

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 9 APRIL 1975

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Mr. SPEAKER (Hon. J. E. H. Houghton, Redcliffe) read prayers and took the chair at 11 a.m.

ADDRESS IN REPLY**PRESENTATION**

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that I propose to present to His Excellency the Governor, at Government House, tomorrow morning at 9.30 o'clock, the Address in Reply to His Excellency's Opening Speech agreed to on 20 March, and I shall be glad to be accompanied by the mover and the seconder and such other honourable members as care to be present. Cars will leave Parliament House at 9.5 a.m.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**ABORIGINAL CAVE PAINTINGS, LAURA AREA**

Hon. C. A. WHARTON (Burnett—Minister for Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement) (11.3 a.m.): I draw the attention of the House to a report on page 3 of "The Courier-Mail" of 7 April headed "Plea to save Aboriginal Art".

The report, datelined Canberra, says that the Aboriginal Art Board has asked the Federal Government to buy an area of North Queensland that is rich in Aboriginal cave paintings. It says that the Board has asked the Prime Minister and the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs to compel the Queensland Government to return control of property and assets allegedly taken from the Aboriginal Historic Places Trust. All these bodies mentioned are Federal bodies.

The report goes on to say that this Historic Places Trust was set up by, amongst other people, Mr. Percy Trezise, to protect the several hundred galleries of Aboriginal paintings near Laura, about 112 miles west of Cooktown.

This Trust and the Cape York Conservation Council—a voluntary body—started a nation-wide appeal for funds to buy about 300 square miles of Crocodile Station to form the so-called Quinkan National Park. The Quinkan are long, thin spirits whom the Aborigines believed lived in the rocks and hills of the area.

The report said the Queensland Government had refused to recognise the Trust and recently had frozen the assets of the Trust and the Conservation Council.

Mr. Speaker, as Minister, I wish to put the record straight so that there are no misunderstandings about what the Queensland Government has done and why it acted. We have acted to protect money subscribed by people throughout Australia under a mistaken

impression. They believed they were donating money to preserve Aboriginal rock paintings in danger of being lost.

However, the appeal was not organised in accordance with the procedures laid down by law and hence there were no safeguards on how the funds were handled and to what purposes they were to be put.

The most important fact is that the appeal serves no real purpose because the paintings at Laura, along with all similar art or artefacts in Queensland are protected by the Aboriginal Relics Act. The Laura paintings were proclaimed under the Act in July 1971 as an Aboriginal site. They are under the supervision of the ranger from Cairns and Mr. Percy Tresize himself is an honorary warden.

In July 1973 the Cape York Conservation Council combined with the Aborigines Historic Places Trust to launch a nation-wide appeal for support to raise funds to buy approximately 300 square miles of Gresley Pastoral Holding for \$65,000 and have it set aside as the Quinkan National Park. It was claimed that the project was for the benefit of Aborigines. Local Aborigines were to be used as guides in the tourist season and in making items for sale during the wet season. Remember, this was two years after the Queensland Government already had protected these same paintings.

The Aborigines Historic Places Trust was granted approximately \$48,000 by the Commonwealth Government in August 1973. These funds were used to purchase a profitable cafe for \$32,000 at Laura for the purpose of developing tourist facilities to be associated with the paintings. In addition, a further sum of \$13,000 was provided by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies—a Commonwealth-sponsored body.

It is understood that by mid-December 1973, Mr. P. J. Tresize, public officer of the trust, had privately purchased the Laura Hotel, which is the only hotel, excluding the one at Cooktown, between Coen and Lakeland Downs. In early August 1974 the cafe was officially closed down by Mr. Tresize and meals and cold drinks may be obtained only from the hotel. The cafe enterprise, purchased with taxpayers' money, and largely for the benefit of the Aboriginal citizens of Laura, was closed down by the public officer of the trust, and the services it rendered to the public transferred to the Laura Hotel. There would now appear to be little to show for the expenditure of more than \$50,000 in the area. It should be noted that at the time of purchase the cafe was a going concern.

With reference to the Quinkan appeal, the land the trust wishes to obtain is leasehold land, not freehold. It is part of Gresley Pastoral Holding, currently leased by the Crown to K. J. Marriott Pty. Ltd. K. J. Marriott has no legal authority to sell any portion of the lease, but he could apply

and did apply for the subdivision of the lease to the Land Administration Commission. The commission has made it clear, as policy, that it will not grant subdivision of a lease where one portion of the subdivided lease would not be an economic unit.

It has been made quite clear to Mr. Tresize that the area to be set aside has no economic value to the cattle industry or the mineral industry, apart from the park aspect.

The brochures issued for the nation-wide appeal referred to, were circulated under the auspices of Ansett Airlines of Australia and indicated that if \$5 was donated by an individual, 15 acres of land could be bought. No indication was given in this brochure that the land concerned was under lease from the Crown and not under private ownership nor that the moneys forwarded would not buy the land, but, subject to the decision by the Land Administration Commission, would merely enable limited use of the area.

No sanction was granted under the Collections Act, 1966-1973, to conduct this appeal, and although correspondence has been carried on since 1973, neither organisation has been registered under the Act.

A Mr. O'Grady and Mr. Tresize have indicated that \$20,468 has been raised and it is understood that loans amounting to \$5,000 have been made to the leaseholders to keep open an option to purchase the land.

The Solicitor-General advised that the money collected could not legally be applied for the purpose for which it had been collected. The land in question was declared an Aboriginal site in July 1971. It is fully protected and the trust or council is completely without power to do anything effective in this regard.

The Aboriginal people of the Laura area, whom one expects should have received some benefits, appear to have received little or nothing and it would now seem appropriate for some action to be taken to ensure that the moneys collected, as they were without the sanction or protection of the Collections Act, be used for the purposes for which they were obtained. These purposes were the preservation of the site and for the betterment of the Aboriginal people of the area.

We have the incredible situation where the Federal Government without inquiring from the Queensland Government about the steps taken to protect the area, and without taking any steps to see that the money would be applied for the particular purpose, has handed out substantial amounts of the public money. How the Federal Government will explain away its share of the money will be interesting to read.

On 10 March, State Cabinet sought approval by the Governor in Council of an Order in Council vesting in the Public

Curator the funds held by these two organisations in the Commonwealth Trading Bank, Cairns. These funds consist of:

	\$
Cape York Conservation Land Acquisition Fund	21,560
Cape York Conservation Council	7,400
Aborigines Historic Places Trust	956

At present the Government is awaiting advice from these organisations as to how they now propose to use these funds. When that advice is received Cabinet will decide what further action to take.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

SAND-MINING LEASES, MORETON ISLAND

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

Having regard to his published statement that there is no need for an investigation of Moreton Island by the Special Minister assisting the Premier, because the Mines Department has all the information needed, will he supply the House with the information on each case as follows:—

(1) What was the date of application for the granting of a lease?

(2) Has there been a mining warden's hearing and, if so, on what date?

(3) Did the Mining Warden recommend the granting of a lease and, if so, on what date?

(4) Has he determined whether or not to recommend to the Governor-in-Council that the lease be granted? If so, what recommendation has he made and when did he make it?

(5) Has the Governor-in-Council granted a lease and, if so, on what date and for what duration?

(6) Who is the current holder of the lease or lease application?

(7) What is the estimated tonnage of (a) rutile and (b) zircon in each lease area and by whom was the estimate made?

(8) What is the present royalty per tonne payable on (a) rutile and (b) zircon?

(9) What is the total number of acres affected by dredging leases, mining leases or authorities to prospect, either applied for or granted prior to 1957 and after 1957?

Answers:—

"Firstly I would point out that the preamble to this Question is both erroneous and misleading. No statement as mentioned was ever released by me. The following are Answers to the various

Questions asked. It is a pity the Honourable Member did not request this information before he started making statements concerning matters of which he obviously knew nothing.

(1 to 6) "The information requested is voluminous and is set out in a statement which I now table. It will be noted that the dates of grant vary. Prior to 1972 leases could not be formally granted until the area was surveyed and this was not normally carried out until areas were to be transferred or finance was required. This explains the reason for the date of grant of dredging leases held by Tangalooma Minerals. Since January 1, 1972 leases can be granted without survey and since that date my department has been processing all previous applications throughout the State and arranging for the applications to be formally granted. However it is pointed out that under the previous Mining Act if no objections were lodged to an application the applicant was required to commence work seven days after the application was heard in the Warden's Court. In most cases the holders of the leases have had the right to work for many years, which right was preserved by the 1968-72 Mining Act. In fact Tangalooma Minerals worked their leases and no doubt the Honourable Member has seen the stack of ilmenite tailings at Tangalooma."

(7) "Estimates available to this department of tonnages of rutile and zircon for leases granted or under application are confidential. Such estimates were made by technical personnel of the companies concerned."

(8) "For mineral sands sold, disposed of or used, either an amount equivalent to two per centum (2 per centum) of the value of such mineral or the following rate per tonne, whichever is the greater—Rutile concentrates, \$3; Zircon concentrates, \$1.50; and Ilmenite concentrates, 25c."

(9)—

" —	Prior to 1957	Since 1957
Mining, etc., Leases . .	924 acres 1 rood	25,164 acres 2 roods
Authorities to Prospect . .	311 square miles	571 ⁷ / ₁₀ square miles

It is pointed out that some of the authorities to prospect have been granted over areas contained in previous authorities to prospect."

Paper.—Whereupon Mr. Camm laid upon the Table of the House the following statement referred to.

Lease No.	(1) Date of Application	(2) Date of Final Hearing	(3) Date of Recommendation	(4) Date of Recommendation	(5) Date of Grant	Term Years	(6)	
M.L. 598	29-8-56	Yes	25-10-56	Yes	25-10-56	No	—	Tangalooma Minerals Pty. Ltd.
M.L. 930	22-8-58	—	—	Yes	—	Yes	5-9-68	do.
M.L. 1016	18-8-65	Yes	30-9-65	Yes	30-9-65	No	—	Dillingham Constructions Pty. Ltd.
M.L. 1017	18-8-65	Yes	30-9-65	Yes	30-9-65	No	—	do.
M.L. 1040	21-3-67	Yes	18-5-67	Yes	18-5-67	No	—	do.
M.L. 1043	2-6-67	Yes	24-8-67	Yes	24-8-67	No	—	do.
M.L. 1048	13-11-67	Yes	18-1-68	Yes	18-1-68	No	—	Tangalooma Minerals Pty. Ltd.
M.L. 1049	27-2-68	Yes	27-11-68	Yes	27-11-68	Yes	5-9-74	Mineral Deposits Limited
M.L. 1081	8-10-69	Yes	15-11-73	Yes	15-11-73	Yes	24-4-74	Moreton Tug and Lighter Co. Pty. Ltd.
M.L. 1094	14-7-70	Yes	30-9-71	Yes	30-9-71	No	—	Dillingham Constructions Pty. Ltd.
M.L. 1105	10-5-71	No	—	—	—	—	—	Mineral Deposits Limited
M.L. 1106	10-5-71	No	—	—	—	—	—	do.
M.L. 1107	10-5-71	No	—	—	—	—	—	do.
M.L. 1109	10-5-71	No	—	—	—	—	—	do.
M.L. 1110	10-5-71	No	—	—	—	—	—	do.
D.L. 1117	20-10-48	Yes	16-12-48	Yes	16-12-48	Yes	29-6-61	Tangalooma Minerals Pty. Ltd.
D.L. 1118	20-10-48	Yes	16-12-48	Yes	16-12-48	Yes	29-6-61	do.
D.L. 1119	20-10-48	Yes	16-12-48	Yes	16-12-48	Yes	29-6-61	do.
D.L. 1120	20-10-48	Yes	16-12-48	Yes	16-12-48	Yes	29-6-61	do.
M.L. 1121	16-11-48	Yes	13-1-49	Yes	13-1-49	Yes	1-11-73	do.
M.L. 1122	16-11-48	Yes	13-1-49	Yes	13-1-49	Yes	1-11-73	do.
M.L. 1123	16-11-48	Yes	13-1-49	Yes	13-1-49	Yes	1-11-73	do.
M.L. 1124	16-11-48	Yes	13-1-49	Yes	13-1-49	Yes	1-11-73	do.
M.L. 1125	22-12-48	Yes	12-5-49	Yes	12-5-49	Yes	1-11-73	do.
D.L. 1126	6-2-56	Yes	22-3-56	Yes	22-3-56	Yes	18-7-57	do.
M.L. 1130	29-8-56	Yes	25-10-56	Yes	29-10-56	Yes	1-2-73	do.
M.L. 1131	29-8-56	Yes	18-10-56	Yes	18-10-56	Yes	21-2-74	do.
M.L. 1132	5-9-56	Yes	25-10-56	Yes	25-10-56	Yes	21-2-74	do.
M.L. 1138	23-2-65	Yes	27-5-65	Yes	27-5-65	No	—	Dillingham Constructions Pty. Ltd.
M.L. 1139	12-3-65	Yes	27-5-65	Yes	27-5-65	No	—	do.

MR. A. C. LETIZIA, LEGAL-ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, BUILDERS' REGISTRATION BOARD

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

(1) Is Alfredo Cono Letizia the Legal-Administrative Officer for the Builders' Registration Board?

(2) Has this person recently completed a gaol sentence imposed upon him after being convicted by a District Court jury of a charge of misappropriation of trust-account funds whilst a solicitor?

(3) Were the funds used by this person to finance a building company in which he was involved?

(4) What action does he propose to take to ensure that the integrity of both the legal profession and the general public is respected by not having a person not fit for legal work holding the position of Legal-Administrative Officer for the Builders' Registration Board?

Answers:—

(1) "No. However the person named is employed by the Builders' Registration Board of Queensland in the position of Administration Officer—Advisory."

(2) "Information conveyed to me is that the person so named has served a term of imprisonment."

(3) "I am not in a position within the ambit of my portfolio to reply to this Question by the Honourable Member."

(4) "The Chairman, Builders' Registration Board of Queensland is informed of the position that obtains."

ELECTRICAL WIRING OF HOUSING COMMISSION HOUSES, BELMONT ELECTORATE

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

(1) What enquiries has the Housing Commission received from residents in the Seven Hills, Camp Hill, Carina, Holland Park and Mount Gravatt East areas regarding the electrical wiring of Housing Commission houses, following the appearance of an article in *The Sunday Mail* of April 6 entitled "Thousands of Houses potential death traps"?

(2) Were many of these houses built before regulations were brought in to require power points to be earthed?

(3) If so, what action has the commission taken, and what action will he take in the future, to ensure that power points in the older homes are earthed for the safety of the residents?

(4) What action will the commission take to overcome the problem of the easy-burning rubber around the wires, which the Commissioner states he is aware of, in order to avoid any possibility of loss of life or property?

(5) Will the Brisbane City Council give a free electrical inspection to householders once every five years?

(6) Will he advise residents to avail themselves of this service to verify the safety of their electrical wiring?

Answers:—

(1) "Thirteen."

(2) "Earlier wiring rules required that power outlets had to be earthed only in certain positions."

(3) "If an unearthed power outlet is disclosed by inspection on change of tenancy appropriate action is taken. Furthermore, the commission has a major program of providing additional power outlets in older houses and the existing power outlets are checked for earthing at the same time."

(4) "At the time of installation the twin tough rubber sheathed cable met the requirements of the relevant Electric Authority which inspected and passed all electrical installations before power was connected. While such cable remains undisturbed it is not considered to constitute a risk. If the wiring is disturbed in the course of subsequent work, and shows deterioration, steps are taken to re-wire the house."

(5) "Yes."

(6) "Yes. I might add that the matters raised by the Honourable Member are not confined by any means to commission houses. They are equally applicable to the great many other houses erected prior to the availability of twin plastic sheathed cables."

FREEWAY CORRIDORS SHOWN ON BRISBANE TOWN PLAN

(a) Mr. Byrne, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Local Government,—

(1) Is he aware that a great deal of discontent and uncertainty has arisen amongst residents in Brisbane, particularly in the Morningside and Cannon Hill areas, following the incorporation of a possible proposed freeway in the Town Plan proposals?

(2) Upon whose direction was the possible area marked on the Town Plan maps?

(3) In consideration of that irresponsible direction, is he aware that many residents now suffer an effective economic loss brought about through public fear of a freeway going through such residential areas?

(4) Will he assure residents that no decision has been made as to the positioning of any such freeway as yet and that in any such decisions the greatest possible endeavours would be made to avoid the disturbance of residential areas?

(5) Will he assure the House that such misleading and inappropriate means of informing the public about hypothetical studies of the Main Roads Department will not occur in the future, as they only intentionally serve to distort the public's attention from the gross flaws in the Town Plan?

Answers:—

(1) "It is always difficult to fully assess the extent of discontent that may arise within a community to planning proposals within their area of interest. The particular freeway corridor you have referred to on the Town Plan is only a proposal at this stage. It is one to which people can object and the extent of discontent can be better gauged at a later date. Although a freeway proposal in this corridor is considered premature at the present time, as existing corridors become saturated with traffic with the expansion of the city, uncertainty must arise in any case as to what methods will be adopted to alleviate the situation."

(2) "Verbal advice was given by officers of the Main Roads Department to council officers that freeways to be shown on the plan should only be those where a brochure had been issued. The direction would have come from within the Brisbane City Council."

(3) "No. Various freeway proposals have been mooted since the Wilbur Smith Feasibility Study. This freeway corridor is a planning proposal only and residents can be assured that no decision has been made to proceed by either the State or Commonwealth Governments. Limitation on available funds means that a corridor such as this is not likely to be constructed in the foreseeable future; if ever."

(4) "Yes, residents can be assured that no decision has yet been made to the final positioning of any such freeway and that in any such decisions the greatest possible endeavours would be made to avoid the disturbance of residential areas."

(5) "I cannot guarantee that planning proposals are not prematurely leaked out from time to time but the State Government would follow past practice in issuing brochures giving full details and adequate notice to residents on any freeway proposal adopted in future."

(b) **Mr. Young**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Local Government,—

In relation to a number of proposed freeways marked on the proposed Town Plan—

(1) Is there a proposed freeway for the Petrie Terrace area, affecting St. James Street or any street in Petrie Terrace? If so, when is it proposed to reclaim properties in this area and when is it estimated that freeway construction will commence?

(2) Is there a proposed freeway for the Paddington area generally? If so, when is it proposed to reclaim properties and when is it estimated that freeway construction in this area will commence?

(3) Is there a proposed freeway for the Ashgrove area generally and, in particular, Woolcock Park? If so, when is it proposed to reclaim properties and when will work commence on this freeway?

Answers:—

"The proposals in the Town Plan emanate from the Wilbur Smith Feasibility Study and subsequent modifications to the Study Proposals, but it can be stated that—

(1) "There is no proposal for a freeway in the Petrie Terrace area nor any intention to acquire properties in this area in the foreseeable future."

(2) "There is no proposal to construct a freeway in the Paddington area in the foreseeable future."

(3) "Detailed planning for the North West Freeway to the Ashgrove area was initiated in a somewhat different climate a few years ago. Woolcock Park was not affected. This proposal has not been adopted by the Queensland Government and plans have been placed in cold storage. All proposals for freeways, including this one, will require the approval of the Commonwealth Minister for Transport before further planning or acquisition of property is activated."

NOISE NUISANCE FROM COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLES

Mr. Lamond, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Police,—

(1) Is he aware that a major form of noise pollution in residential areas is due to an alarming number of private and commercial vehicles causing unnecessary exhaust and engine noise?

(2) What immediate steps are being taken to alleviate this threat to physical and mental health?

(3) How soon can the public expect relief from this hazard?

Answers:—

(1) "I am aware that noise pollution can be attributed to exhaust and engine noise from motor vehicles."

(2 and 3) "Police are constantly on the look out for offences involving noise emitted from motor vehicles by the manner of operation. This manner of noise pollution is at present being considered by a National Committee and in the light of any future recommendations made by that committee, consideration will be given to implementing those recommendations in this State."

ADMINISTRATION BLOCK, WYNNUM NORTH STATE SCHOOL

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

(1) Have the plans for the proposed Wynnum North State School Administration Block been completed?

(2) Has finance been allocated for this project and, if so, what is the anticipated date for the work to commence?

Answers:—

(1) "No."

(2) "No."

CONDITIONS FOR ABORIGINES, PALM ISLAND

Mr. Row, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement,—

In view of recent Press reports of statements by Aboriginal civil servant, Charles Perkins that Palm Island could be a paradise for Queensland Aborigines, will he indicate the money spent and the facilities provided for Aborigines during the terms of office of the present Queensland Government, thus proving that Palm Island is a paradise for those Aborigines who are not militants and recalcitrants?

Answer:—

"Since coming to office this Government has actively implemented a policy of advancement for Queensland's Aborigines and Palm Island, as one community, has benefited to such extent that it has all of the modern amenities enjoyed in a country town of similar size and indeed it might well be claimed to provide its residents with opportunity for enjoyment of a way of life superior to many. Some of the installations provided are—

	\$
Modern Primary School	264,000
Kindergarten	74,000
Library	21,000
Retail Stores, Butcher Shop, etc.	135,000
Maternal and Child Welfare Clinic	75,000
65 Modern conventional 3 and 4 bedroom homes	850,000
Aged Persons Home complex ..	200,000
Industrial Training Areas ..	60,000
New Jetty and Swing Basin ..	300,000
Improved Water Supply and Sewerage (Expenditure to date—\$485,000)	1,500,000
Total	\$3,479,000

In addition Social Welfare staff, educationists and medical services are provided and availed of by the residents. Palm Island residents enjoy a pattern of living determined through their local Aboriginal Community Council and with the very responsible attitude being adopted by the present Aboriginal Council I did observe

the most enjoyable pattern of living available to the Palm Island citizens who are taking advantage of the opportunities afforded them and it was quite obvious that they are not now prepared to be influenced or pressured by so-called militants or non-hoppers."

RESUMPTION OF LAND FOR MARINE INSTITUTE, CAPE CLEVELAND

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

(1) How many parcels of land, embracing a total of how many acres, were taken over by the State Government to enable the establishment of the Marine Institute at Cape Cleveland and what amount of compensation is to be paid to the original occupants?

(2) When can these original occupants expect to be paid?

Answers:—

(1) "An area of about 207.2 hectares of Crown land at Cape Cleveland has been leased to the Commonwealth for the purpose of establishing a Marine Science Institute. Within that area on the ocean frontage various structures had been illegally erected by fourteen persons and permits to occupy had been granted to regularise their occupation."

(2) "To enable the lease to be granted to the Australian Institute of Marine Science, the permits were determined and the occupiers were allowed to remove structural improvements. In addition, within the next two weeks, *ex gratia* payments are expected to be made for loss of assets, comprising a total of \$14,855."

EVASION BY WOMAN OF GAOL SENTENCE MANDATORY FOR MEN

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

Did he recently authorise the alteration of a charge against a woman to enable her to evade a mandatory gaol sentence imposed on men for a similar offence and, if so, on what grounds was it considered necessary to depart so flagrantly from the basic principle of justice that all Queenslanders are equal before the law?

Answer:—

"I refer the Honourable Member to my Answer to a Question Without Notice by the Honourable the Member for Port Curtis on March 18, 1975."

ESTABLISHMENT OF JAMES COOK
UNIVERSITY

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

(1) Has he been informed that the Prime Minister, while in Townsville recently, stated in the media that a Commonwealth Government established the university in that city?

(2) If the statement is correct, why were the people of North Queensland not told this previously instead of being led to believe that since its establishment the university was set up by the present State Government, mainly as the result of the efforts of its then Minister for Education, the late Hon. J. Pizzey?

(3) If the Prime Minister's statement is incorrect, cannot something be done to restrain the exuberance of his imagination and hyperbole when making public statements in North Queensland?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) "I have not seen the text of any such statement by the Prime Minister but I am quite sure that anything he might have said to this effect would have been a complete distortion of the truth in an endeavour to gain some faint credit for a discredited, a disastrous, and now rapidly becoming a dangerous Government. The facts of the matter are, of course, that the James Cook University of North Queensland was originally a College of the University of Queensland and was developed as such. It then became a university in its own right through funds provided by both the Queensland and Commonwealth Governments. However, it should be remembered that the former University College became a university in its own right only after the Parliament of Queensland enacted the necessary legislation in 1970. The Honourable Member is entirely correct when he assigns a large amount of the credit for the establishment of the James Cook University of North Queensland to a former Premier and Minister for Education in the person of the late Honourable Mr. J. C. A. Pizzey."

LOCAL AUTHORITY POWER OVER FREE-
HOLD LAND AFFECTED BY MINING
APPLICATIONS

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

Has a council the power to grant building and/or subdivisional approvals over freehold land containing a mining lease, mining lease application, or authority to prospect?

Answer:—

"Yes. However the value of any such approval to the applicant would be subject to other legal issues."

APPLICATION OF PRINCIPLE IN TOWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL (SALE OF LAND) ACT

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

(1) With reference to the comment by his predecessor, on the occasion of the introduction of the Townsville City Council (Sale of Land) Bill, that the method of land sale provided for in the Bill was a pilot scheme and that the Minister would consider extending the same power to other local authorities if they so requested, will he show the same sympathy to any requests?

(2) Have any requests for similar schemes been forthcoming?

Answers:—

(1) "I am aware that the Townsville legislation covered a particular development proposal, which would be looked at as a pilot scheme. Any request for similar legislation, or incorporation of similar principles in the Local Government Act on a general basis, will be closely examined in the light of the situation in Townsville."

(2) "No."

PILOTAGE EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES

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

(1) How many ship's masters hold a Pilotage Exemption Certificate for Queensland ports?

(2) How many ships have entered Moreton Bay without pilots under the exemption provisions in the last twelve months?

(3) Does the holder of an exemption certificate have the right to dispense with a pilot irrespective of the nature of his cargo?

(4) What is the tonnage of the largest ship which has entered Moreton Bay under the exemption provisions since the Act was amended in 1971?

Answers:—

(1) "On June 30, 1974, 332 Pilotage Exemption Certificates were in force. The majority of these would not be in regular use. Twelve certificates were issued in the 12 months ending June 30, 1975."

(2) "In the year ending June 1974, 228 ships used the port without the services of a pilot. The number for the last 12 months would be approximately the same."

(3) "Yes."

(4) "The largest vessel to use Moreton Bay in the charge of an exempt master is the tanker "Solon" of 42,162 gross tons."

BORRIE REPORT AND BRISBANE
POPULATION

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

(1) Has he seen the Borrie Report recommendation urging immigration to Queensland and Western Australia, predicating a Brisbane population of 2.2 million by 2001 and suggesting that Brisbane can safely absorb this growth?

(2) Has he seen a statement by Professor Lewis Keeble that Brisbane could not accommodate a population of that size and that we should legislate to prevent growth to that level?

(3) In the light of these conflicting reports, what recommendation is he likely to submit to Cabinet regarding a tolerable maximum population for Brisbane?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "Yes. However, with reference to legislation to prevent growth, it must be clearly understood that only totalitarian societies will attempt to forcibly prevent people from living and working where they wish. In Australia, where significant freedom of thought and action are the unquestioned basic principles of society, no government accepting those principles would ever entertain the idea of restricting individual choice of residence or workplace. However, through the application of sound town planning and regional planning principles, governments can provide clean, safe and enjoyable environments for the existing population of a city and ensure that new residents can be accommodated to the satisfaction of all."

(3) "It is not considered necessary at this stage to make a recommendation to Cabinet. Further, with reference to Brisbane, the State Government has already taken two major initiatives. Firstly, in 1971, the Queensland Government amended the City of Brisbane Town Planning Act in order to provide the Brisbane City Council with the opportunity to formulate and implement a progressive town plan. Secondly, for the Moreton Region as a whole, the Co-ordinator-General's Department has, since the early 1970's, undertaken a series of regional studies designed to provide a data base upon which a regional growth strategy can be formulated. Last year this Government, through the department, in a joint effort with the Federal Government, commissioned the Moreton Region Employment Base Study which has included projections of population and labour force for both the State and the Moreton Region. The findings of this study will represent a major input into the Moreton Region Growth Strategy Investigation. These investigations are aimed at suggesting a growth strategy for the development of the Moreton Region until the year 2000."

GRANTS FOR STUDENTS TO COMPETE
IN STATE SPORTING CHAMPIONSHIPS

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

Are any subsidies or grants paid for travel and/or accommodation to students of primary and secondary schools who are selected to compete in State championships held in Brisbane or other cities in Queensland?

Answer:—

"Subsidies or grants are not paid from sporting funds administered by my Department for the purposes mentioned by the Honourable Member."

PRE-SCHOOL, WEST BUNDABERG STATE
SCHOOL

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

When does he expect the pre-school at the West Bundaberg State School to be completed and handed over to the Education Department for occupancy?

Answer:—

"Towards the end of the second school term 1975."

MARYBOROUGH BASE HOSPITAL WARDS

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

(1) What is the bed capacity and daily occupancy average of (a) the Demaine Private Ward and (b) the Wahroonga Ward at the Maryborough Base Hospital?

(2) What is the bed capacity of the proposed new private ward and the number on the waiting list for beds in Wahroonga Ward?

(3) Will he have consideration given to the construction of an additional wing for geriatric patients at Wahroonga Ward?

Answers:—

The Manager of the Maryborough Hospitals Board has advised as follows—

(1) "The daily average of the Demaine Private Ward for 1973-74 was 29.28. The capacity of the ward is 34 beds and 5 cots. No separate statistics are maintained for the Hospital section of Wahroonga. This section comprises two wards providing a total of 74 beds and maximum bed occupancy is maintained."

(2) "The proposed new private ward section is planned to provide 38 beds. There is no provision for cots as it is intended to accommodate these patients in a new children's section."

(3) "The Maryborough Hospitals Board has been given approval for provision of a 40 bed nursing home at Hervey Bay Hospital. Until this unit is constructed and occupied for some time, consideration of additional accommodation at Wahroonga would be premature."

HOUSING COMMISSION HOUSES AND UNITS, MARYBOROUGH

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

(1) What is the position regarding the contracts let last year to construct Housing Commission houses for rental and units for the aged in Maryborough?

(2) How many people are on the waiting list for commission houses for rental and units for the aged in Maryborough?

(3) Will he give an assurance that funds will be provided for contracts to be let for the construction of houses for rental and units for the aged in Maryborough over the next few months and has there been any delay on the part of the Commonwealth Government in providing finance for housing?

Answers:—

(1) "In respect of contracts let since July 1, 1973, nine houses have been completed including seven for rental and a further nine rental houses and eight pensioner units are currently under construction. In addition, in the above period \$808,500 has been allocated direct to Housing Societies in Maryborough."

(2) "For houses—100 points, 1; 80 points, 2; 40 points, 9; nil priority, 70. For aged persons units—singles, 17; couples, 7."

(3) "It is anticipated that tenders for 20 houses will be called before June. Maryborough will receive consideration in 1975-76 for additional pensioner units having regard to the volume of applications on hand in the various centres in the State. The Commonwealth Government is providing the specific amounts to which it has agreed. Owing to the speeding up by contractors in completing dwellings I have found that further funds are necessary and I have taken up with the Commonwealth Minister in this regard."

POLICE STRENGTH, MARYBOROUGH

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

What is the present official strength in all sections of the Police Force at Maryborough and are all positions filled?

Answer:—

"The strength of Maryborough Police Station comprises—

Police: Inspector, 1; Senior Sergeants, 2; Sergeants 1/c, 6; Detective Sergeant 1/c, 1; Sergeants 2/c, 4; Constables, 26; and Detective Constables, 3.

Civilians: Stenographers, 3; Clerk-Typist, 1; and General Assistants, 3. There is a vacancy for a constable resulting from a resignation on April 7, 1975. This will be filled as soon as possible. One sergeant 2/c position has been re-classified as for a prosecutor with the same rank. When the position is filled, it will not increase the overall police strength at this station."

ROYALTIES ON SAND MINERALS, NORTH STRADBROKE ISLAND

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

(1) What royalties were paid by mineral-sands companies on North Stradbroke Island in 1973-74?

(2) What royalties were paid by other sand-quarrying companies on North Stradbroke Island in 1973-74?

(3) What royalties are charged on mineral sands under the new scale of charges?

(4) What royalties are charged on sand quarried for glass and asbestos-cement manufacture?

Answers:—

(1) "\$173,258."

(2) "\$5,246."

(3) "For mineral sands sold, disposed of or used, either an amount equivalent to two per cent. of the value of such mineral or the following rate per tonne, whichever is the greater—Rutile concentrates, \$3.00; Zircon concentrates, \$1.50; and Ilmenite concentrates, 25c."

(4) "For silica sand sold, disposed of or used, an amount equivalent to two per cent. of the value of such mineral, or a rate of .25 cents per tonne, whichever is the greater."

GOLDEN CASKET ART UNION

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

(1) Why can the names of major-prize winners be withheld from publication in respect of the Golden Casket Art Union when charitable institutions conducting art unions are instructed by the Justice Department to publish the names of prize winners?

(2) What was the amount of casket prizes unclaimed for 1971-72, 1972-73 and 1973-74?

Answers:—

(1) "The present practice of withholding the names of major prizewinners from publication was adopted because of public request. The wording appearing in the published Result Slips is the result of a recommendation from the Auditor-General. The Golden Casket Art Union is conducted under the provisions of the Vagrant's Gaming and Other Offences Act and not The Art Union Regulation Act."

(2) "Unclaimed prizemonies remitted to the Audit Act Trust Fund during the three years in question were—1971-72, \$46,974; 1972-73, \$125,316 (Includes one prize of \$80,000); and 1973-74, \$62,874."

RAIL FREIGHTS ON LIVESTOCK

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

In view of tremendous depression within the meat industry, will he consider the removal of rail freights on the movement of stock in Queensland with a view to contributing financially in assisting cattlemen to stay in production, such scheme to be similar to drought-relief aid?

Answer:—

"The State Government has recognised the serious situation in the beef industry and has already taken substantial action for its relief, namely—(a) The provision of \$10 million for low interest loans for 'carry on' finance are available through the Rural Reconstruction Board to help the producer who cannot get finance from normal channels because of his financial situation. Interest for the first year is at the rate of 2½ per cent. and is subject to an annual review having regard to the financial viability of the borrower at the time of review. (b) Short term deferments for payment of stock assessments. Such payments may be made from the low interest loans for 'carry on' finance. (c) Deferment of land rents, freeholding instalments and loans to graziers through Special Government Scheme for 1974-75. (d) The renewal of leases in entirety in cases where such a renewal is necessary to provide security for leaseholders who have to borrow to recover. The State is unable to extend this assistance further from its own resources by way of removal of rail freights. It has urged the Commonwealth Government to acknowledge the plight of the industry and to provide further finance to enable the State scheme to be extended and expanded."

OFFENCES UNDER LOWER LEGAL DRINKING AGE LIMIT

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

(1) How many charges were laid for offences committed by persons in the 18-21 year-old age group (a) in the six months prior to lowering the legal drinking age to 18 and (b) for the six months subsequent to this statutory change?

(2) Does his department consider that this legislative action has gravely aggravated all facets of adolescent crime and misdemeanour problems?

Answers:—

(1) "Statistics are not kept by the Police Department which would enable this information to be supplied without a great deal of research requiring the unnecessary wastage of manpower. In the circumstances, I do not propose directing that this research be undertaken."

(2) "No."

UNLAWFUL USE AND STEALING OF MOTOR VEHICLES

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

(1) Anticipating that his attention has been drawn to the article in the *Telegraph* of March 19 referring to a number of high school boys stealing cars for private stock-car racing and as it is impossible for cars to be used for stock-car racing without sustaining considerable mechanical and other damage, why were these offenders charged with unlawful use of a vehicle and not with stealing a motor vehicle?

(2) How many persons, in the six months to the end of February, were convicted of the unlawful use of a motor vehicle and what was the range of penalties imposed?

(3) How many persons in the same period were charged with the stealing of a motor vehicle and what was the range of penalties imposed?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) "My attention has not been directed to the particular article. However, the framing of any charge is primarily a matter for the Prosecution. In general, the penalty provided for unlawfully using a motor vehicle is greater than in the ordinary case of stealing a motor vehicle. Moreover, in any prosecution the position of the offender must be regarded particularly as to age. Children under 17 years of age are dealt with in the Children's Court. In many respects a charge of unlawfully using a motor vehicle is preferred to one of stealing because it is easier to prove the use and the unlawfulness of it than to prove one of the

specific intents which are required in connection with stealing. The matter is currently under review."

INVASION OF PRIVACY BY AUSTRALIAN
BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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

(1) Is he aware of the demands placed on the people of this State by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Brisbane, whereby they are compelled to fill in forms seeking personal information, which is highly unnecessary and is an invasion of privacy?

(2) What can his Government do to prevent our people from being unnecessarily harassed and threatened with penalties laid down in the Act?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "I agree there is a great deal of concern about unnecessary questions being asked by Federal surveys. Much of the information borders on an invasion of privacy. The State will examine whether there is anything it can do to protect people's rights, particularly as the Bureau of Census and Statistics form which I believe the Honourable Member has in mind is one which could be well viewed as an attempt by the Commonwealth Government to compile a dossier on every Australian subject. In the meantime, any person who has reason to doubt that surveys by Commonwealth departments or instrumentalities, or the questions asked therein, are necessary should consult their Commonwealth Member or Senator."

VEHICLE REGISTRATION PLATES, MAIN
ROADS OFFICE, CAIRNS

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

With the completion of the construction of the new Main Roads Department office in Cairns, are the people of Cairns and district going to be able to obtain vehicle registration plates on the spot, in accordance with our policy of decentralisation?

Answer:—

"There is now a number of people engaged full time on detailed investigation and planning to simplify and decentralize motor vehicle registration. The issue of plates and labels at country centres such as Cairns will be one of the proposals implemented."

SEALING OF MOUNT CARBINE LINK,
MULLIGAN HIGHWAY

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

As R. B. Mining is now one of the largest suppliers of wolfram in Queensland, employs 55 men and is expanding every

week, what is the proposed completion date for the missing link of bitumen to Mt. Carbine on the Mulligan Highway, which is needed to make it an all-weather road?

Answer:—

"Recent construction on this road has been carried out under beef road allocations and plans for the two-mile section were prepared during this period. This road has not been approved for beef road funding under the current legislation and now has to compete with many other highways for funds allocated to roads in the rural arterial category. No indication can be given when the two-mile section will be programmed for construction nor when planning will be undertaken for the four-mile section."

FUNDS FOR SCHOOL LIBRARIES

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

(1) Is he aware that the Commonwealth Minister for Education is writing to parents and citizens' associations in Queensland indicating that Queensland has not spent funds available to it for the construction of primary and secondary school libraries?

(2) How much money is available from this source and over what period, how much has been spent to date and how many projects are awaiting Canberra approval?

Answers:—

1. "No. I was not aware of this."

2. "As stated in the letter by Mr. Beazley which the Honourable Member tabled, the total sum available to my Department for the two calendar years 1974 and 1975, under the provisions of the *States' Grants (Schools) Act 1973*, was \$4.67 million—\$2.53 million for primary schools and \$2.14 million for secondary schools. The other figures quoted by Mr. Beazley are, however, outdated—information furnished by the Department of Works (which Department administers the capital funds allocated for my Department's use) indicates that expenditure for the period 1-1-74 to 31-3-75 has been—Primary Libraries, \$1,120,482; and Secondary Libraries, \$879,262, a total of \$1,999,744.00. The balance will be fully spent by 31-12-75. The Honourable Member will no doubt appreciate that a building programme of any consequence is an ongoing enterprise which accelerates after the initial planning stage has been completed and the construction programme proper has commenced. I would also point out that my Department's Building Programme was seriously delayed by last year's disastrous floods, but this handicap is being rapidly overcome. As

regards Commonwealth approval of projects, this is obtained in advance in respect of a complete programme covering a particular financial year; consequently no individual library projects are at this stage awaiting Canberra approval."

EFFECT OF TRADE PRACTICES ACT ON
AUCTIONEERS AND AGENTS ACT

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

Has the Commonwealth Trade Practices Act interfered with the sole-agency provision in the Auctioneers and Agents Act and is any action in this regard proposed?

Answer:—

"The *Trade Practices Act 1974* provides that where a restrictive trade practice is specifically covered by State legislation that restrictive practice is exempt from the provisions of the Trade Practices Act. As there is no conflict, therefore, between Australian and State legislation no action is necessary in respect of the sole agency provisions of the Auctioneers and Agents Act which in any case are not considered to be a restrictive practice."

HOLDERS OF TOWN AUCTION PERPETUAL
LEASES

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

(1) Is he aware that the rapid escalation in land values in recent years has severely disadvantaged the position of the holders of town A.P. leases and that this often occurs quite suddenly and disastrously when rentals are reviewed on a five-yearly basis?

(2) Is he aware that landholders in this category are often called on to pay a rental three times the amount of their local authority rates?

(3) In view of this situation, is he prepared to give special consideration to residential leaseholders in this position, or at least to pensioners?

Answers:—

(1) "I am aware of the escalation in residential land values and am anxiously awaiting agreement with the Commonwealth Government for the release of loan moneys to the State, without any attached restrictive land tenure, so that fully serviced residential allotments may be made available at acceptable prices. The first rental period of ten years of an Auction Perpetual Lease is based on three per cent of the final sum bid at auction and every subsequent period is determined by the Land Court."

(2) "Local Authority rates are determined on valuations supplied by the Valuer-General and it is for each individual Local Authority to strike an annual rate."

(3) "Provision already exists in the Land Act for the lessee of an Auction Perpetual Lease to apply on the grounds of hardship for relief from the liability to pay in full the annual rental determined by the Land Court for the second or any subsequent rental period. Special consideration is applied to pensioners."

INCREASED ASSIGNMENTS, SUGAR CANE
FARMS AND MILLS

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

(1) What guide-lines were used by the Central Sugar Cane Prices Board in determining which (a) mill areas and (b) farms were to be given provisional grant of increased assignments?

(2) In relation to mill areas was special provision made for areas where water-development schemes were under construction, planned or projected and, if so to what extent and in which areas?

(3) In relation to farm increases, was a ceiling figure established on the price paid for land for which farmers had applied for increased assignments and, if so, what was the figure, when was it selected, were farmers informed of its existence and did it vary from mill area to mill area in accordance with the differing general land values which exist in Queensland?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) "The Central Sugar Cane Prices Board has completed its report regarding the desirability of assigning additional land for the growing of sugar cane in Queensland and I shall be recommending to the board that copies of the report be made available to the industry. The report is sufficiently comprehensive to acquaint the Honourable Member with the information he is seeking."

(3) "The Central Sugar Cane Prices Board is a statutory body. In deciding whether land should be assigned for cane growing the board would take into consideration factors such as the suitability of the land for sugar cane production, access, location of the 'new' land in relation to the existing farm, its economic value for canegrowing purposes, and other relevant matters. It is not the practice of the Central Board to indicate what it considers to be a reasonable price for land. Furthermore, the Board does not have jurisdiction to control the prices paid for unassigned land. However, it does have power to refuse to assign land for which

the price paid is considered excessive having regard to the long-term effects upon the economy of the industry."

PAYMENT OF SALARIES TO TEACHER AIDES

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

(1) Is he aware that because of the employment of teacher aides in State schools a serious bottle-neck has occurred in the administration sections in regional offices, resulting in considerable delays in the payment of salaries due to the aides?

(2) As many of them are widows or deserted wives who rely heavily on this additional income to supplement their family income, will he take immediate action to alter or improve the system of payments to teacher aides so that they are paid on a regular fortnightly basis?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "As a result of a complaint earlier this year about delays in payment of teacher aides, an officer of my department investigated the procedures being used by regional offices. He found that there were some delays of relatively short duration but these were unavoidable. Schools and regional offices must comply with certain procedures, to meet audit requirements. However, my department's enquiries are continuing with a view to reducing any delays, if such reduction is possible."

PRE-SCHOOL CENTRE, PETRIE TERRACE

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

(1) When will work commence on the pre-school centre for Petrie Terrace?

(2) When will this urgently needed pre-school centre be functioning?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "A suitable site, which comprises four properties, has been selected for the provision of pre-school facilities at Petrie Terrace. Two of the properties have been obtained by negotiation. However, attempts to acquire the remaining two by negotiation have been unsuccessful. Resumption proceedings were authorized for these in December 1974. Information on when work will commence on the pre-school centre, and when it will be functioning cannot be given until resumption proceedings have been finalised."

NOISE NUISANCE AT TEMPORARY RAILWAY BRIDGE, UPPER ROMA STREET

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

(1) Is he aware of the excessive noise created by the temporary bridge which has been constructed at Upper Roma Street in conjunction with the construction of the rail link to South Brisbane?

(2) As temporary repairs were allegedly carried out over the week-end, but to no avail, is his department prepared to take any further steps to reduce this noise factor?

(3) When is it proposed that this temporary bridge will be replaced by a permanent structure?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) "The temporary bridge referred to is of conventional type consisting of heavy timber planks carried by steel beams with a comprehensive bolting arrangement connecting the planks to the beams. The bridge was designed to enable its erection and subsequent removal with minimum periods of road closure permitted by the Brisbane City Council and the Police Department. The noise factor associated with such a bridge is influenced by the overall tightness of the connections and increases with progressive loosening of the connections under the passage of heavy continuous traffic. The matter has been under discussion with the contractor, who has agreed to carry out regular routine tightening on Saturdays when restriction of traffic to one lane is permitted. The temporary bridge is expected to be removed before the end of June when it will be replaced by a roadway constructed on filling over the tunnel."

MOSMAN HALL MENTAL HOME, CHARTERS TOWERS

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

(1) Will he assure the people of Charters Towers that there are no immediate or future plans to move part or all of the Mosman Hall Mental Home from Charters Towers?

(2) Will he investigate the possibility of upgrading this hospital, which is little more than an incarceration centre where nurses and staff are not being trained and inmates are not being treated, to a proper rehabilitation centre?

Answers:—

1. "The Honourable Member may be assured that there is no plan to phase out Mosman Hall. The capital investment of Mosman Hall and its close integration with the North Queensland community assure it of a permanent place in the health delivery services of North Queensland."

2. "Within the limits of the professional expertise available in a provincial city such as Charters Towers, the hospital has been developed as a rehabilitation as well as a treatment centre and the staff and patients of Mosman Hall are anticipating developments in the community, which will allow the further resocialisation and rehabilitation of patients within a community setting appropriate to their previous life style. I reaffirm the answer of the previous Minister for Health to a similar question that it would be unwise with the changing medical philosophies and conditions of today to be rigidly specific in respect of possible future developments, but I do take the opportunity, however, of stressing the necessity to develop supervised group homes in the final integration of discharged patients into full community life. In this regard it must be recognised that Charters Towers is unable to provide the commercial and industrial settings in which full work rehabilitation can be achieved."

AID FOR LIVESTOCK HAULIERS

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

(1) Will he carry out an immediate investigation into opening the present Beef Producers' Rural Reconstruction Fund to livestock hauliers whose incomes depend entirely upon the buoyancy of the beef industry and whose financial plight is as serious as that of any beef producer?

(2) Is he aware that the waiving of permit fees to livestock hauliers did not afford any assistance whatsoever to northern hauliers west of the Great Dividing Range, those hauliers hardest hit by the collapse of the beef industry?

Answers:—

(1) "The Beef Cattle Industry Assistance Scheme provides emergency assistance to producers in necessitous circumstances and its aim is to ensure that those who may not otherwise be able to do so may be assisted to continue in working operation and occupation of their properties. In turn assistance so provided flows through to businesses in rural areas. To widen the present scheme would require very substantial additional funds which are not available."

(2) "This question is one for reply by my colleague, the Honourable the Minister for Transport, and I suggest you refer your question to him."

SOLAR ENERGY

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

Is he aware of any research being made in Queensland for the utilisation of energy from the sun? If so, what is the extent of the research and what is the proposed

date for the commencement of commercial use of solar energy and, if not, will he cause suitable investigations to be made by officers of his department?

Answer:—

"Yes. The Mechanical Engineering Department of University of Queensland has been carrying out research in solar energy, particularly heating and cooling of buildings, for many years. In addition, research is proceeding in the Departments of Mechanical, Electrical and Chemical Engineering on solar cells and photochemical conversion. C.S.I.R.O., at its Townsville Solar Energy Research Station, is carrying out research in radiation and timber drying. Solar energy research is also being carried out at James Cook University, Townsville. Solar energy has been utilized for many years in Queensland, particularly for domestic water heating. High capital and installation costs have been the limiting factor. Of course, solar energy is the source of almost all our energy, such as water power, petroleum and coal."

LAND FOR SCHOOLS, RIVERVIEW

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

(1) In view of the rapid expansion of the suburb of Riverview, in the Electorate of Wolston, has consideration been given to the acquisition of any land in that suburb for the purpose of the future construction of a primary school and a high school?

(2) If land has been acquired for this purpose, where is it situated and what is the area?

(3) If land has not been obtained up to the present time, will consideration be given to the acquisition of an area sufficient for the provision of future educational facilities in this suburb?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2 and 3) "No land has yet been acquired but the acquisition of certain sites to cater for both primary and secondary schools in future developments has been recommended and negotiations are in progress."

TRAFFIC CONTROL, IPSWICH ROAD, RIVERVIEW

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

(1) When will pedestrian traffic lights be installed on the Brisbane-Ipswich Highway at its junction with Esther Street and Moggill Ferry Road at Riverview?

(2) Will his department provide overhead lighting at this pedestrian crossing similar to the overhead lighting provided at other pedestrian crossings on this highway?

(3) Will his department provide a deceleration lane at the location for traffic turning left into Esther Street?

Answers:—

(1) "Design of these pedestrian activated signals is completed and the signals should be in operation by the end of this financial year."

(2) "Overhead lighting is not proposed at this stage."

(3) "There are no plans for the provision of a deceleration lane at this location in the near future."

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL LINE IN INTRASTATE TRADE

Mr. M. D. Hooper, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

(1) Has he had the opportunity to consider the submissions made to him on November 14 last by the Townsville Harbour Board, the Townsville District Development Bureau, the Chamber of Commerce and myself, as Mayor of the City of Townsville, wherein we jointly requested the Government to allow Australian National Line ships to engage in intrastate trade from Brisbane to Townsville and other northern ports?

(2) Is he aware that since that time the Townsville District Development Bureau has canvassed over 250 firms and employer instrumentalities and that not one organisation has expressed concern at the possible introduction of intrastate A.N.L. shipping?

(3) As responsible organisations in Townsville are still prepared to confirm in writing that this alternative method of transport from Brisbane to northern ports should be made available to the people of North Queensland, is he prepared to recommend to Cabinet that discussions should take place with the Australian National Line for the early introduction of this service, on receipt of guarantees from A.N.L. in relation to freight rates which would not jeopardise the business of the Railway Department and road-transport operators?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) "This question has received lengthy consideration. Cabinet has requested the Minister for Transport to further review the situation and report to Cabinet. I will get in touch with the Honourable Member when a decision is taken."

TOWN COMMON PASTURAGE RESERVE, TOWNSVILLE

Mr. M. D. Hooper, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Lands,—

(1) In relation to the proposed development of an international airport at Townsville, is he aware that a prerequisite to the project is the acquisition by the Commonwealth Government of an area of approximately 500 acres from the Town Common Pasturage Reserve, which adjoins the existing airport facility?

(2) As the Townsville City Council is anxious to have the balance area of approximately 8,000 acres declared a reserve for flora and fauna before any more land is resumed, to what stage have negotiations reached with the Commonwealth Government, so that the declaring of the flora and fauna reserve may be finalised?

Answers:—

(1) "A proposal being investigated by the Commonwealth Government for the development of an international airport at Townsville involves acquisition of an area of about 680 acres from Pasturage Reserve R.129, Townsville. The Commonwealth Department of Services and Property has been advised of agreement in principle with the proposed acquisition, subject to certain provisions which may be necessary when the views of the Townsville City Council on the proposal are known."

(2) "Executive Authority will be sought for the parts of the Pasturage Reserve not subject to the Commonwealth proposals associated with the Townsville Airport, and having an area of about 6,504 acres, to be set apart and reserved for Local Government (Environmental Conservation) Purposes, under the control and management of the Townsville City Council. It is anticipated that the Order in Council will be published in the *Government Gazette* on April 19, 1975."

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES OF SAND- MINING OF DUNES, MORETON BAY ISLANDS

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

(1) Are there any environmental studies available to him which conclude that sand mining can be conducted on the high dunes of Moreton, Fraser, North Stradbroke or South Stradbroke Islands without endangering the stability of the dunes and, if so, when were each of these studies conducted and what were the qualifications of the authors in each case?

(2) Will he table some or all of the studies to allow the validity of the reasoning to be examined?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "If the Honourable Member means have any Environmental Impact Studies in accordance with the State and Regional Planning and Development, Public Works Organization and Environmental Control Act been submitted to me, the answer is no. However, conditions I have recommended to safeguard the stability of high dunes after mining have been based on recommendations of highly qualified technical officers from my own and other departments reinforced by my own personal observations in this State and elsewhere. I would point out that the mining companies are under bonds to ensure that rehabilitation is carried out satisfactorily and a committee comprising technical officers from the Department of Primary Industries, Land Administration Commission, the Beach Protection Authority, an ecologist employed in my Department and an Inspector of Mines carry out periodic investigations to ensure that satisfactory progress is made by the company. The last inspection was carried out last month."

IMPROVEMENT OF CAPRICORN HIGHWAY

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

What can be done for the Capricorn Highway, as a result of his having seen this highway with me recently?

Answer:—

"Expenditure this year on the Capricorn Highway is expected to exceed \$1.9 million. This represents a large part of the funds which were allocated to Rural Arterial roads in Central Queensland. I appreciate the need to upgrade this highway and every effort will be made to at least maintain in coming years, this current rate of expenditure. However it must be borne in mind that the Commonwealth Government's allocation for Rural Arterial roads decreases over the next two years. Present programming provides for the start of the following works in the next financial year—Dawson River Bridges, reconstruction and widening of an 11 mile section between Bluff and Blackwater including the replacement or widening of bridges in this section."

DURATION OF DISPLAY OF BRISBANE TOWN PLAN

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

(1) Is he aware that because of holidays and week-ends the Town Plan for Brisbane will be actually on display in the City Hall for only 39 days, not 60 days, and that civic-minded citizens who are preparing objections are able to do so only in their own limited free time, at their own expense and against almost insuperable difficulties posed by the

obscurantism and anomalies which characterise the lamentable set of maps and documents which purport to be a plan?

(2) Does he have the legal power to extend the number of days for objection and, if so, will he consider doing so in order to assist accurate, concise and properly researched objections to be brought forward?

Answers:—

(1) "I am aware of the fact that the City of Brisbane Town Planning Act prescribes an inspection period of 60 days for the new Town Plan, and that this is a prescribed 'period' and not a specific number of working days."

(2) "(a) In accordance with the Act mentioned the Governor in Council has the power to extend the period of time by Order in Council. (b) I have received some requests for the extension of time referred to and am considering making a recommendation that a 30 day extension be granted, to make the inspection period in Brisbane consistent with the period of 90 days provided for in the Local Government Act for new Town Plans of other Local Authorities."

OBJECTION FORMS, BRISBANE TOWN PLAN

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

(1) Is he aware that the objection forms available at the City Hall, designed for citizens to use when objecting to the Town Plan, bear the ominous and potentially intimidatory words "This is a legal document"?

(2) Is he aware that the supplied objection forms also warn citizens against using attachments by printing the implied threat that attachments may be lost, thereby limiting the effectiveness of objections by discouraging thoroughness?

(3) Will he reassure the public that these forms need not be used and that citizens may devise more appropriate forms for themselves, as this matter is upsetting many citizens of Brisbane?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) "I am aware of the forms provided by the Council."

(3) "I gave such an assurance in my reply to a Question relating to these forms on March 11."

AGRICULTURAL TRACTORS FOR CANE-GROWERS

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

In view of serious shortages of new agricultural tractors available for purchase by Queensland cane-growers, will he

investigate the circumstances of the shortages and report upon the matter to the House?

Answer:—

"I will be pleased to have the matter examined and will advise the Honourable Member of the outcome of my enquiries in due course."

ROAD SAFETY FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

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

(1) How many children have been killed or maimed during the past five years when travelling on roads to or from school?

(2) What progress has been made to date on a project, initiated by the Queensland Council of State Schools Organisation and undertaken by the Media Services section of his department, to produce a road-safety film specifically related to travel to and from school?

Answers:—

(1) "No information is available specifically relating to the number of children killed or maimed going to or from school. However, the number of children killed in Queensland in road accidents is as follows:—(It should be noted that each age grouping is broken into the category of motor drivers, motor cyclists, pedestrian cyclists, pedestrians and passengers.) Under five years, 96; five and six years, 41; seven to 16 years, 269; and 17 to 20 years, 629, total, 1,035. No information is recorded for injuries."

(2) "It is proposed to include provision for a series of safety films in requests for funds for 1975-76. As a result of suggestions from members of the Queensland Council of State Schools Organisation, the highest priority will be given to films concerned with road safety. If funds are available the planning of the road safety films will be done in consultation with the Queensland Police, Queensland Road Safety Council, and National Safety Council."

REGULATION OF CHILD-CARE CENTRES

Mr. Lindsay, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Community and Welfare Services,—

(1) Is he aware that the Brisbane City Council is enforcing the Children's Services (Day Care Centres) Regulations of 1973 without regard to the amendment to the regulations?

(2) How many child-care centres will either close or undergo costly renovations as a result of this illegal enforcement by the council?

(3) What action does he propose to take to ensure that the contents of the amendment to the Act are made known to the council and all child-care centres?

(4) Do the Children's Services (Day Care Centres) Regulations of 1973 apply equally to State and private child-care centres?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) "I would refer the Honourable Member to my Answer of Wednesday, March 19, 1975, to a similar Question by the Honourable Member for Stafford, Mr. T. J. Gygar, M.L.A. In my Answer to the Honourable Member for Stafford, I indicated that I had not received any evidence that the Brisbane City Council is acting other than in accordance with the spirit and intentions of the Children's Services Day Care Centres Regulations. However since then there have been statements from council sources which give cause for concern. If the Honourable Member will supply details of any cases of which he may be aware, I shall be happy to cause appropriate enquiries to be made."

(3) "An officer of the Department of Children's Services has travelled extensively throughout Queensland advising local authorities of the contents of the Children's Services Day Care Centres Regulations and the subsequent amendment. She has also been in contact with the relevant section of the Brisbane City Council. In addition, approval has been given for a Day Care Section within the Department and attention is being given to the appointment of appropriate officers."

(4) "There are no State Day Care Centres in Queensland."

COMMONWEALTH FUNDS FOR ROAD WORKS

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

(1) With reference to the Commonwealth-State funding arrangement for Queensland roads, what was the total amount made available by the Commonwealth Government to this State for each of the last five financial years, including 1974-75?

(2) What were the allocations during each of the years for (a) rural roads, (b) beef roads and (c) national highways?

(3) With regard to national highways, how much was spent by this Government on such roads during each of the last five years and what expenditure is proposed for 1974-75?

Answers:—

(1) "The amounts which include expenditure on beef roads under the second part of the Question are as follows:—1970-71, \$47.37 million; 1971-72, \$53.56 million; 1972-73, \$57.61 million; 1973-74, \$64.30 million; 1974-75, \$77.06 million including planning and research allocation to roads and beef roads allocation."

(2) "Commonwealth allocations are as follows:—

	Rural Roads excluding Beef Roads	Beef Roads	National Highways
1970-71 ..	\$22.90 M	\$7.81 M	Included under Rural Roads
1971-72 ..	\$25.41 M	\$8.20 M	Included under Rural Roads
1972-73 ..	\$28.29 M	\$5.50 M	Included under Rural Roads
1973-74 ..	\$31.53 M	\$4.47 M	Included under Rural Roads
1974-75 ..	\$28.84 M	\$6.00 M	\$22.46 M

I would like to qualify the figures shown for beef roads. Unlike the other figures quoted which are allocations, the beef road figures shown are actual expenditures. The beef road expenditure for 1973-74 includes a carry-over expenditure of \$0.413 million under the old Act which has been expended this financial year."

(3) "Expenditures on roads which are now National Highways are as follows:—

1970-71, \$8.8 M	} construction only
1971-72, \$11.8 M	
1972-73, \$12.2 M	
1973-74, \$14.3 M	
1974-75 \$17.52 M for construction \$4.94 M for maintenance	are the allocations and current expenditure is close to target.

In considering these figures account must be made for escalation in costs (24 per cent. in the last year) thus making the actual work carried out on National Highways about the same in 1974-75 as in 1973-74."

RURAL-ARTERIAL AND RURAL-LOCAL ROADS

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

(1) With specific reference to roads classifications, i.e., rural-arterial and rural-local, what money was allocated during 1974-75 by the Commonwealth Government?

(2) What types of roads come within these categories and are any roads in the Brisbane metropolitan area included?

Answers:—

(1) "Including an additional allocation of \$2.64 million made to Rural Arterials in February, the 1974-75 Commonwealth Allocations are \$14.74 million to Rural Arterials and \$14.2 million to Rural Local Roads."

(2) "Rural Arterial roads are roads other than National Highways with functional classification 1, 2 or 3 as defined by the Commonwealth Bureau of Roads. They include the remainder of the State Highways and a considerable length of Main Road and Developmental Road. Rural Local roads are roads with functional classifications 4 and 5, being the balance of declared Main and Developmental Roads, Secondary Roads and Local Authority Roads in rural areas. There are no rural arterial or rural local roads in the Brisbane Metropolitan area."

FREE TRANSPORT FOR COUNTRY PATIENTS REQUIRING SPECIAL TREATMENT

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

With reference to my Question to his predecessor in 1974 regarding the transport costs of patients needing special treatment in Brisbane and, specifically, the financial problems of Mount Isa residents in arranging for regular treatment in Brisbane, has this financial situation been reviewed and does his department give sympathetic consideration to citizens of distant areas who need financial assistance to travel to Brisbane?

Answer:—

"There has been no change in policy in regard to transport costs for public patients requiring special treatment at public hospitals in Brisbane or other major cities. As previously advised all persons suffering from malignancy who are recommended by the local medical superintendent and approved by the Director-General are provided with free transport without means test by the State Department of Health. Free transport, subject to a means test, is supplied to patients referred by the medical superintendent of a public hospital for further treatment in another public hospital. This may include air transport when it is medically indicated and approved by the Director-General."

FLUORIDATION OF DRINKING WATER

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to a report in *The Courier-Mail* of April 5 by a Dr. Walter Hodson on fluoridation of water?

(2) Is he aware that Dr. Hodson is qualified as a Ph.D. and does he have any medical or dental qualifications?

(3) Does his department accept that fluoridation to the level of one part per million of drinking water is a safe level for use by children in a community and that, on occasions, naturally occurring fluoride levels must be reduced to that therapeutic level?

(4) Do world dental and medical experts also accept that fluoridation of drinking water to one part per million is a desirable and safe health measure?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "Information available to me states that Dr. Hodson does not have recognised medical or dental qualifications."

(3 and 4) "World Health Organization and Australian health authorities recommend fluoridation of domestic water supplies with specific concentration of fluoride. This is a safe and a very desirable public health measure. Defluoridation of a public water supply is a difficult and costly chemical or de-ionizing process."

TRAFFIC LIGHTS, ALBION FIVEWAYS

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

When will traffic lights be installed at the Albion Fiveways, especially as the completion of the T.A.B. building will greatly increase the traffic flow there?

Answer:—

"This intersection is not located on roads under the control of the Main Roads Department and it is a matter for the Brisbane City Council to decide the priority for signalisation at this location. It is not listed on a three year programme of projects submitted by the council for funding from a Commonwealth Allocation for Minor Traffic Engineering and Road Safety Improvements."

SELECTION OF SPORTING TEAMS

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

With reference to an article in *The Australian* of March 17 wherein the writer advances the theory that the senseless political bickering and confrontation engaged in by the Government has made Queenslanders look a bunch of hicks who can be safely ignored to the extent that our cricket players are denied selection for the Australian Cricket Team, is he happy with this state of affairs in the selection of sporting teams?

Answer:—

"I have read the article referred to in *The Australian*. The selection of sporting teams, whether they be on the basis of

a club, city, State or Australian team, is a matter solely for the selectors chosen by the sport itself to carry out their allotted task. The theory advanced by the writer in relation to Queensland representation has also been noted. There is, of course, a difference in interpretation of Queensland's attitude towards the centralist, socialist A.L.P. Government in Canberra. The newspaper article, to which the Honourable Member for Archerfield refers, used the words 'senseless, political bickering and confrontation between the Queensland and Federal Governments'. The Queensland Government prefers to describe its attitude as standing up for State rights and the concept of Federation, and voting in the last Commonwealth and State elections here overwhelmingly supported this definition. The Honourable Member for Archerfield indicated that Queenslanders had been made to look like a bunch of hicks over the selection of the Australian Cricket Team. While the Honourable Member for Archerfield used the words 'hicks', I suggest he might try 'hacks' and apply it to his own party in view of what happened in the Commonwealth and State elections in Queensland. Queenslanders might be unhappy over the selection of the Australian Cricket Team, but they are particularly satisfied about how the Queensland Government was selected. The Honourable Member talks about cricket, and I remind him that the Queensland A.L.P. was so crushed in the last 'test' that it came back with only the bare xi."

ENTRY STANDARDS FOR GATTON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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

Are the entry standards for the Gatton Agricultural College a Junior certificate for boys and a Senior certificate for girls, and if so, what is the reason for the difference?

Answer:—

"The Queensland Agricultural College offers 15 tertiary courses leading to the award of degrees, diplomas or associate diplomas. Entry to these courses is based on completion of grade 12 and is open equally to boys and girls. In fact some 100 girls are enrolled this year. In addition the college offers two sub-tertiary courses leading to the award of certificates. Entry to these courses, which because of declining enrolments are being replaced by the more popular tertiary level associate diploma courses, is based on completion of grade 10. It has never been the policy to accept girls into certificate courses. The council of this autonomous college of advanced education has not considered changing this policy in view of the declining enrolments."

SECURITY LIGHTING OF STATE SCHOOLS
TO COMBAT VANDALISM

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

In view of the increasing vandalism at State schools at night, will he consider the installation of security lighting as a deterrent?

Answer:—

“This matter has already been investigated by departments concerned, including the Department of Works, and it has been resolved that security lighting is not a practicable deterrent to vandalism.”

COMPULSORY IMPRISONMENT OF PERSONS
DRIVING WHILST DISQUALIFIED

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

Further to the Answer to my Question on March 20 by the Minister for Transport and the announcement in the Press of April 8 concerning amendments to the Traffic Act to allow magistrates discretionary power in punishment imposed for drink-driving offences and the removal of the six-months mandatory gaol sentence for driving while under disqualification—

(1) How many offenders under this section of the Act are presently serving gaol sentences?

(2) How many cases are presently awaiting adjudication or are on remand?

(3) What arrangement is to be made for persons so convicted and presently serving mandatory prison sentences under the existing provisions?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) “These Questions should be directed to other Ministers.”

(3) “Consideration will be given to this Question when the law is amended. Each case will have to be looked at in the light of its own particular circumstances.”

MILK SUPPLY, CAIRNS DISTRICT

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to the delivery of milk in the Cairns area, where vendors and/or retailers are required to accept milk packaged in cartons at Malanda, bearing dates stamped two or three days previously?

(2) Is he aware that milk in cartons packaged up to seven days previously has been distributed and sold to consumers in the city of Cairns?

(3) If so, has he had this situation reviewed recently and, if not, will he give an assurance that early corrective action to rectify these anomalies will be taken?

Answers:—

(1) “No.”

(2) “No.”

(3) “Action will be taken immediately to have the matter investigated and corrective action taken if the situation is as reported.”

FIRE-SAFETY STANDARDS FOR PRE-SCHOOL
CENTRES

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

(1) Is he aware that pre-school centres are being constructed with interior and exterior building materials which are not fireproof?

(2) In view of the recently applied standards for fire safety in child-care and kindergarten buildings, will local authorities have similar controls and demand substantial compliance with the fire-protection requirements and standards for application for all pre-school centres?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) “A pre-school centre is not a kindergarten or child-care centre but is a school building built to the same standards as a State school. Pre-school centre buildings are of slab on ground construction, lined with hardboard, ceiled with asbestos cement, sheeted with chamferboard externally and with brick veneer end-walls. The standards applied to kindergartens do not apply to pre-school buildings; local authorities do not have jurisdiction over Government buildings; and, where necessary, fire control will be through the State Fire Services Council. Due to the type of construction (slab on ground) evacuation of a pre-school centre does not pose problems.”

PROBATE AND SUCCESSION DUTIES

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

(1) What is the total number of persons employed in the various departments concerned with the collection of probate and succession taxes?

(2) What is the total administrative cost involved in the collection of the taxes?

Answers:—

(1) “103.”

(2) “For the financial year 1973–74 the cost of collection of succession duty comprising salaries plus an arbitrary apportionment of other costs of the Stamps Office totalled \$886,798. Probate duty was abolished in December, 1973.”

ADVERTISEMENT OF RED SHIELD ROOFING
PTY. LTD., TOWNSVILLE

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

(1) Is he aware that a company trading under the title of Red Shield Roofing Pty. Ltd. advertised in *The Townsville Daily Bulletin* of March 12 that its system is approved by this Government?

(2) If he is aware of this advertisement, could he comment on it and does it contravene the Consumer Affairs Act in any way?

Answers:—

(1) "I had not seen the advertisement which appeared in *The Townsville Daily Bulletin* prior to the matter having been raised by the Honourable Member."

(2) "It is not the function of the Consumer Affairs Bureau to approve products or services, and no approval has been given by the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs in respect of products or services provided by Red Shield Roofing Pty. Ltd. Section 30 of the *Consumer Affairs Act 1970-1974* contains certain provisions relating to advertisements concerning Government approval of goods or services, and I shall arrange for the advice of the Solicitor General to be obtained as to whether the advertisement under reference contravenes the Consumer Affairs Act."

EMPLOYEES AND SALARIES, DEPARTMENT
OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

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

(1) How many persons are employed in his department?

(2) What expenditure was incurred by his department by way of salaries and wages in the last 12 months?

Answers:—

(1) "As at June 30, 1974, 2,589 officers were employed by the Department of Primary Industries."

(2) "For the 12 months ended June 30, 1974, the amount of \$18,553,245 was expended on salaries and wages for officers employed by the Department of Primary Industries."

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The time for questions has expired. Unanswered questions will appear on tomorrow's Business Paper.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS REGISTRATION
ACT AMENDMENT BILL

INITIATION

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

"That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill to amend the Public Accountants Registration Act 1946-1974 in certain particulars."

Motion agreed to.

TRAFFIC ACT AMENDMENT BILL

INITIATION

Hon. K. W. HOOPER (Greenslopes—Minister for Transport): I move—

"That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill to amend the Traffic Act 1949-1974 in certain particulars."

Motion agreed to.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

SUBSIDIES AND GRANTS TO SPORTING BODIES

Mr. JENSEN (Bundaberg) (12.17 p.m.): The matter of public interest on which I wish to speak is the payment of subsidies and grants to sporting associations and clubs. I appeal to the Minister in charge of the Department of Sport, the Cabinet and members of the Government to reorganise the allocations and give first priority for grants and subsidies to student and junior sporting bodies in all Queensland championships wherever they are held within the State.

The annual report of the Department of Sport for the year ended 30 June 1974 stated on page 2 that the Commonwealth Government introduced a scheme for assistance by way of subsidy on fares for representative State teams of approved amateur sportsmen, women and officials attending national and international events. Further, where subsidy is not approved by the Commonwealth, grants may be made to the State associations concerned from State sporting funds.

In my view, this should be the first priority for grants and subsidies. I submit that the State should now approve, as first priority on its funds, subsidies to all students and juniors who have qualified to contest any State championship wherever it may be held in the State.

The former member for Toowoomba North (Mr. R. Bousen), in a Matters of Public Interest debate in November 1973 spoke about subsidies for sport for school-children, and referred to the work put into coaching by the teachers and the raising of money through raffles by p. and c. associations to send the children to State championships. The Minister disregarded Mr. Bousen's appeal.

Consequently I request all members of the Government to give this matter urgent consideration as the applications are now in for subsidies and grants for the 1975 year. From the list of grants and subsidies in the 1974 report it will be observed that the largest amounts have gone to bowls clubs and golf clubs. Mr. Bousen also pointed this out in 1973.

Last year the Queensland Golf Union received 16 per cent of the funds allocated, and the Queensland Bowls Association, men's and ladies', just on 15 per cent. The next highest was the Queensland Amateur Basketball Association with 9 per cent. Then followed soccer with 6.3 per cent, Rugby League 5.3 per cent, yachting 5 per cent, tennis 4 per cent, Australian Football League 1.9 per cent, and other clubs that received a little over 1 per cent. The Junior Australian Football League received 1.5 per cent.

The golf clubs and bowls clubs have adequate facilities for raising funds by fees, liquor sales and all types of raffles, yet they received about \$70,000 in subsidies. The Queensland Golf Union received \$74,773 and the bowls associations received \$69,834. The Queensland Amateur Basketball Association received \$42,529, the Queensland Soccer Federation \$29,518 and the Queensland Rugby Football League \$25,117. No subsidies were allowed for students attending State titles or intercity titles. These are the future champions of this State to whom we should give full support. This morning I asked the Minister whether any subsidies or grants were given to students attending titles and he replied, "No." In view of his answer I raise this subject today as a matter of public interest. It is most important that the Government provide financial assistance to these young State champions.

I turn now to the position of junior soccer in Bundaberg, where there are 59 affiliated teams comprising approximately 800 registered players under 15 years of age. In addition there are 42 teams at primary schools with 600 players engaged in interschool competitions.

Last year the Bundaberg Junior Soccer Association paid out the sum of \$3,483 to cover the cost of fares and accommodation for the junior teams that contested the State age titles. The under-13 team went by air to Mt. Isa; the under-12 team travelled by bus to Toowoomba, where they competed for the Gino Paris Cup, and also travelled to Townsville for the age titles; the under-14 team travelled by bus to Caloundra; and the under-15 team competed in titles that, fortunately, were held in Bundaberg. Six boys from these teams were selected to represent the State and were awarded State jerseys. However, I believe that the national titles were postponed for some reason. Probably it was the shortage of funds. Some of these boys were selected

to represent Queensland in Perth, but unfortunately were not given the opportunity of travelling to Western Australia.

This year the Bundaberg teams will again contest all age titles in Queensland, and the association will again spend in excess of \$3,000 to cover the cost of fares and accommodation.

Soccer is only one sport. There are, of course, amateur athletics, swimming, basketball, tennis, cricket, Rugby League and so on. The amount of money that has to be raised by parents to send juniors to State titles is considerable, yet no assistance is forthcoming from the State Government.

I am led to believe that the Bundaberg Bridge Club has been given a subsidy for a new building. This is unbelievable. Apparently the department considers bridge to be a recreation. If bridge is a recreation for the doctors and others in the upper echelon of society, why should not hoy and bingo be regarded as recreation for the working class and pensioners?

On 13 March this year I asked the Minister for Sport why the training of obedience dogs was not classified as a recreation and not eligible for a subsidy. He replied that no application had been received for a subsidy. Subsequently, on 20 March, I asked a similar question and attached a letter showing that an application for a subsidy had been made. The Minister again avoided the point of the question.

If bridge is regarded as a recreation, the training of obedience dogs should also be so classed, because on a national fitness basis there is more exercise in training dogs than in playing bridge in smoke-filled rooms.

I stress that the priorities in determining hand-outs to sport are completely wrong and should be rectified immediately. If the Minister will not give first priority to subsidies to students and junior clubs for State and intercity championships, I appeal to members on the Government benches to take up this matter in their caucus room with a view to having the priorities changed.

It is important that teams from schools and junior clubs be given financial assistance so that they can send players who are selected to represent their cities at State titles. But they are given no assistance whatever. The parents are being called upon either to raise the necessary finance by way of raffles or to meet the cost out of their own pockets.

The Government has no hesitation in giving money to bridge clubs, golf clubs and bowls clubs, which have at their disposal the facilities for raising money. Many of these clubs sell their liquor at prices lower than those charged in public bars. Notwithstanding that, they are supported by the State Government to the tune of from \$70,000 to \$100,000. It will not, however,

assist the small Bundaberg Junior Soccer Association, which is called upon to spend \$3,400 on sending teams to titles.

Mr. Aikens: In Gladstone they get it from Marty Hanson.

Mr. JENSEN: That is quite possible, because I know he does all he can to help the citizens of his town.

As I say, the Government has its priorities out of order. I appeal to Government members to thrash out this matter in their caucus room. It is ridiculous that large sums of money are handed out to people who have the time to play golf and bowls whereas junior competitors are given no assistance whatever.

A Government Member: I agree with you.

Mr. JENSEN: I am glad to hear that at least one Government member agrees with me.

It is unfortunate that children of parents who cannot afford to meet these costs are not able to attend the titles. These remarks also apply, of course, to athletes and swimmers, who otherwise would have the opportunity of competing in titles held, for example, in Brisbane or Townsville.

These children travel at times by air, and some parents cannot afford the air fare to, say, Mt. Isa or Brisbane. The Government gives no money at all to the parents of juniors who represent the State. I appeal to members of the Government to look into this matter.

(Time expired.)

VIETNAM; MORAL BANKRUPTCY OF LABOR GOVERNMENT

Mr. LAMONT (South Brisbane) (12.26 p.m.): I rise to speak about the situation in Vietnam at the moment and the abysmal lack of constructive comment and constructive action by our Federal Government. Instead, we have seen hypocritical reversals of formerly espoused principles. I am speaking on behalf of certain people in my own electorate, people who are pacifists, people who were decent conscientious objectors who made an honest protest at what they saw as slaughter, but who were misled by Left-wingers, fellow travellers and leaders of the present Federal Government.

The Federal Government's attitude has been revealed as synthetic and hollow. The great mass of genuine pacifists and genuine humanitarians who were used by these wheelers and dealers of the now dispassionate but then very fervent Left Wing must be astonished. They must be appalled at the ominous silence of those leaders today.

From Dr. Cairns we have had a combination of gratuitous condescension and ideological insensitivity towards the South. Where is that great humanitarian now? Where is

that great pacifist now? Obviously he used decent people for his own and his friends' propaganda purposes. Dr. Cairns has shown himself this week to be not anti-war, but anti a southern victory. He assisted in promoting the publication of atrocities at My Lai; but who of us did not feel revulsion about My Lai. But when it came to the atrocities at Hué he hid his modest, humanitarian light under a very unfortunate bushel. My Lai, according to Cairns, was an international incident, but Hué, apparently, is passé. He said, "We have no reason to believe that carnage will follow a northern victory." He must be very slow to learn about Asia. He must be a very "dim sim" indeed if he believes that. There is no doubt in my mind, and there is no doubt in the minds of Australian soldiers who fought up there and exhumed thousands of South Vietnamese with hands tied behind their backs and bullets in the napes of their necks. Their only crime was that they were public servants of a Government that the Communists disapproved of. Are the Australian soldiers liars? Are they the paid propagandists of Thieu's regime, or is Dr. Cairns putting his own head in the sand? In face of certain carnage he says that the best possible solution is a speedy end to the war. He reminds me of the callous, 17th Century aristocrats of Voltaire's "Candide" who, when confronted with misery, still talked of the "best possible of all worlds".

This is the damnable man who stands as our Deputy Prime Minister, the damnable man who deceived many decent, genuine and honest people. When I was a student I read in a biology or zoology class a book entitled "Animals Without Back-bones". It could well be adopted as the title of the history of the humanitarianism of the Australian Labor Party.

Dr. Cairns today will not state where he stands. Instead, he gives us the usual two-faced hypocritical nonsense that we have become used to from him. We saw protests about the French nuclear filth in the Pacific, but what happened when China's H-bombs were exploded? What were the dimensions of Dr. Cairns's protests then? Honest demonstrators must feel desolate and abandoned. At one time they said, "Cairns is not a Communist sympathiser; he simply loves people." Yet he says, in the face of certain carnage, "The best solution is a speedy end". The understood postscript to a northern victory is revengeful butchery of Himalayan proportions. We know that, and so does he. This is the great humanitarian! He tells us that the people of the South are not fleeing from the Communists, that they are "only fleeing the cross-fire". I am struck by the amazing coincidence of the unanimous direction of flight in what he claims to be spontaneous panic. They are civilians fleeing south because they have a memory.

What of Mr. Whitlam's initial callous cynicism about the orphans? He has since tried to retrieve it, but the faux pas lingers on. He said, "I will not have immigrants coming to this country who will form a future Right-wing minority." He is worried that South Vietnamese will grow up to hate Communism and vote against the A.L.P. Are we to have a security vetting of orphan babies? Of course, he now regrets his cynical slip of the tongue, but it is there for the records.

The humanitarian facades are down. The true ideological figure has stood revealed. He knows that the Poles who came here after 1945, the Slavs, the Serbs, the Czechs after 1946, the Hungarians after 1956 and the Yugoslavs after 1968 do not vote Labor. Of course they don't vote Labor! He knows it and that is what he is worried about—people with a memory, people who come from countries who have seen Communism and remember it. He doesn't want further Right-wing minorities indeed!

And where were the Labor Party's humanitarians on those occasions? We did not see them in 1945, 1946, 1956 or 1968. Only when the Communists are taking a drubbing do we hear from the great humanitarians. The former Federal president, the ex-tactician of the party who is now the Opposition Leader in this House, must feel very embarrassed today when he looks at the track record of humanitarianism in his own party.

Yesterday the Prime Minister attacked the United States when he spoke about "that fateful day" when they went into Vietnam. I challenge anyone in the Opposition to show me in "Hansard" or anywhere else where on "that fateful day" Mr. Whitlam spoke out against the intervention. He was in fact in favour of it, but the pettifogging person that is our Prime Minister has moved Left towards his deputy to retain leadership of his party. He supported that fateful day but he has since moved towards the Communist cause, towards the Viet Cong and towards the Jim Cairns commitment. He has adopted that line so that he can stand in the middle road of Labor politics. It is a false stand and he knows it, but it is the only way in which he can retain leadership of the Labor Party.

He now attacks the super powers and says that foreign intervention is the cause of the great trouble. Now every schoolboy knows that foreign intervention caused the trouble in Vietnam; but for the first time Mr. Whitlam tells us that not only the U.S. but also Russia and China were involved. This admission is as dramatic as a courtroom confession in a TV soap opera, and as in TV soap operas we all guessed who the baddies were before the confession came.

A lame excuse was given to bolster Federal Labor policies that "The Americans applaud what we are doing today." It is an interesting new yardstick for the Labor Party—to

refer to the approval of the American Government. The reference to the United States, I suggest, is either a sop to middle Australia or else a weak attempt to mislead the anti-Communists in Australia. It leaves me unconvinced and unimpressed.

The immediate chaos is not the fault of the South. It is the fault of the North. We were told yesterday by Mr. Whitlam in the Federal House that the immediate chaos is because of the poor tactics of the South in abandoning the central highlands. One would be forgiven for thinking that there was no opposite force. He said, "It was a unilateral decision to abandon", as if the North bore no pressure at all on that decision. So they just left, as if they were creating a national park! That is simplistic and untenable rubbish. The immediate chaos is because the North is beating the South. The immediate chaos is because there is a breach of the Geneva accords and the Communists will not rest unless they have total victory.

Mr. Whitlam says there are breaches on both sides. How magnanimous of him! How middle of the road of him! Now we have talk about both sides being to blame. When the South was ahead, we heard only about one side breaching the accords. The absence of Government action to contact Hanoi or the United Nations or to exert diplomatic pressure to effect the cessation of slaughter is what appals me most.

The other night on "Federal File", when Mr. Killen, about whom my friend from Archerfield was interjecting, confronted Barnard (this latter-day Palmerston—up the creek without a gunboat), he said to him, "What has been done by your Government?" The so-called Minister for Defence did not know what telegrams had been sent but said he was sure Mr. Whitlam would be doing the right thing. Such tremendous confidence he has in his leader! But how can it be that the Minister for Defence of this country does not even know what Mr. Whitlam had done in relation to these matters? As for the Minister for Foreign Affairs—that forgotten figure in Canberra whom I suppose we ought to call the real "shadow" Minister for Foreign Affairs—we have still heard no word from Willesee.

Andrew Peacock, the spokesman on our side of the Federal House, was the only person who had the gumption to get up there, have a look at the position and come back and tell us what he had seen. He is the true Australian leader in foreign affairs today—not Whitlam, who has usurped it from Willesee; not Barnard, who wouldn't know what a gunboat looked like.

I reiterate that the true pacifists—the former demonstrators—if they were genuine, must be horrified and desolated by the moral bankruptcy of the Federal Government of this day.

BEEF INDUSTRY PROBLEMS

Mr. LESTER (Belyando) (12.35 p.m.): As a member representing a country electorate, it is my duty to draw the attention of the House to the catastrophic problems confronting our State, our country and every person owing to the crisis in the beef industry.

Mr. Aikens: Did you fly down first class or steerage?

Mr. LESTER: I flew down economy class. I am pleased the honourable member interjected so that I could inform the House of that fact. I appreciate his support.

Mr. Aikens: I'm with you.

Mr. LESTER: I thank the honourable member. I might have to take a double with him soon.

Let us be serious about this matter. It was a great shock to me to learn that many private boarding schools in Queensland are in serious financial trouble. One of the reasons is that enrolments are down because they depend largely on people in the cattle industry, many of whom have been unable to pay their bills. I do not intend to say that any one system of education is the best—the private system, the State system, the Catholic system or any other system. The fact is that in Queensland they all play a very important role in the education of our children.

The travel industry is being affected drastically. I was the only passenger on the plane from Rockhampton the other day. The pilot told me that during the height of the cattle industry boom 18 months ago, not only were planes full but the companies had trouble trying to cater for everyone. The problem goes further. Our buses, general travel, petrol sales and tyre sales are being affected adversely.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order! The honourable member for Cairns has been in Parliament long enough to know the rule about not passing between the Chair and the member on his feet.

Mr. LESTER: I forgive him, Mr. Deputy Speaker. He is listening to me and I appreciate that. No doubt he will support me in time.

In addition to country towns being affected by this crisis, our major provincial cities are suffering. Owing to lack of passengers, Ansett and T.A.A. are cancelling various flights. This means the cutting of some of the services and privileges that we in country areas have come to expect.

As well as affecting business people and every one else individually in our country, this crisis is affecting both the Federal and State Governments. The Federal Government is not reaping the taxes it would normally collect and the State Government has the problem of trying to support and prop up the beef industry. While money is being poured

into the cattle industry and while money is not going into Government coffers from the beef industry, people and jobs and many other things are being adversely affected.

In Queensland and in Australia we have the well-established grazier, the ordinary established grazier, the early brigalow settler and the late brigalow settler. All of them are being affected in some way and are not spending as they used to in good times. It is very frustrating to have people, many of them owing thousands of dollars, coming to my electorate office and saying, "Vince, what can you do for me?" I try to obtain loans of various types for them but I know in my own heart that I am only putting them deeper into the quagmire. I stress that this situation is catastrophic.

We should stop talking and get on with the job of trying to help. The State Government has tried to give as much help as it can so far. It has made available a \$10,000,000 low-interest loan and has allowed short-term deferments of stock assessment fees. It has deferred land rents and will look at the entire system of renewal of land leases in some cases. I call upon the State Government to give further consideration to a reduction of rail freight rates as a very practical way of helping the cattle industry. Lower freight charges would help considerably. I also support the call made by the honourable member for Callide for the setting up of a committee of inquiry into the cattle industry.

I now direct my attention to the Federal Government and what I believe it could do to help. I am not going to criticise it; I am merely going to suggest ways and means by which it may be able to assist. It is time that we stopped merely talking about the seriousness of the present crisis. Too many people, particularly in the Federal sphere, have talked about the problem but have done very little about it. It is all very well for them to get their names in the papers by saying what should be done. I call on them to do something, and I make my call with all my heart and with great sincerity. I understand that this matter was shelved at the last meeting of Federal Cabinet. I ask Federal Ministers to have meaningful and helpful discussions on the plight of the cattle industry at their meeting on Tuesday next.

I ask that money be made available to local authorities as a means of helping landholders with the payment of rates, and, in turn, helping the local authorities themselves. How on earth can local authorities survive in the present situation?

I ask the Federal authorities to search for ways in which more cattle can be sold at realistic prices. I am not saying that they have not done anything in this field; I am merely asking them to continue looking for more markets at acceptable prices. I ask our representatives in Canberra to come to Queensland and make themselves more aware of the problems facing the people of this

State. Let them come to areas such as mine and see the problems that are being thrust upon those in the cattle industry, many of whom are currently living in poverty.

I ask that they also keep a watch on imports of tinned meat. I do not say that such imports should be completely banned. After all, such a ban could react against us. All I ask is that a careful watch be kept on the situation.

I ask also that loans be made available to people in the cattle industry at lower interest rates. While the loan of \$20,000,000 has been helpful in many ways, the rate of interest charged is too high for the present time. The Federal Government would do well to follow the example of the Queensland Government and attempt to bring interest rates back to a realistic level.

I ask that it be made easier for affected graziers to receive dole payments. After all, there are many who have not made any income at all this year but who still have to keep their properties functioning. I also ask the Federal Government to heed my call for subsidies for those employing jackaroos. This is not an unrealistic call. After all, a comparable form of assistance is made available in the bread industry and other industries using trade skills. This would be one way in which the Federal Government could help country people. It would allow of more employment in the country, and it would mean that more property maintenance work could be done. I believe that I am suggesting a fair proposition, and I ask the Federal Government to act on it.

I also ask the Government to make money available to graziers for employment purposes. Instead of making dole payments, would it not be better to pay people to help maintain properties, thus putting a little meaning back into Australian life? I believe that Australians are good people; but we do need to work. If we are in danger of reaching a situation in which we constantly expect help from the Government for doing nothing but sitting down, we need to have a good look at ourselves. The people of many overseas countries are workers, and if we are not careful we will find ourselves pressed by competition from overseas and we will not have the know-how to deal with it.

In conclusion, I again call on the Queensland Government to do what it can to help the cattle industry cope with the many side problems that now confront it. I call on the Federal Government, which obtains tax revenue from all the other industries in Queensland, to do what it can to help Queensland and this nation. I am sure that if the problems of the cattle industry are solved, we in Australia will find life much more meaningful.

(Time expired.)

REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS

Mr. DEAN (Sandgate) (12.45 p.m.): The matter of public interest that I raise today is the rehabilitation of offenders. As honourable members are aware, the Opposition is interested in the whole subject of prisons, prison reform and the rehabilitation of offenders. It has always taken an interest in ensuring that prison officers are men who have been trained in institutions of the highest calibre. It has supported moves for the introduction of week-end detention and release-for-work programmes.

It is in this vein that I raise today, for the consideration of members of this Assembly, the legislative programme now in force in Britain under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. The intention behind the Act is that those who have committed an offence or offences and have lived them down for several years should be able to resume their place in society without the fear that, at any moment, their past will be resurrected to their detriment, whether by appearing as witnesses, or by a story in a newspaper, or, in certain circumstances, by a wholly different type of conviction in a Magistrates Court.

Honourable members would know that a number of people in the community have been convicted of offences, have served their time in prison, and have then come out of prison and rehabilitated themselves. I know of many men—and, for that matter, women—who have done that very effectively, and who have forgotten, or at least give the impression not only in their jobs but also in their social lives that they have forgotten, their past mistakes.

I think honourable members would agree that the aim of the British Act is an admirable one, and that if an Act along the same lines was introduced in Queensland, it would receive a great deal of sympathy and wide support. It does not cater for hardened criminals who have not rehabilitated themselves. If one looks at the British Act, one sees that it is only after a person is released from prison and has remained straight for several years that the previous conviction is "spent". The Act sets out a table of rehabilitation periods for particular sentences. For example, a sentence of imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months is wiped out after a period of seven years going straight. In addition, periods are set for youthful offenders.

The Opposition does not suggest that Queensland should slavishly copy the British legislation. Members on this side of the Chamber put it forward only as a suggestion—we believe a useful suggestion—that may be looked at from the Queensland point of view. It may be of some assistance if the Minister obtains from Britain a copy of a booklet entitled "Living it Down", on which the British legislation is based.

I do wish to emphasise that the British Act does not pander to those persons in the community who commit violent crimes and do not rehabilitate themselves. It is an Act catering for those who have served time in a prison, have paid the price, and have shown, after a period of years, that the conviction ought to be wiped from their record. We all know that a conviction can be held against a person for purposes of employment, insurance, etc., and it seems to the Opposition that, once a person has paid the price and shown that he or she can be a productive member of the community, the conviction ought not to be held against him or her.

Members of the Opposition hope that the Minister in charge of prisons or the Attorney-General will give some thought to enacting a Bill along the lines that I have mentioned.

Let me now add to what I have said. Over the years, one of the worst parties relative to the rehabilitation of offenders has been the Government of the day. I refer not only to the present Government but also to many former Governments. Governments are the first to appeal to the community generally to assist with the rehabilitation of offenders.

Mr. Aikens: The Railway Department is the worst of the lot.

Mr. DEAN: The Railway Department is only one. The Department of Works is another section of Government administration that takes a similar attitude.

I think it is about time that we, as parliamentarians, gave a lead in this matter and showed people outside this Chamber that we are sincere in our desire to assist people who are willing to help themselves. As I pointed out earlier in my submission, it is not suggested that we should pander to or try to assist the hardened criminal. I think that every honourable member would realise that unfortunately there are those in the community who are beyond the pale as far as rehabilitation is concerned.

I have said in previous speeches in this place that those people should be helped medically. I think that medical science could help them in one way or another. I cannot think of anything more inhuman and un-Christian than to keep people in solitary confinement for days and sometimes weeks on end, when we know in our hearts that there is something wrong with them medically. Persons of that type will not co-operate with the authorities to try to lift themselves out of the very difficult situations they are in.

I am speaking now more about those who are willing to help themselves. Many people have made good citizens of themselves after they have been discharged from prison. Many of them have tried to make good the damage they did to society before being sent to prison. It is up to us as a Parliament to give a lead. It is not enough to constantly ask private enterprise to give these persons a chance to rehabilitate themselves. The

Government should be the first to give a lead in rehabilitation, especially by way of employment.

When my submission is pursued I hope that the Minister concerned will give consideration to the English legislation I referred to. Much of the legislation on the English Statute Book is by no means enlightened. Some of it belongs to the dark ages, but the piece of legislation I have referred to is of a particularly enlightened character.

I again appeal to the Government to give a lead in the rehabilitation of former prisoners. Of course, it must be much more difficult for a person who has served a lengthy sentence. After being restricted to prison routine for a long time, a prisoner must find it very difficult to rehabilitate himself. Nevertheless, if he is willing to try to help himself, it is up to us to provide the lead and give him an opportunity to become a good citizen.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO MAINTAIN EFFECTIVENESS OF AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCES

Mr. LINDSAY (Everton) (12.52 p.m.): I rise to speak in support of the words spoken so eloquently by the honourable member for South Brisbane about the abominable situation that the Federal Labor Government has put our Defence Forces in at a time when South-east Asia is at its worst possible inhuman stage. As one who spent 12 months of his life endeavouring to combat Communism in South Vietnam, I feel I have a moral obligation to express my disgust at the Communist attitude and the Communist way of dealing in an inhuman fashion with those who oppose Communism.

I speak with some authority because I have personally led rifle company attacks into North Vietnamese infantry-battalion-held bunker positions. I fought into the forward pits. I have seen the self-critique documents. I have seen the prison cages. I have seen human beings bound hand and foot and stabbed to death. I have seen dead men with their own penis stuffed down their mouth. I venture to say that no one in this House has seen more of the terrible Communist military machine than yours truly, so I would like to say these words at this time when foreign affairs and defence are of some concern to the average, apathetic Australian who has never seen and never suffered, and cannot believe, the types of things that the Communist war machine is capable of doing.

Of grave concern to me in the current situation is the decline in the effectiveness of the Australian Defence Forces in terms of both men and equipment. Another matter that gives rise to some concern is Australia's relationship with an independent Papua New Guinea, to which I referred in my maiden speech.

The Queensland Government should take the initiative in formulating what I might term a reasonable policy on the Torres Strait islands and their inhabitants.

Not all avenues of negotiation between the two nations have been fully explored, particularly in relation to the exploitation of fisheries and mineral deposits in Torres Strait. To allow the matter to drift along is not in the best interests of either nation. Positive steps should be taken before the situation assumes the proportions of a major dispute.

In relation to the possible fall of Indo-China and its likely effect upon Australia, I voice my concern at the continuing high rate of resignations of officers from Australia's Armed Forces. This is having a detrimental effect on the nation's long-term defence capabilities. I call on the Federal Labor Government to pledge the creation of a meaningful and challenging role for career servicemen, who have been denigrated by the Federal Labor Government. I condemn the lack of adequate equipment and essential war materials. This continuing deterioration in defence capabilities is contrary to the national interest and should be reversed.

I view with concern the failure of the Federal Labor Government to utilise both the tropical field force base at Lavarack Barracks and the Garbutt R.A.A.F. base, in Townsville, to their full potential. It is probably because of this that over the past three months the commanding officers of the two operational-ready battalions stationed in Townsville have resigned from the service. Both of those men had considerable experience and, in my view, are irreplaceable.

The surveillance and protection of the Australian fishing industry as well as of our northern coastlines and sea lanes are quite inadequate. I call for greater sea and air defence capabilities in Northern Australia.

Recently, in company with the Minister for Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement, I travelled throughout the northern portion of the Cape York Peninsula and also through the Gulf country. For a short time I stayed in Weipa. From time to time we hear a great deal about the bauxite deposits there. I doubt, however, whether many of us realise the strategic significance of the Weipa area. At this time when aluminium is the space-age metal, there is no provision whatever for the defence of the Weipa area. I certainly did not see any, and I am sure the people of Weipa do not feel they have any.

Furthermore, at Normanton, Burketown and Cooktown there are air strips that are absolutely vulnerable to attack from anyone who wished to walk in and take them over. They afford no protection whatever for the strategic mineral reserves at Weipa. These bauxite deposits are not only confined to Weipa; they extend right down the western coastline of Cape York Peninsula to Aurukun. I am led to believe that bauxite can be dredged from the waters of the Gulf quite easily.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order! Under the provisions of the Sessional Order previously agreed to by the House the time allotted for debate on matters of public interest has now expired.

The House adjourned at 1.1 p.m.