

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 21 AUGUST 1974

Electronic reproduction of original hardcopy

WEDNESDAY, 21 AUGUST 1974

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

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Orders in Council under—

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

River Improvement Trust Act 1940–1971.

Harbours Act 1955–1972.

By-laws under the Harbours Act 1955–1972.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier) (11.2 a.m.), by leave: Yesterday while speaking in this House the honourable member for Salisbury made a number of statements on pre-school education in Queensland. The honourable member claimed, in effect, that the Queensland Government and myself as Premier had no intention of carrying out its programme of pre-school education because the Federal Labor Government had withheld promised funds.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I rise to a point of order. At no time did I say they had no intention. What I said was that they didn't have a clue as to how they were going to carry it out.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: The honourable member is not going to get away with such misrepresentation.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I challenge you to produce evidence that this was planned before the election.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I challenge the Premier—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! When I call "Order", the honourable member will resume his seat.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I apologise, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I accept the honourable member's apology, and I ask him to cease interjecting.

Mr. Sherrington: He's not going to start distorting what I said.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: In his statement the honourable member is again telling an untruth, and he knows it, because our pre-school education programme was prepared long before the election.

Mr. Sherrington: I challenge you to produce the plan for pre-school education that you say you had prior to the election. You table it here, and I'll believe you.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I wouldn't even attempt to have the honourable member believe anything.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The next time I warn the honourable member for Salisbury it will be under the provisions of Standing Order 123A. I ask him to listen to the Premier.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: In reply to the honourable member I will quote his statement yesterday. He said—

"It is obvious that its election promises were a political gimmick designed to trap votes and that this Government had neither the plans nor the funds to finance its promises."

I interpose to remind the House that the honourable member for Salisbury was referring to the Queensland Government, not the Federal Labor Government, although I think he got his facts mixed up a little on that point.

To quote again from "Hansard", the honourable member went on to say—

"Only too eagerly the Premier and his colleagues seized on the announcement that the Australian Government . . ."

by that I suppose he means the Commonwealth Government—

". . . was prepared to divert millions of dollars into pre-school education, and the Premier now has the audacity to say that because the Australian Government's scheme has been shelved it is responsible for his inability to carry out his election promises.

"The Government had no hope of keeping its promise because it had not planned, investigated or sought means of financing the promise until Labor came into office."

The honourable member also claimed that he had parents coming to him and asking him, "When will we get pre-school facilities?"

Mr. Speaker, I cannot and I will not allow a series of deliberate misrepresentations like that to go unchallenged and uncorrected in the records of this House.

Mr. Sherrington: The facts were not only misrepresented but they were blatantly misrepresented.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: Firstly, I point out that it was the Federal Government which offered finance and then reneged on its offer.

Mr. Sherrington: You made your election speech in 1972, 12 months before Labor came to office.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I now warn the honourable member for Salisbury under Standing Order 123A.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: To put the record straight I shall quote to the House a statement that I made on 24 July, which was published in "The Courier-Mail" and "The Australian" and broadcast on other media. This is my statement—

"The Premier, Mr. Bjelke-Petersen, pledged today that Queensland would continue its pre-school education programme.

"He said Queensland had started the programme before the Federal Government had appeared on the scene and would carry it out despite Canberra's renegeing on its grandiose promises of support.

"Mr. Bjelke-Petersen was commenting on the announcement by the Federal Treasurer, Mr. Crean, in his mini-Budget that support for child care and pre-school programmes would be cut back.

"The Premier said Labor had taken away school children's free milk, but he wasn't going to let them take away the school room as well.

"Queensland had 90 pre-school units in operation.

"This would rise to 150 units, with 240 teachers by the end of the year.

"A total of 11,000 four and five-year olds would be attending free pre-school centres this year.

"By 1976—and I repeat that—by 1976, every four-year old in Queensland would be able to have pre-schooling."

That is despite the Commonwealth Government. The statement continued—

"Special correspondence programmes would be provided for an estimated 700 children living in isolated parts of the State.

"The Premier said Queensland was the only State with a full pre-school education programme under way.

"We will go it alone, if necessary, to provide this vital educational service."

Mr. Speaker, I will listen to honest criticism, but not to misrepresentation such as that made by the honourable member for Salisbury.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I rise to a point of order. It seems that the Premier has set out to excuse his failures by completely—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I ask the honourable member to make his point of order.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: He has set out to excuse his failures by distorting completely what I said in my Address-in-Reply speech. If the Premier wants to prove he was right in 1972, I now challenge him to table in this house the details on which he based his policy speech relative to pre-school education for Queensland.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I say the details were never worked out by 1972.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member will resume his seat. There is no valid point of order. This is a sheer waste of time.

Mr. Aikens interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. Sherrington: After what the honourable member for Townsville South did to the doctor he ought to resign from Parliament.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I ask the honourable member to restrain himself or I will tell him what I will do. The way honourable members are acting this morning, one could be excused for thinking that this is a primary school rather than a sitting of Parliament.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH AID FOR HOUSES FOR ABORIGINES AND ISLANDERS

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

(1) What was the extent of the finance received from the Commonwealth Government for home building for Aborigines and Islanders for 1973-74?

(2) How many houses were built from this fund and where are they located?

(3) Is rent being received for these houses and, if so, what rents are charged?

(4) Are any houses built from this fund for sale and, if so, in what location and what number?

(5) Are there any previous instances where Government houses have been built on recognised family lands on islands on a rental basis and, if so, how many?

Answers:—

(1) "\$4,820,000. The Honourable Member is advised, however, that a proportion of rentals received as well as a small carry-over amount from 1972-73 was also available and was expended."

(2) "50 built and 344 purchased or in the process of purchase. Constructed 50—Mareeba, 5; Palm Island, 5; Bamaga, 15; Cairns, 2; Aurukun, 4; Coen, 12; Darnley Island, 1; Yam Island, 2; Yarrabah, 1; Emerald, 2; and Dunwich, 1."

(3 and 4) "Yes. All homes attract a rental but this, however, varies based on the particular circumstances of the tenant and can range from a minimal nominal amount of \$1 up to a full economic rental based on the capital value of the home. All homes are available for purchase on similar terms to those established under the Commonwealth/State Housing Agreement."

(5) "Homes erected in the Torres Strait Islands are all on reserve lands and are subject to allocation by the Island Community Council who take into account all of the traditional and local circumstances."

HOUSES AT ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

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

(1) Have the eleven houses built at Weipa South been inspected and, if so, on what date?

(2) On what date was the contract let and what was the completion date of the contract?

(3) How many houses are still needed at Weipa South, Kowanyama, Edward River and Lockhart River to eliminate the overcrowding which at present exists?

(4) What is the house-building programme for these communities for 1974-75?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) "Works Department carried out inspections over the period from November 28, 1972 up to date of practical completion of the contract on July 23, 1974—18 such inspections were made. The contract was let on September 28, 1972."

(3 and 4) "Weipa, 12; Kowanyama, 20; Edward River, 25; and Lockhart River, 8. The building programme cannot yet be determined as such is subject to the availability of funds."

HIGH SCHOOL GRADES, WEIPA

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

(1) Have plans been made for the provision of Grades 11 and 12 at Weipa for the 1975 school year?

(2) Has consideration been given to the inclusion of homecraft and manual-arts subjects and, if so, when will they commence?

(3) What future plans have been made for the high school in so far as the location and buildings are concerned?

Answers:—

(1) "No plans have been made for the provision of Grades 11 and 12 at Weipa in 1975. The number of students in Grade 10 this year (16) does not warrant the provision of these facilities."

(2) "It is intended to commence home economics and manual arts classes in 1975. Provision has been made on the Draft Works Program for 1974-75 for the erection of a composite manual arts-home economics building, and the plans are now with Comalco."

(3) "For 1975 a double classroom complex is planned for erection. This will also contain staff room accommodation. Although there are no plans to convert the existing Secondary Department to a separate high school a survey has been carried out to ascertain if a high school could be located on the present site if the need ever arose. Hence a site plan for a high school of an optimum size of 800 students has been prepared and it has been found that such a school could be accommodated on the present site of the Secondary Department."

NEW PORT FOR BRISBANE

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

(1) Is the decision to relocate the Port of Brisbane at Fisherman Island still subject to final determination?

(2) Did the cost-benefit analyses on Juno Point, Wellington Point and Fisherman Island favour Fisherman Island or was the decision more related to the impact studies?

(3) Will the status of the port be considered to be that of a feeder port only or will its redevelopment take place on the assumption that it can be a primary Australian port handling ships of all sizes?

(4) What is the time-table for the ultimate phasing out of the port from the river?

(5) Who were the public servants who conducted the inquiry into the site of the new port and what were their respective qualifications?

(6) What expert advice did they seek in arriving at their conclusions?

(7) When will the report be made available to Members of this Parliament?

Answer:—

(1 to 7) "Following on a comprehensive study by my Department of Harbours and Marine of the Port of Brisbane and its future, Cabinet has considered the Department's report on the study and has decided to approve the principle that future development of the port should be planned in the Fisherman Island area. Before dealing with the matter further including consideration of the several conclusions and advices set out in the report, Cabinet has referred it for comment to an interdepartmental committee comprising the permanent heads of six government departments. This committee in turn has referred the report to some 30 representatives of the users of the port for comment which it will consider before reporting to me, following which I propose to offer my advices to Cabinet. The Honourable Member will appreciate that Cabinet has reached no firm decision on the report

or on the matters referred to in his questions to the House. When this is done consideration will be given to publishing the report."

TOBACCO SMOKING AND LUNG CANCER

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

(1) Has he seen the recent annual report issued by the Tobacco Leaf Marketing Board which outlines the value of the tobacco industry to the Australian economy and queries why one industry, tobacco, should be singled out for attack by a small section of the community on the basis of statistical imputations yet to be proved scientifically conclusive?

(2) How conclusively has the relationship between smoking and lung cancer been established?

Answers:—

(1) "I am aware of the report."

(2) "There are so many authentic reports regarding the relationship between smoking and lung cancer as well as other diseases that there is no doubt in the minds of medical authorities. The World Health Organization Consultant Report in 1971 said that every aspect of lung function has been shown to be on average less efficient in cigarette smokers than in non-smokers of the same age. The same report stated that the mortality from coronary heart disease is greater in cigarette smokers than in non-smokers, increases with increasing cigarette consumption, and is lower in cigarette smokers who stop smoking than in those who continue. Sir George Godber, Principal Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, England and Wales, stated that on overall death rates a man smoking a pack a day from the age of twenty can expect to live five years less than the non-smoker of similar age. The two-pack a day man can expect eight years less. The summary from the 1971 Report of the Royal College of Physicians has stated if present smoking habits continue it has been forecast that there will be some 50,000 deaths from lung cancer each year in England and Wales in the 1980's. If cigarette smoking were to cease there might in twenty years' time be no more than 5,000 annual deaths from this malady."

MAINLINE CORPORATION LTD.

Mr. W. D. Hewitt, pursuant to notice, asked The Treasurer,—

(1) Has his attention been drawn to the Press reports of the collapse of Mainline Corporation Ltd.?

(2) What effect will this collapse have in Queensland?

(3) Why does the Commonwealth Labor Government continue to pursue

policies which result in economic conditions whereby companies of this size are forced into liquidation?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "It is too early to attempt at this stage to assess the effect in Queensland of the step taken by Mainline Corporation Ltd. Certainly, it will further add to the uncertainty in real estate development and the building industry at the present time. However, it may be too early, also, to refer to the step to receivership as a 'collapse'. The receiver-manager appointed by the A.N.Z. Bank has indicated in Press reports that he proposes to 'keep the company running on a day-to-day basis' and that 'projects under way all over Australia by the Mainline Group must be finished', which could indicate that no immediate repercussions will occur."

(3) "Press reports indicate that the corporation's difficulties stemmed largely from a liquidity problem and from industrial trouble. The Commonwealth Government has been slow to realise that demand inflation is no longer the major threat to the Australian economy but there are indications that this view is now being adopted. The economy can only suffer if business is needlessly squeezed but it is to be hoped that this will not occur in the changed circumstances. As regards cost increases and industrial trouble one cannot be optimistic. Until the Commonwealth Government formulates an overall policy to combat cost inflation, which includes some form of restraint on prices, wages and other incomes, I can see no end to the pursuit of wage increases and the industrial action being taken to gain such increases."

HIGH-SPEED POLICE PURSUIT OF STOLEN MOTOR VEHICLES

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

While commending the devotion to duty of the police officers concerned in the high-speed chase of a stolen vehicle, as reported in *The Courier-Mail* on July 31, in view of the danger to the public as well as to the police officers in such a chase, is there some other method of apprehending wrongdoers in cases of this nature, such as with roadblocks, which will overcome the hazards that high-speed chases generate?

Answer:—

"Neither time nor geographical circumstance always permits the setting up of effective road blocks. Further, road blocks do not prevent the abandonment of stolen vehicles, nor the disposal of any property unlawfully obtained or of other evidence of the commission of offences. Public knowledge that police pursuit will cease on

attaining the allowable speed limit can only encourage criminals to escape apprehension by driving at speeds greater than those permitted by law. Each case must be decided on its merits by a spontaneous assessment of the situation by the police officers concerned. However, members of the Police Force are directed that they must consider the circumstances requiring excessive speed and any other attendant matters involving risk to persons or property in the light of the urgency and gravity of the particular situation."

RELIEF FOR GRAZIERS, CENTRAL QUEENSLAND

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

(1) Has the desperate plight of the graziers in Central Queensland been brought to his notice?

(2) Is he aware that some graziers in the Brigalow No. 3 area may have to walk off their properties because of the state of the industry and strikes?

(3) Will he take immediate steps to have an officer of his department make an on-site investigation of the area with a view to making low-interest finance available and to giving relief in rents to enable those graziers to stay on their properties?

Answers:—

(1) "The position of the grazing industry in general is giving cause for concern, particularly with respect to the cumulative effects of anti-rural measures introduced by the Federal Government during the last eighteen months, effects which are heightened by current lower returns and amplified even further by the inability of producers to even market their stock because of industrial hold-ups and disputes."

(2) "I am not aware that any settlers have reached the point of walking off their properties in the No. 3 Brigalow Area."

(3) "If the Honourable Member could give me more specific information I will have the matter examined. I would suggest also that requests for low interest or other concessional finance are best co-ordinated through the industry's own organisations. Matters concerning the brigalow scheme and, in particular, relief in rents are ones for my colleague, the Honourable the Minister for Lands."

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES FOR DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECTS

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

(1) In relation to environmental studies required for all major developmental projects and other projects in general, what constitutes a project which requires a study?

(2) Has the Environmental Control Council completed the manual indicating guidelines for these studies and, if so, is it available to local authorities and other people?

(3) Has a list yet been prepared of those competent to undertake such studies and is this available?

Answers:—

(1) "The Queensland Government requires an impact study for all major development projects. No definition of 'major project' has been attempted because in many cases a small project may have more effect on the environment than many large projects. The onus for requiring a study rests with the decision-making authority."

(2) "The manual is currently in preparation. In the meantime, the Environmental Control Council assists Government departments and local authorities in the preparation of guidelines for studies whenever assistance is required."

(3) "A list of persons and organisations claiming competence to undertake studies has been prepared. A copy of all credentials of these persons and organisations is maintained for public inspection in the Co-ordinator-General's Department."

EXPENDITURE ON BELLEVUE BUILDING

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

Since its acquisition by the Government, what capital expenditure has been incurred on the "Bellevue", including painting, electrical installations, structural alterations, provision of fire escapes and alarm systems and expenditure for library accommodation?

Answer:—

"A total expenditure of \$118,293.29 has been incurred on this building which includes charges to capital works to value of \$61,963.74."

SCHOOL TEACHERS FROM U.S.A. AND CANADA

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

(1) How many teachers are currently employed in State primary schools who were recruited to the profession from the United States of America or from Canada?

(2) What action is taken by his department to familiarise these teachers with the Queensland syllabus prior to their placement at a school?

(3) What training is given to these teachers in the spelling and writing of English to ensure that the American methods in this area are not followed and passed on to Australian students, particularly in their early formative years?

(4) How many of these teachers carry degrees from foreign universities and are they paid a higher salary than some Australian teachers with years of experience who are not degree-holders?

Answers:—

(1) "13 teachers from the U.S.A. and 62 from Canada are currently employed in State primary schools."

(2) "Familiarization with Queensland syllabuses takes place largely in schools under the direction of the Principal. It would be an impossible task for complete familiarization to take place before appointment. However as all teachers employed have had at least four years of training, they should meet few problems with new syllabuses."

(3) "Teachers from North America are made aware of differences in spelling and idiom. They are provided with a list of the most common differences. Apart from idiomatic usage, little real difference exists between Australian and American writing."

(4) "All teachers from the U.S.A. and Canada possess degrees which are recognised in Australia. They are paid in accordance with the Queensland Teachers' Award (State). Some will therefore be paid salaries higher than some Queensland teachers who have a few years of experience but do not possess degrees."

YOUTH HOSTELS ASSOCIATION

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

(1) Is he aware of the good work being carried out by the Youth Hostels Association?

(2) What assistance is his department able to give to this association?

Answers:—

(1) "I am fully conversant with the activities of this association whose aim is to provide hostel-type accommodation for young people at various centres throughout Queensland, at a minimum cost, in order that they may acquire a greater understanding of this State. The association is also actively engaged in promoting health, education and recreation amongst these young people."

(2) "A subsidy of \$26,000 was approved in 1973-74 towards the cost of constructing a youth hostel at Kedron which is expected to be completed next December. A request for financial assistance in the current financial year for other projects proposed by this association will receive consideration in the light of finance made available for assistance to youth organisations.

In addition, the Queensland National Fitness Council for Sport and Physical Recreation provides the Youth Hostels Association with office space, telephone facilities and the use of office equipment free of charge."

FACILITIES AT MITCHELL HOSPITAL

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

(1) Is he aware that two young people who were recently seriously injured in a road accident near Mitchell were denied treatment at Mitchell Hospital because the X-ray equipment was antiquated and incapable of performing the service?

(2) Will he remove this equipment and install a more useful machine?

(3) As one of the young injured persons has received an ambulance account for over \$200, is he entitled to assistance to help cover this account?

Answers:—

(1) "It is presumed that the Honourable Member is referring to a recent accident in which three people were involved and a desperately ill girl was transferred to the Roma Hospital for attention by the flying surgeon. The Medical Superintendent at Mitchell Hospital states strongly that treatment was not denied to any of the patients involved."

(2) "Mitchell Hospital X-ray equipment is currently undergoing a complete overhaul and renovation in the Department's Radiation Health Physics Workshop. The stand-by equipment at Mitchell meets most needs. When the renovation of the regular machine is completed Mitchell will be better equipped than ever before. It must, however, be understood that many highly complex and sophisticated procedures cannot be undertaken unless appropriate staff requirements are met."

(3) "I am advised that the Mitchell ambulance authorities transport free of cost all persons who are contributors. I am further advised that when the Mitchell ambulance authorities were making a special drive for contributors the opportunity was not taken to have the young person covered, but that, nevertheless, a decision has been made by the ambulance authorities to reduce the account."

EXPORT OF KANGAROO-SKIN PRODUCTS

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

Is South Australia the only State privileged to reap the benefits of the export trade of kangaroo skins and is it the intention of this Government to take action to enable this State to join in the lucrative market of exporting kangaroo-skin toys, souvenirs, rugs, etc.?

Answer:—

"For the Honourable Member's information, the export ban has not been lifted in respect of South Australia. However, I would point out that the Honourable Member for Balonne has repeatedly sought my support on behalf of the many people in our western areas dependent for their livelihood on the controlled commercial harvesting of kangaroos. This State has always exercised a supervision over the taking of kangaroos, and its system of control meets the requirements of the relevant expert committee set up by a meeting of Commonwealth and State Ministers early in 1973. Unless the present hiatus between the Commonwealth Ministers for Customs and Excise and Environment and Conservation can be resolved quickly, there will undoubtedly be increased unemployment and very probably serious financial difficulties not only for the tanning industry but for the many souvenir and other tourist shops which rely heavily on the by-products of the harvesting of kangaroos which must be controlled to keep population levels below pest proportions."

HYGIENE REQUIREMENTS FOR COUNTRY BUTCHER SHOPS AND SLAUGHTER-HOUSES

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

(1) Is he aware that a large number of country butcher shops have decided to cease operations because of the recent imposition by his department of regulations requiring extensive and costly improvements and that this will result in short supplies and more costly meat to country townspeople?

(2) Because business confidence has not returned to the inland since the recent rural recession and as further closing of business houses can only result in damaging the future of country towns, is any easing of the regulations possible for these small businesses, or are Government loans available?

(3) Has consideration been given to the growth of backyard killing and its impact on general health when townspeople buy livestock direct from graziers and to the fact that towns away from the railway can remain isolated in wet weather for months and are unable to receive meat from central killing points?

Answers:—

(1) "I am not aware that a large number of country butcher shop licensees have decided to cease operations rather than improve their hygiene standards as required by the Meat Industry Regulations 1973. However, if the honourable member will supply me with information to the contrary I shall have the reasons for any such closure investigated."

(2) "It is neither my desire nor the desire of my Department to close small slaughtering enterprises in rural areas. The new regulations have been promulgated to improve hygiene standards at slaughterhouses and butchers' shops. Improvements need not necessarily involve large sums of money. In cases of hardship or where special circumstances apply, licensees have been asked to supply details to the Queensland Meat Industry Authority, which is responsible for the licensing of slaughterhouses or to officers of the Slaughtering and Meat Inspection Branch of my Department where butchers' shops are involved. It is my desire that improvements be effected where necessary without causing undue hardship to the licensee and to the community. Government loans are not available for this purpose."

(3) "I am not aware of any increase in what the honourable member refers to as 'backyard killing'. Outside of declared areas persons can kill stock on their own properties for their own consumption, that of their families and their employees. Otherwise meat can only be sold from a slaughter-house through a butcher's shop."

SCHOOL RESERVE R1877, REDCLIFFE

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

(1) With reference to School Reserve R1877 at Redcliffe, has this property been leased and, if so, what are the terms and conditions of the agreement?

(2) Has a water meter been installed on the property and, if so, who was the applicant and who paid for the installation and the water rates levied?

Answers:—

(1) "School Reserve R1877 has not been leased but since 1967 Mr. H. Strain, 32 Ella Street, Redcliffe has had permission to graze cattle on this reserve. The conditions were that the land was to be kept clean, free of noxious weeds, the reserve was to be fenced and a temporary water supply laid on. The Department was not to be involved in any expense and the permission could be revoked at any time."

(2) "In accordance with the conditions Mr. Strain applied to the Redcliffe City Council for a water supply. All costs of installation of a water meter, and subsequent water rates have been paid for by Mr. Strain."

OWNERSHIP OF LAND, GYNTHY ROAD, REDCLIFFE

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

(1) Does the Queensland Housing Commission own the property described as Portions 348 and 349, situated in Gynthy Road, Redcliffe?

(2) Has this property been leased and, if so, what are the conditions and what is the name of the lessee?

(3) If the property has not been leased, who owns the cattle grazing on the lands?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "A short term lease was proposed but the lessee did not proceed."

(3) "The commission is not aware of ownership of any cattle currently on the land and does not object to the presence of stock which assist to keep the land clear while under consideration for subdivision."

POLICEWOMEN

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

(1) Are women making an application to join the Police Force investigated by the police as to their background, as is done with women for jury service?

(2) If not, what investigation is carried out on such applicants?

(3) To what station was the police-woman attached who was immediately dismissed because of her association with known criminals, in the last week of June this year?

(4) To what files would she have access in the course of her duty?

(5) When did this woman join the Police Force and on what date was she sworn in as a police constable?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) "Appropriate enquiries are made into the background of all applicants for entry to the Queensland Police Force."

(3) "A female member of the Police Force attached for training at Brisbane Mobile Patrols was dismissed in May this year."

(4) "Those files usually accessible to such a member of the Police Force."

(5) "The member of the Police Force concerned was appointed a probationary on December 17, 1973, and sworn-in on April 5, 1974."

APPEALS AGAINST SUGAR-CANE FARM PEAK DETERMINATIONS

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

(1) With reference to the allocation of new mill peaks in Queensland during 1974 by the Queensland Central Cane Prices Board, how many and in what mill areas were appeals lodged with local boards against the new individual farm peaks and how many of these appeals were upheld?

(2) How many and in what mill areas were appeals lodged with the board against

the decisions of local boards regarding new individual farm peaks and how many of these were upheld?

(3) How many and in what mill areas were appeals lodged with the board against the schemes used to distribute the increase in individual farm peaks for the whole of the mill area?

Answers:—

(1) "Individual appeals were lodged with local boards for increased farm peaks in the following mill areas:—Mossman, 2; Hambleton, 11; Babinda, 20; Mourilyan, 2; Macknade, 4; Victoria, 9; Invicta, 29; Pioneer, 7; Kalamia, 10; Inkerman, 3; Proserpine, 13; Farleigh, 5; Racecourse, 56; Pleystowe, 2; Marian, 34; Cattle Creek, 1; North Eton, 6; Plane Creek, 3; Gin Gin, 67; and Moreton, 21. Appeals were also made to the local boards in respect of Fairy-mead, Quanaba and Bingera but the numbers are not available. Of these appeals a total of 27 were upheld by local boards and increased farm peaks were determined."

(2) "A total of 248 appeals against local board farm peak determinations were lodged with the Central Sugar Cane Prices Board as follows:—Mossman, 3; Hambleton, 3; Babinda, 5; Tully, 2; Macknade, 4; Victoria, 5; Invicta, 6; Pioneer, 3; Kalamia, 2; Proserpine, 4; Farleigh, 8; Racecourse, 46; Pleystowe, 3; Marian, 10; Cattle Creek, 1; North Eton, 1; Plane Creek, 24; Fairy-mead, 16; Quanaba, 6; Millaquin, 59; Bingera, 24; Gin Gin, 5; Isis, 3; and Moreton, 5. Of these individual appeals, 15 were upheld by the central board and increases were granted."

(3) "Appeals against farm peak schemes were made to the central board in nine mill areas, viz. Tully, Invicta, Kalamia, Pioneer, Marian, Racecourse, North Eton, Pleystowe and Millaquin. In two of these cases the appeals were upheld by the central board viz. Racecourse and Millaquin."

CONTROL OF OPERATIONS OF PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETIES

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

(1) Is he aware that many permanent building societies are refusing to finance contract-built houses and will only finance speculation houses, or houses that are being resold, on which they hold existing mortgages?

(2) As many contract builders are being forced to either build speculation houses or dismiss their workmen because of this practice and the current economic situation and the only speculation house that the working man can afford is sub-standard, will he take action to tighten the controls on building societies by the legislative provision of a standard set of rules governing their operations?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "The Acting Registrar of Co-operative Housing and Building Societies has advised me that no complaints have been made to his office to suggest such allegations. However, if the Honourable Member can give me the names of any building societies adopting this practice, then I will have the matter investigated."

COMMONWEALTH AID FOR WIVENHOE DAM

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

(1) After the devastating floods in January and prior to the last Commonwealth elections, did the Commonwealth Government promise to give financial assistance towards the building of Wivenhoe Dam as a flood-mitigation scheme for Brisbane?

(2) Has he any further information concerning the amount of the assistance likely to come from the Commonwealth?

Answers:—

(1) Following on the floods of January this year in the Brisbane River, the Government requested financial assistance from the Commonwealth Government in order to expedite construction of Wivenhoe Dam as a flood mitigation scheme. Indeed, the Commonwealth Minister for Northern Development, Dr. Patterson, undertook to support this request and later indicated at a meeting of the Natural Disaster Co-ordinating Committee that the provision of this assistance would be treated as a matter of urgency in view of the devastation caused by the flood. On March 25, the Prime Minister advised that the State's report on Wivenhoe Dam for water supply and flood mitigation purposes would 'be examined promptly with a view to early consideration of your request for financial assistance'. The Commonwealth Government suggested that certain assumptions used in the technical analysis on which the decision to build Wivenhoe Dam was based might need revising. However, it has since been advised that no significant adjustments due to information obtained from the 1974 flood are required. Further discussions between State and Commonwealth officials have been arranged."

(2) "No specific amount of financial assistance has been offered to date."

INTEREST RATES ON RURAL SEWERAGE SCHEMES

Mr. Gunn, pursuant to notice, asked the Treasurer,—

In view of the high interest rates being paid by shire councils to finance sewerage undertakings in country areas and the resultant high cost to the householder for

this necessary service, will he endeavour to have interest rates reduced on funds borrowed for this purpose?

Answer:—

"The maximum rates of interest applicable to semi-governmental and local body borrowings for capital works, such as sewerage undertakings, are fixed by the Australian Loan Council and all major lenders observe those interest rates. I am aware of the problem the Honourable Member has raised. However, the prevailing high interest rates are related to world-wide inflation. Because of their widespread application and also because control of the Australian economy is the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government, I cannot see what effective action a State Treasurer can take to have interest rates reduced."

LIQUOR CONCESSION OF ESTATE OF M. T. SULLIVAN AT BRISBANE SHOWGROUND

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

In view of the recent amendments to the Liquor Act which ended the "tied-house" system in hotels, how can the estate of M. T. Sullivan, which has the liquor concession at the Brisbane Showground, completely disregard these provisions by offering show patrons only one brand of beer?

Answer:—

"The provisions of Section 47A of the *Liquor Act* 1912-1973 requiring licensees to keep in stock for supply for consumption off the premises, all classes, kinds, brands and descriptions of wines or spirits or packaged beer that are reasonably obtainable in Queensland, do not apply to the holders of booth licenses under the Act. Bars at the Brisbane Showground are conducted under booth licenses."

HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL STAFF, PRINCESS ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

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

(1) With reference to newspaper reports of deteriorating morale amongst hospital and medical staff, did the management consultants, Scott & Co., present their report to a medical staff meeting at the Princess Alexandra Hospital on August 1 and did the Medical Superintendent of the hospital immediately state to the meeting his opposition to the proposal because the proposed hospital executive, under this reorganisation, would be completely surrounded by Health Department employees?

(2) Has he received a copy of the unanimous resolution carried by the Princess Alexandra medical staff, which stated that it was the opinion of the meeting

that one person should be the Chief Executive on site and that that person should be the Medical Superintendent?

(3) What action has he taken to resolve this dispute which, when added to the long list of previous complaints about Brisbane's major hospitals, is causing major concern to many citizens and those involved in the operation of the free hospital service?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) "I am aware of the meeting held at Princess Alexandra Hospital on August 1, 1974, when representatives of the management consultants, Messrs. W. D. Scott and Co., discussed the Hospital Improvement Programme, as it related to medical staffing. I am advised that the resolution referred to by the Honourable Member will be presented to the South Brisbane Hospitals Board at its next meeting. Further, a request has been made to me to meet representatives of the medical staff to discuss the resolution."

INSPECTORS AND SAFETY PROVISIONS ON BUILDING CONSTRUCTION WORK

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

(1) Have construction-work inspectors regularly checked safety features on the multi-storey block at Royal Brisbane Hospital from which a young building worker fell to his death on August 1 and, if so, on what occasions and with what results?

(2) How many accidents were reported in each of the last three years involving construction work and construction workers and how many inspectors were employed in each of those years?

(3) As a result of the comments by the Chief Inspector in the 1973 report to Parliament, what action has the Minister taken on the question of salaries for construction-work inspectors?

(4) Are applicants for appointment as inspectors required to have completed apprenticeships in the building trade and do building tradesmen currently receive \$127 per week when commencing work whilst construction-work inspectors with the same qualifications, after additional training, receive \$109?

(5) How many additional inspectors were appointed as a result of the last two advertisements by the Construction Branch for inspectors to fill the nine vacancies?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes. This construction site has been regularly inspected by an inspector of construction work and on each inspection for many months prior to August 1, 1974, no apparent contraventions of the Construction Safety Act and Regulations were in evidence other than minor matters which were attended to immediately."

(2) "Detailed information regarding accidents reported is readily available from a perusal of the Annual Reports of the Chief Inspector of Construction Work for the years in question. As at June 30 in each of the years 1972, 1973 and 1974 the Division of Occupational Safety and Weights and Measures employed 21, 21 and 19 inspectors respectively."

(3 to 5) "The salaries of inspectors of construction work have been the subject of serious consideration by senior officers of my Department and the Department of the Public Service Board and consideration of this matter is continuing in an endeavour to recruit inspectors. The Construction Safety Regulations enumerate the qualifications required for an applicant to qualify for appointment as inspector. In view of the overfull employment situation in the building industry in recent years, it has not been possible to attract suitably qualified applicants to fill vacancies in this field. I am sure the Honourable Member must agree that there is presently a general reduction in work available in the building construction industry as a result of the economic policies of the present Commonwealth Government and it is expected that with a slight adjustment to qualifications the Division of Occupational Safety and Weights and Measures will receive numerous applications from suitably qualified persons in order that they may obtain security of employment in the Queensland Public Service. I must stress to the Honourable Member that the Construction Safety Act of Queensland is recognised as being the most advanced piece of legislation of its kind in Australia and is also acknowledged as one of the leading pieces of legislation in this field in the industrialised countries of the world. It has the unanimous approval of the tripartite Building Construction Industry Safety Council and there is no doubt that since its enactment in 1971, the provisions contained in this Act and the Regulations thereunder have assisted considerably in reducing the accident rate in the building construction industry."

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL, LICENCES AND FEES

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

(1) How many licences to discharge into bays, rivers and streams have been issued by the Water Quality Council since the inception of the Act and its regulations?

(2) What is the total amount of fees involved in these licences and what is the highest single licensing fee levied to date?

(3) How many licences have been issued this year?

(4) Is the issue of further licences planned before the end of the year? If so, when and to what firms?

(5) What firms have been granted licences to date and what is the name of the receiving river, stream or bay, in each case?

Answers:—

(1) "A total of 164 licences have been issued to date."

(2) "The total amount of fees paid to date is \$130,439. The highest single fee is \$2,000, which is the maximum set out in the *Clean Waters Act 1971*."

(3) "A total of 126 licences have been issued this year."

(4) "Further licences will be issued before the end of the year but I am unable to anticipate the dates and the names of the firms."

(5) "The Honourable Member's request is being examined in detail and I will forward a reply to him in the near future."

WASTAGE RATE OF STUDENT NURSES IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS, BRISBANE

Dr. Crawford, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Health,—

(1) What is the percentage of nurse-trainee wastage in the Brisbane public hospital system?

(2) How do the wastage figures compare with those pertaining to comparable public hospitals in Sydney and Melbourne and how much are the wastage situations in these major hospitals influenced by the parsimonious attitude towards assisting with escalating hospital costs of the present Commonwealth Government?

Answers:—

(1) "The wastage rate for student nurses for the year 1972-73 as published in the report of the Director-General of Health and Medical Services for that year was:— Princess Alexandra Hospital, 12.56 per cent.; Royal Brisbane Hospital, 16.90 per cent.; and Royal Women's Hospital, 17.29 per cent."

(2) "Information on the wastage rate of student nurses in comparable hospitals in other States is not available within my Department. There is no discernable relationship between the wastage situations to which the Honourable Member refers and the State's financial relationship with the Commonwealth."

HOSPITAL BEDS, BRISBANE-REDCLIFFE AREA

Dr. Crawford, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Health,—

(1) How many (a) public, (b) intermediate and (c) private hospital beds are available for use in the Brisbane metropolitan area, including Redcliffe, in (i) public hospitals and (ii) private hospitals?

(2) What numbers of beds in these categories are currently not being used and when will all beds be fully utilised?

Answers:—

(1) "The number of beds, available for use in State controlled public hospitals in the metropolitan area, including Redcliffe are:—(a) public wards, 3,382; (b) intermediate ward, 466; and (c) private, 56. Total, 3,904. The Department is not aware of the situation in respect of the availability and usage of beds in private hospitals."

(2) "The average daily bed occupancy of beds shown above, for the three months ending June 30, 1974, was as follows:— (a) public, 2,737.19; and (b) intermediate and private, 358.16. The Honourable Member will be aware that, due to the nation wide shortage of nursing staff, certain wards at Royal Brisbane Hospital and Chermiside Hospital have been temporarily closed."

FREE TRANSPORT FOR COUNTRY PATIENTS REQUIRING SPECIAL TREATMENT

Dr. Crawford, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Health,—

(1) How many patients annually would need medical or surgical treatment in special units such as dialysis and intensive-care units beyond the scope of a country centre such as Mount Isa?

(2) As it would be necessary for patients to be transported to Brisbane from Mount Isa for these special forms of treatment, will he investigate, in conjunction with the Minister for Transport, the feasibility of providing free transport under Government auspices?

Answers:—

(1) "I am advised that the total number of patients coming to Brisbane from all centres outside the capital city for opinion and/or treatment at the Princess Alexandra Hospital Renal Unit is approximately three per month. At the Chermiside Hospital Cardiac Unit the source of patients is on a population basis. The number of patients coming to Brisbane for dialysis will be greatly reduced when the three dialysis units at Townsville, Rockhampton, and Toowoomba, for which approval has been given, are fully functional."

(2) "The State Health Department already provides free transport for all persons suffering from malignancy who are recommended by the local Medical Superintendent and approved by the Director-General. Free transport is also supplied under a means test basis for other patients."

**BESTLINE PTY. LTD. AND PYRAMID
SELLING**

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

(1) Is he aware that a company, Bestline Products, which was ordered to pay more than \$1 million by the United States Court for operating a pyramid-style marketing system, is now reported to be operating in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland and averaging \$35,000 to \$70,000 a month in sales?

(2) Is he also aware that the company, which has its products made by two small Sydney chemical companies, is aiming to have 18,000 to 23,000 Australian agents for the sale of products, which retail with 122 per cent. mark-up, with sales of \$3 million per month?

(3) What action has been taken by his departmental officers with regard to this company to ensure that the public are protected against such operators?

Answers:—

(1) "A company called Bestline Products (Aust.) Pty. Limited incorporated in the Australian Capital Territory is registered in Queensland as a foreign company. However, I am advised that the Police Department has been investigating the activities of an organisation reported as being called Bestline Pty. Ltd. as to whether it is conducting a pyramid selling scheme."

(2) "The results of this investigation have not yet been made known to the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs. The last report stated that more time will be needed to bring the investigation to a conclusion."

(3) "The matter was referred to the police by the Pyramid Selling Schemes Elimination Committee which was set up under the *Pyramid Selling Schemes (Elimination) Act 1973*."

**FAULTY CONSTRUCTION OF HOMES;
INCREASED POWERS FOR BUILDERS'
REGISTRATION BOARD**

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

(1) As a young married couple named Bridges purchased a home at Stafford from Mr. Starkey of Stabilt Homes Pty. Ltd., Chermside, in March, 1972, and as the building has numerous defects and the owner contacted the Builders' Registration

Board, which endeavoured unsuccessfully to arrange a meeting on the site with the builder, will he ascertain what pressure can be brought to bear to ensure that this young couple is not to suffer financial loss as a result of this incompetent work and the deterioration of the dwelling resulting from such work?

(2) Will he have the Act reviewed to ensure the strengthening of the registration board's powers if the existing provisions are inadequate to deal with such cases?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "A complaint was received by the Builders' Registration Board of Queensland from Mr. and Mrs. L. T. Bridges on June 4, 1974, in connection with a home purchased from Stabilt Homes Pty. Ltd. The matter was investigated by the Board and it was found that the building was constructed prior to the introduction of the *Builders Registration Act 1971-1973*. The board has on several occasions endeavoured to have the defects rectified, however this has been without success and it would appear that no further action can be taken against the builder in this instance."

**HOME DELIVERIES OF UNWRAPPED
BREAD**

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

Whilst a great deal of attention has been directed towards food standards and hygiene and it is apparent that some attention is warranted in regard to the handling of unsliced, unwrapped bread and whilst "The Bread Delivery Act of 1946" imposes many conditions relevant to home deliveries but there are many instances where bread is being delivered in the early hours of the morning, with unwrapped bread being placed on steps and other open areas in a most unhygienic manner, what action can be taken to ensure that adequate standards are attained?

Answer:—

"The Bread Delivery Act of 1946" was promulgated to require and regulate deliveries of bread to householders by bakers. This action was necessary to remedy a situation which had developed during World War II in regard to the zoning of bread deliveries and to enable householders in Brisbane and in all cities of Queensland and in all towns of any size throughout the State to have a free and unrestricted choice and delivery of bread to their residences. In regard to hygiene of bread on its delivery, this is not a matter coming within my administration."

**AUCTION SALE BY W. BOARDMAN
AND Co.**

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

(1) What redress have people who purchased goods at an auction sale conducted by W. Boardman and Co. on June 6 and who, after paying for the goods, were refused them when they went to collect them on June 9?

(2) As Mr. Boardman has refused to refund any money and still will not supply the goods purchased, is he liable for action under the Auctioneers and Agents Act and, if so, will action be taken?

Answers:—

(1) "I am informed that non-delivery of the goods bought at this auction is a result of a dispute between the auctioneer and his principal. So far this dispute has not been resolved and might result in legal action between the parties."

(2) "Enquiries are presently being made by an inspector of the Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs and on receipt of his report the question of whether or not action should be taken will receive consideration."

**PLAYING FIELD, KIPPA-RING STATE
SCHOOL**

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

(1) Who was the successful tenderer and what was the amount of the tender for clearing the new playing field at Kippa-Ring State School?

(2) Were any other tenders received and, if so, what were the names of the tenderers and the amounts tendered?

(3) What was the commencement date of the work to be carried out and what is the completion date?

(4) Is any penalty clause incorporated in the contract?

(5) Will he give an assurance that the new playing field will be ready for use by the 1975 school year?

Answers:—

(1) "Roadway construction for an amount of \$1,200."

(2) "Yes. R.M.C. Excavators, \$1,500; N.C. & C.I. Stockwell, \$2,940; and R. W. Dun, \$3,038."

(3) "The Departmental official order and acceptance was issued to Roadway Constructions on January 24, 1974, with a time for completion of work of two weeks. On two occasions when the contractor commenced work his machines bogged."

(4) "No. This is in the category of minor work on a quotation basis."

(5) "Efforts to have the contractor commence work have not been successful and action has been taken to cancel the acceptance of Roadway Constructions' quotation and invite fresh quotations. Subject to obtaining a satisfactory price and contractor every effort will be made to have the work completed for the 1975 school year."

**INTEREST RATES ON LOANS FOR
HOME PURCHASE**

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

(1) Has he seen or been informed of statements made during the last week-end in the Press and on the radio and television by the Leader of the Opposition that the exorbitant interest rates charged to young people buying their own homes was the responsibility of the State Government, which fixes interest rates to be charged by housing and building societies?

(2) What is the real reason for the increase in interest rates?

(3) What interest rates are charged by the Trade Union Building Society, which is supported by the Leader of the Opposition, and are they any lower than those charged by other building societies?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes. The statements suggest that either the Opposition Leader is totally ignorant of the facts concerning interest rates or has deliberately distorted them for dubious political motives."

(2) "The Opposition Leader, like the rest of us, is well aware that escalating interest rates began when the Federal Government 'fired the starting pistol' by increasing the bond rate. It must be obvious that high interest rates are part of the Federal Government's anti-inflationary tactics; and to blame or attempt to blame the State Government in this regard is ludicrous. It seems strange that in his tirade on interest rates the Opposition Leader made no mention of the increase granted by the Federal Government to the interest offered by the Labor-controlled Brisbane City Council in respect to its public loan. The loan rates were substantially increased presumably in a bid to attract investment capital at the expense of other institutions, notably the building societies. The State Government will not allow the funds of building societies, which are financing the homes of so many Queenslanders, to be depleted in the face of such unfair competition. The Leader of the Opposition knows well then, that it was in order to keep the attractions of these vital building societies on a par with other institutions such as B.C.C. loan, that it agreed reluctantly, to increase the interest rates payable. However, it

must be stressed that were it not for the Federal Government's monetary policy, the increase would not have been necessary."

(3) "The Trade Union Building Society, supported presumably by the Opposition Leader, charges 11 per cent., the same as other building societies, and increased its charges along with the others for exactly the same reasons... fierce competition in the market caused by Federal monetary policy and an increase in the bond rate."

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

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

(1) Has he been informed that lawyers are examining the possibility of appealing to the High Court in an endeavour to have the conviction of the two Whisky Au-Go-Go murderers, who were responsible for the death of 15 innocent people, quashed and are hoping that the Government will foot the huge bill involved?

(2) How much has the defence of these two murderers already cost the Government?

(3) In view of the frequent public statements by Mr. Gardiner that criminals are men of dignity possessing civil rights, will an approach be made to Mr. Gardiner, or his Civil Rights Association, to foot this bill?

(4) If the approach fails, will an approach be made to the Australian Labor Party to foot the bill, as Mr. Gardiner is a prominent member of that body and is its endorsed candidate for Kurilpa in the forthcoming State election?

Answers:—

(1) "No application has been received for the assignment of legal aid in respect of an appeal to the High Court of Australia."

(2) "\$10,546."

(3) "No."

(4) "No."

**FINANCIAL POSITION OF IPSWICH
CITY COUNCIL**

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

(1) Has he seen the report of a statement by an Ipswich City Council alderman that the council is bankrupt?

(2) What is the financial position of the Ipswich City Council?

(3) In the light of the reports, will he investigate this statement so that the jobs of many Ipswich council workers will not be jeopardised in the near future by the financial position of the council?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "I am advised that there were substantial deficits in the general, sewerage and cleansing and water funds of the council at June 30, 1974. The council has adopted balanced budgets in these funds for the current financial year, such budgets providing for an average increase of 48 per cent. in payments by rate-payers."

(3) "I am advised that the council does not envisage the retrenchment of staff during this financial year. From the above it appears the Ipswich City Council has taken measures to ensure its financial viability and retain all its staff, however, I am concerned for ratepayers with an average increase in rates of 48 per cent. This situation gives strong support to my continued requests to the Commonwealth Government for a share of the common taxation pool to be allotted to local authorities as of right."

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

AUSTRALIAN EQUITY IN MINING OPERATIONS

Mr. TUCKER: I ask the Premier: As Sir Robert Askin has announced that the New South Wales Government will require all future mining operations to be Australian controlled to the extent of 51 per cent equity, when will Queensland take similar action?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: Obviously the Leader of the Opposition has not been as wide awake as he thinks he is because it was clearly made known by the Minister for Mines and Main Roads over two months ago that wherever possible the Queensland Government would adopt the same attitude and take the same action as it has always taken on this issue and would require greater Australian participation. On the other hand, we have said also that where this is not possible we will not jeopardise jobs and we will not hold up projects, as the Commonwealth Government has done on so many occasions. If that Government had adopted a policy similar to ours when this requirement could be met, we would have been in a much better position with employment. We have a very practical approach to the whole problem, as we have always demonstrated.

**TRANSPORT OF MOTOR FUEL TO
NORTH QUEENSLAND**

Mr. ROW: I ask the Premier: If the movement of oil tanker vessels presently held up by industrial action of the trade unions is not achieved today, will he ensure that rail tankers of motor fuel are directed to North Queensland, to all regions north of Rockhampton, not later than tomorrow?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: For the information of the honourable member—the Government has taken every action possible through the Minister for Transport (Mr. Hooper) to make rail tankers available. There are still industrial problems which have prevented the supply of fuel to parts of Queensland to which we should like to have fuel transported. We will know later today whether the vessel “W. M. Leonard” will be allowed to leave the berth and sail up our coastline.

Mr. Marginson: How is the fuel for your plane?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: The honourable member might like to make a joke of the matter but it is a very serious situation for many people and for the economy of the nation. I am rather shocked that he would try to make a joke of it because to us the situation is exceedingly serious and one which does not stand to the credit of certain union leaders in this State. They seem to be able not only to tolerate a situation like this but to seek to further it so that people are deprived of many things including, in some cases, their livelihood. Such a situation in the State and nation is to be greatly regretted. Honourable members opposite and particularly the honourable member who interjected should show some leadership in the ranks of their own party and the A.L.P. and unions generally. Such leadership is certainly lacking.

When fuel is available the oil companies are doing everything in their power to distribute it throughout the State, which covers a vast area and has many varying requirements. They are doing what they can and we are doing what we can in the circumstances. I can assure the honourable member of that.

Referring to the Commonwealth Government—I have had no reply to my request to the Prime Minister. I have seen one or two statements by Dr. Patterson that he hopes to make fuel from the Navy available in North Queensland. I took that matter up long before they even thought of it but they still have not come forward with any concrete suggestions for helping the people of North Queensland.

STATEMENTS BY LABOR LEADERS ON COMMUNIST INFLUENCES IN UNIONS

Mr. HINZE: I ask the Premier: Has his attention been drawn to the repeated statements by the president of the Trades and Labor Council in Queensland (Mr. Jack Egerton), supported by the Prime Minister (Mr. Gough Whitlam) and the Minister for Labour (Mr. Clyde Cameron), that the Communist movement has now secured a stranglehold on unionism throughout Australia to the detriment of the nation as a whole?

Does this mean that the Premier may now receive greater support from these quarters in his continued and increasing efforts to

rid Australia of this cancerous growth which is menacing the economic structure of the entire nation?

An Honourable Member: You've got Jack Egerton on side.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: That is true, and I wish I could say the same for all honourable members opposite. Unfortunately, however, they are in the camp of the Communists. Some people treat this matter lightly and try to make a joke of it—they try to push it into the background or sweep it under the mat. They do not realise that a very serious situation is developing before our very eyes. Unfortunately it is fully supported by members of the Opposition. We do not see them taking a firm stand against the Communists in this State and nation. Mr. Egerton has given a lead, but we don't see any Opposition members following his example.

Mr. F. P. Moore: Why don't you name the Communists?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I have already warned the honourable member for Mourilyan. I now warn him under the provisions of Standing Order 123A. Perhaps he will restrain himself in future.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: In conclusion, a very serious situation confronts the nation. Encouragement has been given by the Federal Government and the A.L.P. in Queensland to the Communist Party. Moreover, the Commonwealth Government is in close association with Communist nations throughout the world. There is no doubt that the Communists know they have a free go under the Federal Labor Government and under the A.L.P. in Queensland. My Government will continue to oppose Communism and alert the people of Australia to its dangers. I challenge the Leader of the Opposition to say where he stands in relation to the Communists.

STATEMENTS BY MR. J. EGERTON AND OTHERS ON TRENDS IN TRADE-UNIONISM

Mr. HOUGHTON: I ask the Premier: Has his attention been drawn to statements by the honourable member for Lytton and the honourable member for Rockhampton in support of the president of the Queensland Trades and Labor Council, Mr. Jack Egerton, who condemned anarchy and militancy in trade unions? In view of the fact that the Leader of the Opposition has not made any statement on this issue, will the Premier ascertain from him whether he agrees or disagrees with Mr. Egerton? Further, will he arrange to have the reply of the Leader of the Opposition transmitted to the House?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I would very much like to know where the Leader of the Opposition stands on this question as well as on many others that affect this State and the nation?

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Where do you stand?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: The honourable member knows where I stand; I don't stand on the side he stands on. I am sure that everyone in Queensland would like to see the Leader of the Opposition come out like the honourable member for Lytton and one or two other members of the Labor Party who have the courage to say where they stand in this matter of anarchy in Queensland.

Mr. Burns: You leave me alone.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I now warn the honourable member for Lytton under Standing Order 123A.

Mr. Tucker: One thing is certain—I wouldn't support you in anything.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I wouldn't want you to! I do, however, want the Leader of the Opposition to support the people of this State and the nation, and to follow the example set by Jack Egerton and others and take a stand against anarchy. If he does that, some people may have a little more respect for him than they have at the moment.

SUSPENSION OF BLIND WORKERS, QUEENSLAND INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND

Mr. BROMLEY: I ask the Premier: Has he been made aware that the manager of the Industrial Institution for the Blind, Mr. J. Holland, suspended a blind person on 1 August and another on 5 August for taking their guide dogs into the workshop? I ask the Minister to stop telling the Premier what to say and to let him answer his own questions. This is not a "Dorothy Dix" question.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member will ask his question or resume his seat.

Mr. BROMLEY: Further, is the Premier aware that the Guide Dogs Act binds the Crown and gives the right to blind persons to be accompanied by their guide dogs in any place? Will he, as Premier of the State, order the reinstatement of the suspended blind workers and show that he cares for those unfortunate enough to live in a world of darkness?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: There is a good deal of detail in the honourable member's question. I therefore ask him to direct it to the Minister responsible for this particular section of the department.

Mr. BROMLEY: I have a further question to ask, but I wish to point out—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member will ask his question.

Mr. BROMLEY: In that case, I ask the Minister for Health if he will show us that he cares by reinstating these blind people who have been suspended by the manager of the institution.

Mr. TOOTH: The honourable member, as usual, is being thoroughly mischievous.

Mr. B. Wood: That is a fair question.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I warn the honourable member for Barron River.

Mr. TOOTH: There have been a number of problems and difficulties over at the Blind Institution.

Mr. Bromley: Unfortunately you are not doing anything about it either.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! Does the honourable member want an answer to his question?

Mr. Bromley: Yes.

Mr. TOOTH: There has been considerable difficulty at the Blind Institution. Let me say in passing that it is an institution where blind people are employed. The institution is run by the Government at a very heavy loss each year, but employment is provided there to assist these people and they receive quite a reasonable wage. In addition, they receive a blind pension. Guide dogs have been introduced into that particular area and two employees of the institution have demanded—

Mr. Bromley: They have not "demanded" anything.

Mr. TOOTH: They have demanded that their guide dogs be allowed into the workshop. The manager has stated (and he has been supported by officers who have investigated the situation) that these dogs in the workshop could present a hazard to other blind workers. The manager has provided kennels outside the workshop to accommodate the dogs during the time when these workers are in the workshop and pursuing their avocation whatever it may be. These two men, in defiance of the manager's instructions, have persisted in bringing the dogs into the workshop. They have been warned on more than one occasion. Every effort has been made to provide reasonable accommodation for these dogs and every effort has also been made to have these men see reason, but the situation has developed into a determined confrontation with the management. Therefore, ultimately, the manager had no option but to suspend the two recalcitrant employees.

Mr. Leese: Shame!

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. TOOTH: The matter has been looked at in depth. The honourable member stated that, in taking the action which he did, the manager breached a certain Act. That allegation has been checked and I am advised that there is no breach of the Act.

I would be very happy indeed to answer any written inquiries that the honourable member may submit. He has been busily engaged in entering the workshop, conferring

with the people concerned, and generally stimulating and causing further trouble in this area.

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

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

NOMINATED SUBCONTRACTORS; TREATMENT BY WORKS DEPARTMENT

Mr. NEWTON (Belmont) (12.12 p.m.): The matter of public interest I raise is the raw deal that is being meted out to nominated subcontractors by the Works Department and the main contractors who have won Government contracts from the department. The policy laid down by the Minister for Works and Housing is that, once a nominated subcontractor has been accepted by the Works Department, no information will be given to him concerning either his part of the contract or the main contractor.

The Government and the main contractors have benefited from the work carried out by such nominated subcontractors, but nominated subcontractors in Queensland are being forced into costly litigation and other action to obtain payments due to them for equipment used as well as material and labour supplied.

Nominated subcontractors are an asset to both the main contractor and the Works Department because they supply the equipment required to carry out the project and either install or erect material. This requires specialised equipment and labour.

Nominated subcontractors are well respected by honourable members on this side of the House because of the tasks they perform. This work is of valuable assistance to the Works Department. Nominated subcontractors always abide by the awards and conditions applicable to their employees.

They pledge to main contractors and the Works Department that they will honour their part of the contracts. This year and in previous years they have had to stockpile thousands of dollars worth of equipment for months so that they will be ready to proceed with their part of the contracts when called upon to do so by either the Works Department or the main contractor.

After completing their part of the contracts, some nominated subcontractors in Queensland have had to institute legal action to gain payment for materials provided and installed. The final payment is made by the Works Department to main contractors on behalf of nominated subcontractors.

I sound a note of warning to the Government. Unless something is done to improve the present situation and protect nominated subcontractors involved in Government contracts let by the Department of Works or by

that department as the constructing authority, more and more specialised and reputable companies and firms will refuse to submit tenders to the department for contracts calling for the use of specialised equipment and personnel. The reason for their refusal will be the attitude of the Department of Works, and their desire to ensure that the interests of nominated subcontractors are protected against the whims and actions of main contractors. There is evidence of this lack of protection in the actions of certain companies and firms that have carried out many contracts for the Department of Works over the past three or four years.

The fact that nominated subcontractors have lost thousands of dollars in such contracts has been made known to the Premier and to senior Cabinet Ministers, including the Minister for Works and Housing and the Minister for Justice, and also to the Leader of the Opposition. This loss has resulted from the Government's policy of non-cooperation with nominated subcontractors in the interests of main contractors, irrespective of whether they are registered builders or members of the Master Builders' Association. Some of them have been given Government contracts of up to \$1,000,000 and more.

It is a well-known fact that the paid-up capital of some of the main contractors indicates that they are financially unstable, and they also have liquidity problems. In spite of this, they are accepted by the Government and the Department of Works in the awarding of contracts for that department and other departments. Nominated subcontractors felt that the Bill dealing with subcontractors' charges would have given them the protection they need against unscrupulous main contractors. They came to this conclusion after being advised of the contents of the original draft of the Bill.

They were consulted on the matter because they were the ones who were having serious problems throughout the length and breadth of the State. However, as is the case with all Government legislation, the masters were able to get the ears of the Government, and in the result the draft of the Bill as it was originally shown to these people was changed considerably. Even though the Bill bound the Crown to some extent, little was given to nominated subcontractors.

There is ample evidence available to the Premier, the Minister for Justice and the Minister for Works and Housing from nominated subcontractors to show that payments in respect of Government contracts are made by the Department of Works direct to main contractors, who pocket the advances after progress payments have been made. Nominated subcontractors are being forced to take legal action to obtain their payments for materials and plant installed from which the Government has benefited.

After the Department of Works has satisfied itself that nominated subcontractors are entitled to progress payments for equipment stored and labour costs, it forwards those moneys to the main contractor, who generally pays the nominated subcontractors two-thirds of the amounts owing to them and retains the remaining one-third. On being challenged by nominated subcontractors as to the reason why the full amount has not been paid, main contractors have advised nominated subcontractors that they could not pay the full amount as they had used it to meet other commitments, and that immediately they were able to raise further money from other debtors the balance of the progress payments would be paid. I have in my possession evidence indicating quite clearly that short payments have been made by main contractors to nominated subcontractors in this State, and I am sure the Department of Works has similar evidence.

Even though the Government has full knowledge of the crooked main contractors who are adopting such an attitude to nominated subcontractors, those contractors are still being given Government contracts through the Department of Works. This policy was laid down by the Minister and approved by the Government. It is helping the main contractor in this State to give his nominated subcontractors a raw deal. What is happening leaves a lot to be desired.

The Works Department is not allowed to give the nominated subcontractor any information which would help him to protect his interests under the contract let by the Government. It is a shocking state of affairs. Once a person is accepted and approved by the Works Department as a nominated subcontractor for a Government contract, he is cut off from any information that he may require about the main contractor who is carrying out the contract for the Government. Subcontractors are entitled to have that information. Once a subcontractor makes an application for payment for work carried out, he is entitled to find out if the main contractor has made a request for payment to the Works Department.

(Time expired.)

PROPOSED WIDENING OF CORONATION DRIVE

Mr. PORTER (Toowong) (12.22 p.m.): Every now and then something happens that is so monstrous and so abhorrent in terms of what authority attempts to do to the community it purports to serve that the event can only be described as literally an obscene outrage. I think the proposal to destroy the aesthetic quality and the natural beauty of Coronation Drive in order to accommodate more motor-cars is a pretty horrible example of this scabrous type of infamy.

On previous occasions I have used this debate to point out Brisbane's deteriorating parks plight. We are far and away the worst-served city in Australia in terms of

developed parks within walking distance of massed urban communities. The Coronation Drive desecration would be totally in line with the vile official policy—official vandalism one must call it—that the Brisbane City Council has been pursuing for years. Of course, anyone who says anything about it is labelled a knocker. It is interesting to note that over recent months almost every week one visiting international expert after another has supported the assertion that the City Hall Philistines are determined to spoil the city, destroy its natural advantages, gobble up parks and open spaces, make no use of the river and resolutely refuse to provide tree-lined avenues which one would think this subtropical tourist city most desperately needs. Then comes the suggestion for the mutilation of Coronation Drive.

I asked three questions before the recent break in this session. I wanted to clear away the undergrowth by asking questions of the Minister for Lands and Forestry, the Minister for Mines and Main Roads and the Minister for Conservation, Marine and Aboriginal Affairs, in order to identify the predator for what it really was. My questions ascertained that the State Government has played no part whatever in any proposals to diminish the beauty of Coronation Drive. The real predator in this case undoubtedly is the Brisbane City Council. Whatever enormous crime is being projected can be sheeted home to it. And a crime it would be, for Coronation Drive without its flanking trees would be a very sorry sight—a gracious avenue debased to another bitumen traffic conduit. The National Trust and other community bodies are to be commended for springing to its defence.

Already the drive has been much injured by the double-cross—I can think of no other term to describe it—that was involved in the despoliation of the "Moorlands" grounds and the adjoining Moorlands Park on the pretext of doing a temporary link-up job for necessary by-pass purposes while a section of flood-damaged Coronation Drive was repaired. The council has in real fact literally completely annihilated another park area, and transformed what were grassy playing areas into dust bowls surrounded by roads. This is an area which simply has to be seen to be believed. It was a part of Coronation Drive which once was used for fiestas and other purposes. At one time it was the centre of Warana activities. It has now literally completely vanished and left a horrible sight. We find now, as so often is tragically the case, that what was put up to the citizens of Brisbane as being temporary has become totally permanent. The roads are there for keeps—tortuous, twisting confusions of bitumen where once were grass and trees. And all for what? All to enable cars to traverse 600 to 800 yards a fraction more quickly!

Any advantages that could be gained from this are so minimal and so infinitesimal that one is driven to the conclusion that this

council grasps at any pretext to desecrate natural beauty. It is almost as though it has a sort of Satanic, and certainly perverted, urge to eliminate open space and park land.

It was in this atmosphere of distrust and expectation, based on all our past experience that the worst will always eventuate, that the rumours of what might be tried on Coronation Drive had so much impact. Now, of course, there has been such massive public rage over this issue that the council spokesmen are hastily retreating. It has now been suggested that this was just an engineering proposal and we do not have to worry about it—that they are not likely to go ahead with any of it. Of course, the citizens of Brisbane know only too well, from sorry past experience, that we cannot allow ourselves to be fooled by such bland assurances.

Like the price of liberty, the price of retaining in Brisbane the few remaining pieces of our natural heritage is eternal vigilance. We have to expect the worst all the time from this council and act in order to prevent it. I want the House to know, and my own Government to understand, that I will do literally anything that is required to protect Coronation Drive from Brisbane City Council mutilation.

I am quite sure that a very substantial number of my colleagues—indeed, I would believe all of them—will support me in the expression that the petulant, defeated man now sulking in the City Hall has always been prepared to sell off Brisbane's natural assets to any buyers who have been prepared to put up necessary offers. King George Square and Anzac Square are classic examples of what he believes is a proper fate for a city like Brisbane. Now, with his plaintive swansong already sung, we can be sure that he will do the maximum damage possible before he leaves the scene of his only electoral triumphs. I am sure that we must make certain that his guns are spiked in this and that no more of the city's natural beauties are put to the developer's sword. I believe Brisbane deserves much better as the capital of this State and as the gateway to the State's tourist paradise than the treatment it has received in the past, the latest example of which is the proposal to destroy a gracious, majestic and beautiful tree-lined avenue for the sake of an extra lane of bitumen driveway.

CROWD CONTROL IN HOTELS

Mr. K. J. HOOPER (Archerfield) (12.29 p.m.): The matter of public importance I wish to raise today is one that has concerned me for some time and one which I know is concerning a growing number of people in the community. I refer to the increasing incidence of violence in hotels, particularly some of the newer hotels in the outer suburbs. I am going to pinpoint what I believe is the reason for many of these disturbances, and I trust that the Minister in charge of police will have a long and careful look at the

question I am about to raise, because, from my knowledge, it is a matter which has been drawn to his attention. I would have thought that a responsible Minister endeavouring to act in a responsible way would have made some effort to remedy a growing, unsavoury situation of this kind, but instead we find that he is more interested in trying to manoeuvre himself into plum Government appointments in Tokyo or London so that he can avoid facing the growing crises within his administration.

I am realistic enough to admit that fights and stoushes are part of the hotel game. They always have been and probably always will be. But a punch-up in a bar is a far cry from the situation that is developing now. I am referring to the growing use of the pseudo policemen whom we know as bouncers or by the euphemistic name by which they prefer to be known, "Crowd controllers". But by any name these people in most instances are little better than hired thugs. They exhibit what can only be called a blood lust, because they do not stop at gentle persuasion. Far from it! Many of them appear to derive immense satisfaction from administering unmerciful beatings as part of a cowardly wolf pack.

I will go along with any licensee or any hotel manager whose aim is to keep his hotel respectable so that people may drink in peace and without fear of being molested or antagonised by riffraff, or by an uncontrollable drunk; I will go along with the efforts of any licensee or manager who is trying to protect his property from acts of wilful vandalism or theft. But I will not condone unnecessary violence and, moreover, I will not condone the violence of bouncers who hunt in Mafia-style packs and vent their spite on the poor old unwitting drunk.

Instead of keeping the peace, some of these bouncers go looking for trouble. There are no rules barred. These thugs follow the rule of "knock 'em down and ask questions afterwards", and many innocent victims are coping it. Ask the Minister in charge of police; he knows! In fact it is a wonder he has not offered one of his famous royal commissions into these activities so that he could attempt to recoup some of his past losses in the administration of his portfolio. Not only the Police Department, but the Licensing Commission, too, is aware of what is going on, because the pseudo police are not a force that has grown up overnight. The authorities, unfortunately, have adopted the policy of closing the proverbial blind eye.

I think it is high time that it is made plain to the liquor trade that the granting of a liquor licence carries social as well as legal responsibilities. There are responsible members within this industry, and I am not talking about them. I know they would support me in what I am saying

because these distasteful activities reflect on them, *i.o.* Honourable members know the people to whom I am referring.

We all know that a hotel licence is a licence to print money; it is a very valuable document indeed. But the idea seems to have developed within the industry that, as long as the Liquor Act is obeyed and complied with, everything in the garden is green and nothing else matters. In my book it is not good enough to sell a man as much liquor as he can drink and then get the strong-arm boys to throw him out. This is happening all too frequently, and in particular at hotels which cater for young people. Young people have money to spend. These hotels go out of their way to encourage them, and to make sure they take a good share of their money from them. They employ popular groups, they slap on a cover charge, and they make sure that their charges are sky-high. The explosive duo of sex and grog is openly encouraged. Young unescorted girls are often allowed into these places at reduced prices because the crafty management knows the young bucks will follow them and spend up big. The picture is the same in many suburban hotels; the young girls are there, decked out in their mod gear, and the randy young bucks are there getting into the grog and making overtures. Of course, the inevitable happens and usually one of the lads steps out of line. Then the goons descend—the “crowd controllers”—and they move in as a pack, happy to start their bash tactics.

One of the hotels notorious for this situation is the Sunnybank Hotel. That hotel packs the young people into its lounges until they are virtually sitting on each other's lap. There is increasing strife at the Sunnybank Hotel. I have predicted for some time that it will become the scene of a fatality if the events I have spoken of are allowed to continue. The bouncers will go too far one day. They have gone too far already on many occasions. I only hope that I am proved wrong and that the hired hoodlums in this hotel, and in many other hotels operating in a similar fashion, will be removed in a massive clean-up.

It is my contention that if a young fellow plays up, the rightful upholders of law and order, namely, the police, should be called. We hear much from honourable members opposite about upholding law and order, but I notice that they are very tardy when it comes to enforcing it with their wealthy private-enterprise backers. I suppose the sight of the police in a hotel lounge would not do the image of the hotel any good. Of course, the Minister will plead that the police are short staffed and cannot be expected to look after these matters. That is just so much baloney. Just let a group of unionists gather for a march or a meeting and the police are there in droves. Good old double standards again!

There is absolutely no need for the use of these private goon squads. One does not need much imagination to see where this type of situation leads. A young bloke gets roughed up by the bouncers, and what is his reaction? He rounds up his mates and they come back after the bouncers.

In the resulting brawl, who usually ends up on the receiving end? The poor old innocent bystander just out for a quiet drink! I think it would improve the Minister's education if he forgot about London or Tokyo for one or two evenings and dropped in unannounced at a few of the hotels he has been allowing to operate in this way.

An Opposition Member: You can imagine what he would be like himself.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: They tell me he's a heavy.

Clearly it is not good enough for him simply to be told that it is going on. He should see at first hand what is going on.

Mr. Hodges: Why don't you sober up yourself?

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: The Minister has never been sober in his life. He would be sickened, as hundreds of decent, law-abiding citizens are sickened on almost any night of the week. But I think honourable members will agree that if the Minister did the rounds of the suburban pubs for a few nights and decided to take positive steps to curb this bar-room violence, it would be time well spent.

An Opposition Member interjected.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: Keep him away from the Diamond Drill, anyhow.

Pool tables in bars are another cause of trouble in hotels. I enjoy a relaxing game of pool as much as anyone else, but in a crowded bar a game is anything but relaxing. In fact, the table leads to far more fights than to relaxation or enjoyment. People hog a table, jump their turn or welsh on bets—like the honourable member for South Coast—when they are half full of booze. An inevitable blue starts, in come the goon squad and out go the patrons. The cause of all the trouble—the pool table—is left to start another challenge.

Mr. Marginson: It is a pity that the honourable member for Merthyr is not here.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: I have something for the honourable member for Merthyr.

In my view the table should go too. In some hotels I have noticed considerable money changing hands over a game. I suppose that the money brings the criminal element around. I was going to suggest that the local S.P. bookie would not be far away until I realised that we do not have S.P. bookies since the advent of the T.A.B.—or do we?

The present situation cannot be allowed to continue. The licensing and consorting squads will have to be more active. And it is imperative that the Minister becomes more active. Other Ministers have been known to show some concern about administering their portfolios. At one time the licensing and consorting squads could be seen doing their rounds of the city and near-city hotels. As there are now very few hotels in the city, these officers could be occupied profitably in the outer suburbs. I am sure that if the honourable member for Merthyr were here he would agree with me. When he was in the Police Force he was known as "Mr. 10 per cent". I have elicited the amount of money he is alleged to have extorted from the wages of sin of the prostitutes and massage parlours whilst he was a member of the Special Branch of the Queensland Police Force.

A Government Member: That is shocking!

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: It is shocking.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! That is a reflection on the honourable member for Merthyr. I ask the honourable member for Archerfield to withdraw it.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER. I withdraw it.

As I said, the liquor trade must be made aware that it has social as well as legal responsibilities when a liquor licence is granted. The Government must tell the Licensing Commission to crack down on hotel violence. These private forces of pseudo police must be disbanded. If a publican cannot run a hotel without employing a private army, then clearly his licence should be taken from him. The maintenance of law must remain the province of the police. The Minister should keep that in mind.

Mr. Hodges: We do that and when we do it you appeal to me to get your mates off the charge.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: That is parliamentary deceit.

Mr. Wright: How much have you got to pay to get them off? It will cost you a quid!

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: More than a quid—almost a week's salary.

I suggest to the brewery barons that they should have a good, hard look at the performance of some of the managers they place in their hotels. It has to be admitted that the calibre of many leaves much to be desired.

In conclusion, I suggest that it is time for a hotel clean-up before some innocent person, guilty of no crime, gets cleaned up—fatally.

AUSTRALIA'S ECONOMY UNDER FEDERAL LABOR GOVERNMENT

Mr. HARTWIG (Callide) (12.39 p.m.): This morning I shall refer to the plight of the economy brought on by policies implemented in Canberra on the rural section of the community. Australia is now in an inflation zone of real danger. Throughout the community there is a real feeling of insecurity. Confidence in all sections is declining and an element of acute alarm is beginning to appear. Unfortunately this situation has in it the seeds of political, economic and social crisis. Should inflation fail to slow perceptibly fairly soon, the storm clouds now gathering could burst in a deluge that could overwhelm the Australian Government. It seems incredible to me that the Whitlam Government is at present blissfully unaware of this mounting threat to its very survival. Futile efforts by the socialistic Commonwealth Government to control the galloping inflation have failed miserably.

In fact, there has been complete industrial chaos, after Prime Minister Whitlam promised the people of Australia industrial tranquillity. This has quite clearly been the result of the Government in Canberra losing control of Communist influences in union leadership and this has created a grave situation. Opposition members, including the new Leader of the Opposition, have condoned the situation and have raised not one word of protest in the House.

I say quite clearly that thousands of Queenslanders have had their fill. They are sick and tired of empty statements emanating from Canberra that inflation is due mainly to outside influences. We have suffered strikes, shortages of every conceivable item, declining services and increases in petrol and oil costs.

Australia could well be likened at this stage to a ship out of control that is being swept along with nobody at the helm. I say "nobody" because the Australian Government has deliberately set the country on a course of destruction. Let me outline the destruction that it is now causing.

First there is the destruction of the standard of living of thousands of good, honest workers who are now unable to pay their rents and meet their other commitments. This has resulted from communist-inspired strikes, and their wives and children are suffering. Then there is the destruction of the economic structure and the threatened redundancy of over 100,000 workers, and people are no longer—I repeat, "no longer"—in the state of mind to tolerate political discrimination.

Might I say regretfully that recently there has been an ominous change—I repeat, "an ominous change"—in the mood of the general public. I do not like making that statement, but it is true. It is apparent to those who observe the general way of life in Australia. I might mention at this stage how fortunate Queensland is that, thanks

to National-Liberal Government policies over the past 16 years, it is in a very sound economic situation. That has been brought about by responsible government in contrast to the efforts of the rabble in Canberra.

Mundey and Egerton of communist and socialist fame are forcing thousands of producers into bankruptcy. They have called out hundreds of decent Queensland unionists from their employment in meat-works and other phases of industry. They are denying these unionists the right to work and provide their wives and families with the requirements of life. They do not like to hear about the unemployment they have condoned, judging by statements that have been made in this Chamber. At the present time petrol transport operators are being told by their union leaders to stay out on strike and hold the country to ransom. How long can this state of affairs exist?

It is high time that Whitlam came out into the open and admitted that the Australian Government is unable to control this ship that is out of control or the future destiny of this once great nation. Primary producers, who represent only about 14 per cent of the total population, are literally being raped of their livelihood and the fruits of their endeavours by the present Federal Labor Government. Whitlam and company have a hatred of the primary producer, and I warn honourable members opposite that this attitude is now starting to have serious repercussions closer to home. This is already felt in redundancies and in unemployment.

Whitlam tries to shift the blame. He said to beef producers, "I will reduce your income. I will lower the price of beef." And how well that has been done! Those words have stuck, and today we see absolute depression in the beef industry.

Well do I remember Whitlam saying, "I will bring about a fall in meat prices." He brought depression to the meat industry all right, but he is not concerned about the consumer. He has failed miserably in his efforts to bring about a fall in the price of meat to the consumer. Furthermore, he has removed tax concessions to primary producers, and today I hear many a primary producer saying, "What is the use of carrying out improvements to my property?" There is no longer any incentive to effect improvements. Whitlam has taken incentive out of primary production, and I warn that we will rue the day that this happened in the primary industry sector. Primary producers must continue to produce, and they must continue to improve. Once stagnation is reached in production, this country is headed for grave trouble.

During my recent overseas tour——

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. HARTWIG: Three mates of those interjecting were with us. During my trip through Malaysia, Thailand, Japan, Hong Kong and Singapore, I was continually asked

what had happened to Australia's external policy. These nations that want to trade with us and be our friends, and that look to Australia for protection, want to know why Australia has turned to Communist Peking, the Soviet Union and North Vietnam. They want to know why Australia has withdrawn its two squadrons of Mirage fighters from Butterworth. They want to know why Australia is getting out of its Colombo Plan commitment with Thailand; Whitlam has issued instructions that that has to stop. The Japanese and Taiwanese are now moving into Thailand to assist those people.

I asked representatives of many nations why their countries were not trading with Australia.

(Time expired.)

INSURANCE INDUSTRY REFORM

Mr. TUCKER (Townsville West—Leader of the Opposition) (12.48 p.m.): I should like first to make a brief comment on the speech just delivered by the honourable member for Callide. He spoke about caring for the ordinary people. Surely he was shedding crocodile tears, because I have been informed that he charges the ordinary people in the community \$100 to \$120 a week for his flats at Cocee Bay at Yeppoon.

Mr. HARTWIG: I rise to a point of order. That is my private business.

Mr. TUCKER: It might be the honourable member's business; nevertheless he gets \$500 a week from the ordinary people.

Mr. HARTWIG: Again I rise to a point of order. I have never received \$500 a week. That is a damned lie, and I ask the Leader of the Opposition to withdraw it and apologise.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I ask the Leader of the Opposition to accept the honourable member's denial.

Mr. TUCKER: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I am sorry—it is \$625, I believe.

Mr. HARTWIG: I ask him to apologise.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. TUCKER: I withdraw and apologise.

I preface my remarks by referring briefly to an irresponsible and unprecedented personal attack on me by the Treasurer yesterday in defence of his beloved State Government Insurance Office. His emotional deluge reeked of verbal diarrhoea, but I understand that this can be remedied effectively by a medicinal compound derived from kaolin. Perhaps he should consult his colleague who wants to be Treasurer, and in fact cannot wait for the Treasurer to retire so that he can grab his portfolio. While the Treasurer is running around dusting the cobwebs off his old clichés so that he can make an emotional outburst in this House,

the gentleman who knows about kaolin is making major statements on the economy. I am referring, of course, to the honourable the Premier.

Unlike the Treasurer, I believe the time of this Parliament should be used for debate on important matters such as the one I propose to raise today. I have read with interest the Annual Report of the Queensland Insurance Commissioner, and I have talked with many people in this State who are being hit by increased premiums for motor vehicle insurance, third-party insurance and so on. Significantly, the Insurance Commissioner's report shows that there were 169 insurers licensed in this State as at September last year.

It is of great concern to me that nearly 70 per cent of the companies operating in this State whose ownership can be identified are overseas owned. Indeed, the Australian Insurance Association, which is comprised of wholly Australian-owned insurance companies has made public evidence that, of the 234 companies operating in Australia, 153 are overseas owned. In other words, the majority of the market operators are overseas-owned insurance companies. It is doubtful whether there would be any industry in Australia approaching the size and national importance of the insurance industry in which the proportion of Australian-controlled companies is so small.

I am concerned that overseas-controlled companies have the ability to exert a relatively strong influence in the market, and that most of the policy decisions of these insurance companies are made outside Australia.

Insurance is an important issue in this State, not only with regard to motor vehicles, third-party insurance and so on because it hits the pocket of the wage-earner, but also because Queensland is more prone to natural disasters such as cyclones and floods than other States.

Because of public antagonism to insurance companies, especially following disasters such as cyclone "Althea" and this year's tragic flood, the insurance industry must re-examine its priorities. One of the priorities must be full disclosure of activities, and in this field the State Government Insurance Office can give a lead. I not only repeat my call to the Treasurer to cast aside the web of secrecy that has been allowed to camouflage the financial dealings of the S.G.I.O., but I widen the ambit of my demand and call on the Treasurer, as the responsible Treasurer I think he sometimes can be, to force all insurance companies operating in Queensland to open their activities to the public they claim to serve.

It was a Labor Government which set up the S.G.I.O. to give sound and honest insurance to the people of Queensland. It was a Labor Government that recognised the need for such a company to counter the growing influence of overseas incursion into

the insurance industry. It was a Country-Liberal Party Government which altered the Act to allow the S.G.I.O. to develop in such a way that it is now a bedfellow with the overseas-owned companies which are exposing Australian companies to the ever-growing threat of absorption.

The Treasurer has accused me of using the S.G.I.O. as a political football. I do not play games with the public of Queensland. It should be incumbent on the Insurance Commissioner to review the present licensing system to restrict the right of entry of overseas insurance companies to the Queensland market. He should be encouraging Australian-owned insurance companies, and so should the Treasurer.

I am sure the Treasurer knows of the Australian Insurance Association's concern, and the concern of the Australian Government he abhors, that overseas companies in the insurance field are depriving the Australian market of revenue and at the same time are having an adverse effect on our balance of payments.

I will guarantee here and now that a State Labor Government will reform the insurance industry in this State. While insurance is an essential part of our way of life, I am more concerned about how insurance affects people than about how some insurance companies are able to maintain excessive profits. And if insurance companies were forced to make their activities public, the people I am concerned about would know whether their own insurance company was stable. They would know also whether its investments were being used in projects for the good of Queensland.

At present, local authorities are facing severe financial difficulties and are laying off men. The State Government Insurance Office, under a Labor Government, will make available necessary loan funds for capital works projects and employment opportunities. I can guarantee that. Today I call on the Treasurer, too, to come back to Queensland, to consider the interests of Queenslanders and to take some positive steps in the field I have mentioned for the betterment of Queensland and its people. I would recommend that he cast aside the tendency he has recently shown to fly with the Premier in his astral plane over the pons asinorum.

SALE OF HUMAN BLOOD BILL

INITIATION

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

"That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill to prohibit unauthorized trading in human blood."

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 12.57 p.m.