \$3,500,000 on hospitals and institutions; \$2,000,000 on primary industries; almost \$3,000,000 on prisons; and on hospital and maternity works, \$969,000.

An Opposition Member interjected.

Mr. GUNN: I will tell the honourable member about that later. I know he does not like hearing the Government's record

because he knows as well as I do that prior to 1957 the Labor Government had no decent figures to present.

One item of great importance is the expenditure of \$459,324 under the school improvement scheme to assist parent and citizens' associations in the provision of amenities such as tuck shops. These associations are doing an excellent job throughout Queensland, and this money is well spent.

In the Kilcoy area a new high school costing about \$500,000 has been constructed. The Minister is well aware of the fact that further school improvements are required in the area. I am certain that they will be provided in due course.

It is envisaged that, throughout the State, some 500 pre-schools will be provided. It is interesting to note that quite a large sum has been spent on court-house buildings and the construction of new ones. The Kilcoy area needs a new court-house, and I know it is listed for the future. New police stations have also been built at many places in Queensland.

I had the pleasure of attending the opening ceremony at the Woodford prison. This was my first visit to a prison. No member of my family has ever been in a penal institution.

Mr. Davis interjected.

Mr. GUNN: The honourable member for Brisbane was present. I am sure that, like the rest of us, he had an enjoyable day. I believe he was inspired by what he saw.

This type of prison for young offenders is a step in the right direction. We shall certainly reap benefits from it in the future.

I was very pleased to note the amount spent on primary industry research stations throughout the State, and, more particularly, on the Agricultural College at Lawes, which is in my area. A lot of good work is being done there.

I was dismayed at the attack launched by Opposition members on the Queensland Police Force. Such attacks by Opposition members are disturbing. Their line of attack was typical of that adopted by the A.L.P., and it underlined their socialist thinking. The public has a responsibility to support the police in every way. It is very disturbing to see the attitude displayed by many people to members of the Police Force who are on duty at football matches to maintain law and order.

It is wrong to have exhibited, in Brisbane, films in which heroes are made out of criminals.

Mr. Bousen: That is the Government's responsibility.

Mr. GUNN: The Commonwealth Government censors films at present, as the honourable member should know. It is a Commonwealth responsibility. I can assure the honourable member that, if required, we will do something about it in future.

Mr. Davis: Do you know that the other night four Government members were watching "Age of Consent"?

Mr. GUNN: I would not know, but I suggest that the honourable member for Brisbane was also present.

Mr. Davis: I was not.

Mr. GUNN: How otherwise would he know?

Another matter that disturbs me is the incidence of criminal acts against children. The honourable member for South Coast touched on this matter yesterday. He made certain suggestions on how this type of offender should be dealt with; I do not intend to make any, because I am sure mine would not be adopted. These people should be locked away from society indefinitely, or until we know how to handle their problem. Only too often this type of criminal serves his time and, immediately he is released, commits a similar crime against innocent young children. I think that members of the judiciary handle this problem well.

Mr. Jensen interjected.

Mr. GUNN: The honourable member for South Coast did say that, and I would be prepared to carry it out. In my area, I hold the record for tossing calves in the air—every 10 seconds. I would not mind that job if ever it was offered to me. I would be prepared to do it. I wager that the honourable member for Bundaberg would not be prepared to drop his tailboard—

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order! I remind the Committee that the subject matter of the speech of the honourable member for South Coast has no relationship to the Estimates under discussion.

Mr. GUNN: That may be so, Mr. Hewitt, but I was trying to associate my remarks with what he said about a very serious situation that has developed within our society, that is, crimes against small children.

Most areas have problems involving young people. I believe that this is due to the affluence of our society. Prior to 1957, young people did not have any money, whereas now they have cars and earn good wages. In addition, many of them have been introduced to alcohol and, in most areas, police have quite a deal of trouble with them.

Police in country areas have special problems. Their burden could be eased by providing policewomen to assist with clerical work.

Mr. Bousen: We have two of them here. We had an intruder in the gallery in the last couple of days, and they did not do anything about him.

Mr. GUNN: The policewomen in the House are doing a good job.

Mr. Bousen interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member will contain himself.

Mr. GUNN: The police also have a major problem with drink-drivers. Obviously, it is absolutely impossible for them to detect the offence wherever it occurs throughout Queensland.

Although Opposition members have been interjecting frequently during the evening, they have not put forward one proposition that is likely to reduce the incidence of crime. They are purely and simply "knockers", and that is all they have been doing all night. All that they seem to be able to do is attack the Police Force. Their behaviour in the Chamber tonight is no credit to them. If, instead, they set out to assist the police, there would probably be an improvement in police performance, which, I might add, has been reasonably good.

With regard to housing, I am very satisfied with the number of Housing Commission houses erected in country areas. I would, however, like to see units provided for aged people in country areas. I brought to the notice of the Commissioner of Housing today a problem that arises in one of my areas. The homes of some elderly people fall into disrepair and are condemned by the local authority. Units for aged people would be ideal. Putting them in homes such as "Eventide" at Sandgate is like imposing a death sentence on them. I hope that in the near future it will be possible to provide units for the aged in some of my areas.

Mr. Bousen: That's the most sensible thing you've said tonight.

Mr. GUNN: I can only assume that the honourable member has not been listening. Many of my submissions were made specially for the honourable member.

The staff of the Queensland Housing Commission are doing an excellent job and I very much appreciate the courtesy that has always been extended to me when I have telephoned the commission with any problem.

I say once again that the Minister has submitted a very comprehensive programme of works for the coming year, and for that I extend to him and his staff my thanks and hearty congratulations. Expenditure on the Police Force has increased considerably. In my district prior to 1957, I can remember

that police officers rode bicycles, and they were fortunate to have even that means of transport. I can remember that in about 1952 the policeman at Forest Hill had a motor-cycle, but it did not have a light. I well remember one occasion when I called him out at night. He said, "I'll have to borrow my neighbour's car. My bike has no light."

What a difference there is today! Last year expenditure on the Police Force amounted to almost \$29,000,000. One item alone, additional motor vehicles and motor-cycles, amounted to \$1,088,861. Prior to this Government's coming to office, the amount spent for the same purpose would be about the final three figures—\$861. The position today is a far cry from what it was then, yet it is the A.L.P. that is "knocking" the Police Force today. I do not think that relations between the public and the Police Force have ever been better.

Mr. Bousen: You wouldn't know the difference between good and bad.

Mr. GUNN: The honourable member need not worry about that. I have him tagged, too.

Again I thank the staff of the Works Department for their courtesy and congratulate them on the department's very progressive Estimates for 1973-74.

Mrs. JORDAN (Ipswich West) (9.31 p.m.): The Department of Works, Housing and Police cover a very broad field, all aspects of which deal with people in a personal way, be it through school buildings, public buildings, Housing Commission homes, or the Police Department. They are all very responsible areas of government, and some of them are very controversial.

I wish to speak mainly about the work of the Housing Commission and the role it plays in providing houses for rental and for purchase by people in the low-income and the average-income groups—houses built by the Commission, or houses built through the Commission on land owned by the applicant or the borrower.

The task of providing houses for people in the lower-income group has become really big business, and the provision of rental houses for these people is increasingly being forced onto the Queensland Housing Commission. I have said before that the number of people requiring Housing Commission rental houses is one of the biggest problems in my electorate, and the pressure for more Housing Commission rental houses in Ipswich continues to rise. Indeed, more and more people are coming to me about Housing Commission houses and taking away forms. However, I find locally that some of them are very concerned. They pick up the forms, take them away to fill them in and have them signed, but then do not return to me. Apparently they find that they cannot meet the conditions pertaining to low income.

Of course, the situation has arisen that people in the higher income groups are having difficulty in purchasing houses, and are therefore endeavouring to either purchase or rent houses through the Housing Commission to get them out of their immediate housing difficulties. I think the honourable member for Ipswich (Dr. Edwards) has a similar problem of a high demand for Housing Commission rental houses in his electorate, and I am sure that many other members representing metropolitan and provincial city electorates have similar problems.

I was very pleased to be told recently by the Commissioner of Housing, Mr. Campbell, that 50 more cement-pour houses were to be built at Leichhardt, in my electorate, and also a few houses of other types. The Ipswich suburb of Leichhardt contains a very large number of Housing Commission rental houses, and some of those built in recent years are very attractive. A very big proportion of the area was occupied by defence forces under the Commonwealth-States Housing Agreement, and at one time quite a number of the houses were standing empty and the people of Ipswich did not realise that the rent for them was being paid by the Department of the Interior while they were awaiting occupation by defence personnel. The older-type houses in the Leichhardt area are also very much in demand. People who are desperate for a roof over their heads are very happy to be allotted one of them, even though the houses do not have all the facilities that people demand in newer homes.

I am very appreciative of the courtesy and co-operation that I have received from the Commissioner of Housing and his staff. I have found them very helpful, particularly in worrying cases. I do not envy them their job if other areas put as much pressure on them for rental housing as Ipswich does. Some weeks ago, in answer to a question by me the Minister said that the Housing Commission was very conscious of the need for accommodation for low-income groups and pensioners at Ipswich, and that it would pursue an adequate construction programme to meet these needs. It was after that that I was told about the batch of 50 cement-pour houses.

Mr. Hodges: We can't get enough co-operation from the Ipswich City Council.

Mrs. JORDAN: I will admit that there has been some difficulty with the Ipswich City Council. I do not think some of its members quite understand the situation. Many of them are new aldermen, without experience. They have yet to learn. In fact, one of them made the statement—I heartily disagreed with it—that the Housing Commission was putting low-rental housing into Ipswich and bringing second-class people to the area. He had no knowledge or experience of the demand from people already in Ipswich who desperately need Housing Commission rental

houses. He has since realised that he had the wrong notion, and he now has a totally different outlook.

I was very pleased to have the notification about the 50 houses I mentioned. They will do a great deal to alleviate the problems of those requiring rental homes in the Ipswich area. I was also pleased to learn of a further three units for age pensioners, making a total of 12 age-pensioner units in Woodford Street, Leichhardt.

The Commonwealth contribution of \$1,331,000-odd towards the provision of age-pensioner units is very acceptable. The type of age-pensioner units built in Ipswich is very attractive and particularly suitable for age pensioners. I would be very happy to have even more age-pensioner units in Woodford Street, Leichhardt.

With more and more private rental homes being sold, the number of such homes in Ipswich is fast shrinking. There is a constant demand for them. My sympathy certainly goes out to those people who are desperate for a rental home and traipse from agent to agent looking for one. But it has become an almost hopeless trek. It is really amazing how many people seem to think that a member of Parliament has streets and streets of Housing Commission rental homes available, and that they only have to ask to get one immediately, just where they want it. Very often when people come to me they nominate the street, and even the particular house they want. It is surprising how many people seem to know about a house immediately it becomes vacant.

One aspect of the housing shortage that is very worrying is the issue of an eviction notice by a landlord when he has sold a house over the tenant's head. Of course, a landlord has the right to do that if he so desires, but obtaining other accommodation is no easy task for the tenant. Landlords and agents use a lot of bluff and harass uninformed tenants, causing them much worry and distress. The tactics of some landlords and agents leave much to be desired. I have had some very distressed people come to me and tell me of the attitude of landlords and estate agents who are trying to evict them. Indeed, very few people in such circumstances know that they cannot be put out and dumped into the street with their belongings overnight, as it were. When I was in Perth last year, I saw that happen. I saw furniture, etc., being dumped into the street. I was very pleased to be able to say to myself, "Thank heaven that sort of thing does not happen in Queensland."

Tenants often do not realise this when they receive a letter from their landlord or his solicitor asking them to quit by a certain date, which is usually only a short time ahead, and they really panic. It causes much anxiety and heartburning, and it is really heartening for me to be able to tell them that the landlord has to get a court

order before they can be evicted and that the court generally shows the tenant some sympathy and gives him time to obtain other reasonable accommodation. The important point is that the Housing Commission gives high priority to people who have an eviction order against them. However, in these circumstances a tremendous load is again foisted onto the Housing Commission, and it cannot possibly meet all the demands as required.

Expenditure on housing in Ipswich during the last financial year showed an increase of almost \$4,000,000, to \$13,000,000, but I cannot see the increase continuing at that rate in view of the speculative land boom that is rampant in Ipswich at the present time. Land developers and speculators are very active and are reaping a harvest. They are hoodwinking people right and left, particularly people who are too gullible to check out the facts before committing themselves.

I know of instances—and they are not just a few—of people who have been told that reticulated water would be available and that sewerage would soon be provided, only to find later that they had been swindled. Some whom I know have bought land on the outskirts of Ipswich and they will not get reticulated water or sewerage in the foreseeable future—indeed, I doubt if it will be available this century—yet they have speculated on these land buys and will not live long enough to see the land developed. This sort of thing is too prevalent at present.

I am of the opinion—and I know it is the opinion of quite a number of people—that it is time the Government stepped in and took some action to deal with these very untruthful speculators. It is an important matter, and cannot be allowed to run riot much longer. I have heard other honourable members speak of similar things occurring in their areas, and too many people are being hurt in this way. I can only hope that the plans and actions of the Federal Minister for Urban and Regional Development will help quell this situation of rising land values, particularly in the Moreton region, which covers South-east Queensland.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order! I have allowed the honourable member to make her point. I think she will agree that land speculation is a bit remote from the Estimates under review.

Mrs. JORDAN: Yes, Mr. Hewitt.

While the Queensland Government was not happy about the stipulations by the Federal A.L.P. Government in the new Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement, to me they were very necessary and welcome as people on the lower incomes were to have a chance to get a home, whether rented or purchased. The Housing Commission report referred to the stipulations as "limitations", but I believe they are limitations that serve

a useful purpose. The fact that the Commonwealth Government has stipulated that no more than 30 per cent of the homes provided under the agreement can be sold and that sales will be subject to a means test, is, I think, very good. The means test applies to both rental and purchase houses, but I will not go into detail as the situation is outlined in the Housing Commission report.

I think the Housing Commission's rental-rebate scheme is very humane, and is of great assistance to aged and invalid pensioners as well as to widows and deserted wives and their families and to those families in the low-income group. The rental rebate is calculated on a formula that takes into consideration the weekly income of the household. It is a very commendable scheme and I know of many families who, as a direct result of the rebate, can keep their heads above water.

In the home-ownership field the Housing Commission has the lowest lending rate available—5.5 per cent or thereabouts—which enables many young people who would not otherwise be able to do so to build or purchase a home. This scheme, too, is a commendable one. It was interesting to read in the Housing Commission's annual report that, as at June 1973, 58.8 per cent of Housing Commission houses were built for purchase and 41.2 per cent for rental. It was also interesting to learn that, of the 1,779 dwellings completed in 1972-73, 739 were for home-ownership.

I have a good deal of admiration for the job that is being done by the Housing Commission. In spite of the fact that it may not do all we think it should be doing, that members of Parliament may not always be successful in their representations, and that criticism can be levelled at it for inadequate drainage in some of its estates and lack of sewerage in others, it is providing a worthwhile service to the community, particularly those persons in the low-income bracket.

The Housing Commission is making every effort to assist those who need help in obtaining accommodation. It is to be lamented that there is such a long waiting list for applicants for Housing Commission homes—I believe the present figure is approximately 6,000—but it is heartening to know that those in greatest need are given priority.

I welcome the building of Housing Commission homes in my electorate. Of course, there are always those who complain that, by building homes for the low-income earners, the Housing Commission is lowering the standard of a particular locality. But the demand is there, and anyone who claims otherwise speaks with inexperience and a complete lack of knowledge of the situation.

Progress reported.

The House adjourned at 9.48 p.m.