

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**TUESDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 1975**

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### QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

#### 1. RESIGNATION OF SENATOR-ELECT FIELD FROM THE PUBLIC SERVICE

**Mr. Burns**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

(1) With whom did Senator-elect Patrick Field lodge his resignation from the Queensland Public Service?

(2) At what time was it lodged?

(3) When was it accepted?

(4) When did he receive his final payment from the Public Service and to what date was he paid?

(5) Was any holiday pay due to him?

(6) Are any moneys owing to him arising out of his employment in the State Public Service?

*Answers:—*

In reply to the honourable member's question, I am informed—

(1) Senator-elect Field lodged his resignation to the manager of the Works Department's Ipswich Road Workshops.

(2 and 3) It was lodged and accepted at 5 p.m. on 2 September 1975.

(4 and 5) He was paid his weekly pay to 2 September 1975 on 3 September 1975 and pro rata holiday pay on 5 September 1975.

(6) Refer to (4) and (5).

### TUESDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 1975

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

#### PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Proclamation under the Justices Act 1886–1975.

Orders in Council under—

The Supreme Court Act of 1921.

The Commissions of Inquiry Acts, 1950 to 1954.

Money Lenders Act 1916–1973.

Industrial Development Act 1963–1973.

River Improvement Trust Act 1940–1971.

Fauna Conservation Act 1974.

Forestry Act 1959–1975.

The Grammar Schools Acts, 1860 to 1962 and the Local Bodies' Loans Guarantee Act 1923–1973.

Regulations under the Door to Door (Sales) Act 1966–1973.

Statute under the James Cook University of North Queensland Act 1970–1974.

Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of Queensland in relation to the provision of Hospital Services (1975).

Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account, as at February 28, 1975, of the Union-Fidelity Trustee Company of Australia Limited.

Report under the Legal Assistance Act 1965–1975 by the Secretary, Queensland Law Society Incorporated.

#### 2. COASTAL MINING LEASES IN MORETON AREA

**Mr Burns**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Mines and Energy—

(1) Has his department, since November 1973, granted more than 40 leases on the islands and the coastline of Moreton Bay to Noosa, surpassing the entire total previously approved for the area?

(2) Do the leases freeze the use of the land covered in them to mining purposes for up to 21 years and can the lessees renew the leases for a further period of 21 years?

(3) Why did his department grant the leases before the Coastal Management Investigation initiated in November 1973 had been completed?

(4) When will the investigation be completed and a report made of its findings to this House?

*Answers:—*

(1) No.

(2) In no case is any term of the leases granted as long as 21 years. Renewals may be granted for varying periods, but of not more than 21 years, except where the land is required for development of the State other than by mining.

(3) I direct the honourable member's attention to my reply to his question on 9 April 1975. The information then supplied covers this point.

(4) The honourable member should direct his inquiries on this matter to the Honourable the Premier.

### 3. APPOINTMENT OF WOMEN TO BOARDS

**Mr. Burns**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General—

(1) Which boards, commissions or bodies under his jurisdiction have had women appointed to them following the recommendation of the Queensland Council of Women?

(2) Did he, on 19 November 1974, give an undertaking that when the council was being established adequate opportunity would be given to women's groups, unions and associations to submit to the Government the names of women who would be suitable for appointment to the council?

(3) Which women's groups, unions or associations were asked to submit names to the Government and did they all submit names?

*Answers:—*

(1) Since 15 June, the date on which Cabinet's policy relating to the appointment of women to Government boards and commissions was announced, there has been only one appointment to a board or commission under my jurisdiction, that of Mr. A. K. Andersen, stipendiary magistrate, as Chairman of the Picture Theatres and Films Commission.

(2 and 3) As a result of the announcement last November that the Government would establish a Council of Queensland Women, many individuals and organisations wrote submitting the names of women who might be suitable for appointment to the council. Whilst all the names submitted were considered when the council was being constituted, at no stage was it intended that individual organisations would send delegates or representatives to the council. The council, as currently constituted, is broadly representative of women throughout Queensland and, as the honourable member may be aware, includes the only woman member of the Australian Labor Party ever to be elected to this Parliament.

### 4. SCHOOL CADET CORPS

**Mr. Greenwood**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities—

Although no funds are presently available to the Queensland Education Department to fund the continuance of the Cadet Corps, will he (a) allow the corps to continue to operate in State high schools provided that there is no cost to the Education Department, (b) co-operate with any R.S.L. branch, parents and citizens' or other organisation which may be prepared to assist financially in maintaining

some level of training at high schools for boys who wish to take advantage of it and (c) aid negotiations with the relevant Commonwealth departments for a suitable basis on which the various interested organisations could be allowed to purchase uniforms and equipment now rendered superfluous by the Whitlam Government's decision?

*Answer:—*

(a, b and c) I support the strong stand taken by the Honourable the Premier in protesting to the Federal Government against its decision to discontinue the school cadet corps. I hope that the Commonwealth is prompted to reconsider its decision as a result of the Premier's approach. Certainly, I would be prepared to consider any practical scheme put to me to preserve the cadet corps in Queensland. However, as previously stated, my department has no funds available to support school cadets and my consideration of any scheme would have to be on that understanding.

### 5. FUNCTION OF JUDICIARY

**Mr. Aikens**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General—

Has his attention been drawn to the remarks of Lord Justice Scarman, of the English High Court, that it is not always appreciated that the courts are an institution of government, that their quality can make the difference between good and bad government and that an Act of Parliament is more often than not a detailed complex document whose object, as drafted, is not to win our hearts but to compel judges to interpret it in the way desired by Parliament? If so, what is proposed to be done to end the practice of many Queensland judges of regarding Acts of Parliament as a vehicle for some sort of distorted humour, particularly where the imposition of adequate penalties for serious crimes is concerned?

*Answer:—*

Yes. I know of no such practice as that suggested. Provision does exist for the lodging of appeals in proper cases where any sentence imposed might be considered inadequate.

### 6. TRAFFIC WARNING SIGNS FOR HEN CAMP CREEK BRIDGE NEAR TOWNSVILLE

**Mr. Ahern** for **Dr. Scott-Young**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads—

Has his attention been drawn to the recent fatal accident on the Hen Camp Creek Bridge, north of Townsville? If so, will he instruct his officers to investigate the approach to this bridge with a view to the installation of "Give Way" and "Narrow Bridge" signs at reasonable distances on each approach?

*Answer:—*

I am aware of the accident referred to by the honourable member. I have been advised by the Main Roads Department officers that the existing "Narrow Bridge" signs which have been in place at the bridge for many years meet the warrant for such structures. Nevertheless these signs have now been removed and a more comprehensive system of signing erected. At the southern approach to the bridge, facing north-bound traffic, this consists of—firstly, "One lane Bridge" sign with an advisory 15 km/h speed sign; followed by "Give Way Ahead" sign; then "Give Way" sign. At the northern approach, facing south-bound traffic, a "One lane Bridge" sign has been erected.

7. HOUSING COMMISSION HOUSES IN  
BUNDABERG, CHILDERS AND  
HERVEY BAY

**Mr. Powell**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

How many house allotments does the Housing Commission own in (a) Bundaberg, (b) Childers and (c) Hervey Bay?

*Answer:—*

Bundaberg—22 (including 11 in process of purchase); Childers—5; Hervey Bay—19 (including 15 in process of purchase).

8. BREATHALYSER FOR HERVEY BAY POLICE  
STATION

**Mr. Powell**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Police—

As there is an increasing incidence of drink-driving and a large influx of people to Hervey Bay, when will a breathalyser be installed at Hervey Bay Police Station so that the inconvenience of having to transport suspects 25 miles to Maryborough will cease?

*Answer:—*

Funds are not available for the purchase of additional breathalyser equipment during this financial year and I am unable to give any indication at this stage as to when such equipment will be allocated to Hervey Bay Police Station. However, it will be considered when further equipment of this kind is purchased.

9. STATE GOVERNMENT LOANS FOR PRIVATE  
SCHOOL PROJECTS

**Mr. Casey**, pursuant to notice, asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

Further to my question of 12 March regarding subsidies on interest paid on moneys borrowed by non-State schools for approved school projects, as the matter has not been reviewed since January 1972 and interest rates have risen considerably since then, when is another review expected?

*Answer:—*

At this point of time it is not proposed to amend the scheme whereby the State Government subsidises the interest bill on moneys raised by non-State schools for approved projects up to a maximum of 7 per cent per annum with the subsidy reducing by one-fifth each year.

10. ASSISTANCE TO SETTLERS IN BRIGALOW  
AREAS

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

(1) Has any special effort been made by his department to assist settlers in the brigalow areas to produce cash crops such as grain to help them overcome the problems of the beef industry and, if so, what has been done and what results have been achieved?

(2) Has any special assistance been made available to brigalow settlers for the purchase of agricultural machinery?

*Answers:—*

(1) Yes. Meetings of settlers have been called at which production methods, costs and returns were explained. Technical hand-outs have been forwarded to potential graingrowers, and individual property owners have been visited. Some of the problems to be overcome include lack of experience in grain production, the unavailability of share-farmers and climatic uncertainty. There is also the national reluctance of graziers who are already heavily in debt to increase their indebtedness. Despite this, there are about 4 450 hectares under cultivation in Area III, of which 2 000 hectares were opened up in the last 12 months.

(2) No special assistance has been made available for this purpose. However, the Agricultural Bank will consider on its merits any application received for assistance to purchase agricultural machinery.

11. BULK SUGAR TERMINALS

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

(1) What is the storage capacity for sugar at each bulk-sugar terminal and what was the through-put at each terminal for each of the last three years?

(2) What volume was (a) exported from each terminal and (b) sent to Australian refineries?

(3) What is the maximum load capacity of shipping which can use each terminal?

(4) Which terminals have space available for expansion, both for storage and shipping, and to what extent?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 4) The answer to this question comprises an extensive list of figures which I table for the information of the honourable member.

*Whereupon the honourable gentleman laid the list on the table.*

12. RAIL WAGONS FOR UREA

**Mr. Ahern** for **Mr. Row**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Transport—

In view of the present difficulties in the distribution of urea fertiliser manufactured in Brisbane, will he ensure that adequate rail wagons are made available for its transportation, especially to meet current seasonal demands of the sugar industry?

*Answer:—*

Bulk fertiliser from Brisbane to North Queensland is carried mainly in bulk-grain wagons which have been in short supply due to the increased demand for the movement of bulk-grain traffic in southern Queensland. Despite this factor and the slow unloading rate at destination stations, wagons for 26 162 tonnes of fertiliser were supplied over the past three months as compared with 20 225 tonnes during the same period last year. A number of bulk-ore wagons has been temporarily placed in the fertiliser traffic to assist in clearance. Every effort will continue to be made to meet the demand.

13. SUBSIDIES FOR SCHOOL SWIMMING POOLS AND SCHOOL BUS FARES

**Mr. Lindsay**, pursuant to notice, asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

During his difficult pre-budget deliberations, will he give serious consideration to increasing the subsidy to those parents and citizens' organisations which are attempting to fund the building of swimming pools in State schools and honouring the Government's election promise to subsidise school-bus fees for those children forced to travel to school by bus before 8.30 a.m.?

*Answer:—*

Having regard to funds available, all matters of high priority in Government policy are being given serious consideration, and decisions to be taken will be revealed when the Budget is presented on 25 September.

14. RESIDENTIAL TECHNICAL COLLEGES, BRISBANE

**Mr. Dean**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities—

(1) What is the number of residential technical colleges in Queensland and where are they situated?

(2) What is the delay in the building of residential colleges in the Brisbane area?

(3) Was the Brisbane residential-college site under water during the January 1974 flood?

(4) As there is no sign of movement in this area, what action is planned?

*Answers:—*

(1) The Maryborough Technical College is the only college in the State with a residential attached and functioning.

(2) The major delay in building a residential in Brisbane was caused by the Chelmer site being abandoned in favour of a new site at Kelvin Grove.

(3) Yes. The Chelmer site was flooded at this time.

(4) There is naturally no activity on the Chelmer site. However, final sketch plans for the Kelvin Grove site are nearing completion and it is anticipated that site works will commence during the current financial year.

15. MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR SCHOOL AMENITIES

**Mr. Dean**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

(1) Does the Department of Education have any plans to provide minimum standards of (a) lighting, (b) acoustics, (c) furniture and (d) other necessary facilities in State schools?

(2) If so, will he give details of what standards are envisaged?

*Answers:—*

(1) Yes.

(2) The current standards are adequate to satisfy the environmental and functional needs of the users.

16. EMERGENCY SCHOOL REPLACEMENT FUND

**Mr. Dean**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities—

Will he consider establishing a substantial emergency fund so that necessary accommodation can be provided immediately in rapid growth areas where enrolments often exceed available accommodation and in schools destroyed by fire?

*Answer:—*

Funds for capital works are administered by the Department of Works and expended in accordance with priorities set by my department. Financial realities preclude the setting aside of funds to cover possible emergency situations which might not in fact arise. The result could

be that such funds could remain unexpended at the close of the relevant financial year. In situations where rapid growth in enrolment occurs, additional teaching spaces are provided as "minimum requirements" at the earliest practical time; funds for this class of accommodation are provided each year as part of my department's Loan Funds allocation. When schools are destroyed by fire, the Department of Works provides temporary accommodation for use until such time as permanent rebuilding is possible.

17. SPORTING COMPLEX AT KESSELS ROAD,  
MACGREGOR

**Mrs. Kyburz**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads—

(1) What is the estimated cost of the sporting complex at Kessels Road, Mt. Gravatt?

(2) How is this grandiose scheme being funded?

(3) What is the enforced contribution of the ratepayers of Brisbane?

(4) As the holding of the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane could be considered as part of a grandiose scheme plotted by a past lord mayor, what is the Government's attitude towards the project and are we contributing towards the cost?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 4) I understand that construction of the sporting complex referred to is being undertaken by the Brisbane City Council. Whilst the Government at the moment is not contributing towards the cost, the matter is under review by the Honourable the Deputy Premier and Treasurer. I have no information in relation to the other matters raised by the honourable member.

18. LOAN MONEYS

**Mrs. Kyburz**, pursuant to notice, asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

(1) Has the Commonwealth Government, over many years, financed capital works from revenue and are recent moves for a huge overseas-funded loan, over a term of 20 years and classified "for temporary purposes", orthodox?

(2) Has he had any discussions with the Commonwealth Treasurer or Treasury officials on these matters?

(3) Under the rules of the Loan Council, is it imperative that agreement be reached between the Commonwealth and States on all matters applicable to loan raisings?

(4) As all States have repeatedly sought Commonwealth assistance to balance their Budgets and as the Prime Minister has declined to assist, thereby foreshadowing increases in State taxation, is he alarmed

by what is known as the "Loans Affair" and is it a subterfuge to cover up the Commonwealth Government's financial mismanagement?

*Answers:—*

(1) The Australian Bureau of Statistics publication on the Public Finance of all Authorities of the Australian Government shows that over the five years to 1973-74 total capital expenditure of all Commonwealth authorities in the period was \$10,677.1 million but receipts of a capital nature were only \$2,504.9 million, thus indicating that \$8,172.2 million of this capital expenditure was financed from current revenues. Financing of this amount of capital works to the extent of \$8,172.2 million from current revenues was possible because over the period total current receipts from income taxes and other taxes and charges was \$42,556 million but total current expenditure was only \$34,383.8 million. In 1973-74 alone, \$2,190.6 million of capital works was financed from current receipts. There is no doubt that the Commonwealth's recent moves to raise massive overseas loans were extraordinarily unorthodox.

(2) Certain communications were exchanged between members of Loan Council in May and June regarding the loans affair and certain aspects of it were listed on the agenda of the June 1975 Loan Council meeting. Meetings of Loan Council are confidential. However, I think I could say that the Commonwealth has not sought or received from Loan Council any extraordinary borrowing approvals.

(3) Under the rules of Loan Council, if the members fail to arrive at a unanimous decision it shall be determined by a majority of the votes of the members, the Commonwealth having two votes and a casting vote and each State member having one vote. In effect, this means that the Commonwealth can control the Loan Council if two States vote with it. In the case of a loan being raised by the Commonwealth or a State for "temporary purposes", the amount of the borrowing is not charged against the limit set by Loan Council for total borrowings within the year in question. "Temporary purposes" is not defined but in practice borrowings for capital purposes extending past the end of the financial year would be regarded as being subject to the Loan Council limits.

(4) At the last Premiers' Conference the States made submissions to the Commonwealth which demonstrated a need for \$800 million in excess of what would be due if the previous Financial Assistance Grant formula had persisted. The Commonwealth agreed to provide extra funds of only \$220 million, or \$580 million less than needed to meet the States' real needs.

The circumstances surrounding what has been called the "loans affair" greatly alarmed me, in common with most people in Australia. We will probably never know all of the details. One of the factors which should really disturb all Australians about it, apart from the manner in which the negotiations are reported to have been initiated, is that the stated purpose of these massive loans was the large scale socialisation of industry in this country.

19. PRE-SCHOOL SITE, CABOOLTURE

**Mr. Frawley**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities—

(1) What is delaying the siting of a pre-school in Caboolture?

(2) Has the land on which the new playing field was constructed at the Caboolture State School, and which was the subject of a land exchange by the Caboolture Shire Council, ever been transferred to the ownership of the Education Department and, if not, what is the delay?

(3) Has the land which was exchanged by the Education Department been transferred to the Caboolture Shire Council?

*Answers:—*

(1) The exchange of land between the Department of Education and the Caboolture Shire Council is very complex. The exchange includes the site for the pre-school centre. Because of certain legal requirements, the transfers must take place simultaneously. However, under the agreement certain work must be completed by the council prior to the transfers. This work is not yet complete, and therefore settlement has not yet taken place. Inevitably this means that the site for the pre-school is not yet owned by the Department of Education.

(2 and 3) The exchanges of land between the Department of Education and the Caboolture Shire Council have not yet taken place, for the reasons outlined above.

20. MAINTENANCE OF HORNIBROOK HIGHWAY

**Mr. Frawley**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads—

(1) Will Main Roads Department engineers be inspecting, and reporting to him, the condition of the road surface of the Hornibrook Highway?

(2) Under the terms of the franchise granted to the company concerned, does the highway have to be in a good state of repair when handed to his department?

(3) Will the Redcliffe City Council maintain the highway at Main Roads Department expense?

*Answers:—*

(1) A joint inspection of the bridge was made last week by engineers of the Main Roads Department and representatives of Hornibrook Highway Pty. Ltd.

(2) Yes.

(3) The Main Roads Department has very recently been in touch with the Redcliffe City Council by letter with a proposal that the council carry out the maintenance of the structure on behalf of the department.

21. HOSPITAL FOR CABOOLTURE

**Mr. Frawley**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Health—

Are there any plans to establish a hospital at Caboolture and, if not, will he investigate and determine the feasibility of establishing one in this area?

*Answer:—*

The needs of the Caboolture area were considered when a decision was taken on the redevelopment and expansion of the Chermside and Redcliffe hospitals and it is not proposed at this time to establish a hospital at Caboolture. As hospitals are only one aspect of health services, the whole ambit of the provision of health services will be kept under constant review.

22. HIGH-SCHOOL COURSES FOR SLOW LEARNERS

**Dr. Lockwood**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities—

(1) Does the Education Department provide high-school courses specifically for slow-learning children?

(2) Will full-time courses be offered at any of Toowoomba's State high schools in 1976 for slow-learning children?

(3) How many slow-learning children in Toowoomba could benefit from such a course?

*Answers:—*

(1) The Education Department does not provide high-school courses specifically for slow-learning children. However, (a) Specialist teacher services through resource teachers, guidance officers and advisory teachers are available in schools to advise and help in the education of students with learning difficulties. (b) In some subjects, for example, mathematics and social studies, special courses are available for the slower-learning children. Other curricula are now designed with sufficient flexibility for them to be readily adapted to the needs of students.

(2) In the light of the above reply, it is not proposed to offer special full-time courses in Toowoomba in 1976 for slow-learning children.

(3) It is expected that approximately 20-25 students with learning disabilities will advance to high-school studies in Toowoomba in 1976.

### 23. MASS FINGERPRINTING OR NUMBERING

**Mr. Melloy**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Police—

(1) Does he remember his statement that everyone in Australia should be fingerprinted?

(2) Is he going to introduce mass fingerprinting on a State level?

(3) Is he investigating the Swedish personal-number scheme with a view to it being copied in Queensland?

*Answers:—*

(1) Yes.

(2) No.

(3) No. To be effective, such a scheme would have to be implemented on a national basis. It was reported in the Press in May 1975 that the Federal Government was investigating a compulsory identity card scheme. I am not aware of the outcome of that investigation.

### 24. VISITING SPECIALISTS, TOOWOOMBA GENERAL HOSPITAL

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

(1) Is he aware that a significant proportion of Toowoomba General Hospital's visiting specialists have not sought to renew their three-year contracts?

(2) Why has this happened?

(3) What proposals does he have to remedy the situation?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 3) The Queensland Branch of the Australian Medical Association on behalf of the visiting specialists has in recent months been negotiating with the Public Service Board and the State Health Department on terms and conditions of employment. A new document setting out new terms and conditions which included many improvements was approved by Cabinet and dispatched to the specialists. The improvements included permanent appointment, increase in rate of pay per session, progression to the top rate in 7 years instead of 15 years, and payment for work performed outside the normal sessions. There were several more discussions with the Australian Medical Association and, after I addressed a meeting of the association, a recommendation was made that specialists should apply for positions under the terms and

conditions published. Most of the specialists throughout Queensland accepted the association's recommendation. I have set up a working party under the chairmanship of the Director-General and including members of the metropolitan and country specialists and the Health Department to look at some aspects of the conditions. Of 24 specialists who previously worked at the Toowoomba hospital, 20 are still carrying out their normal duties but are awaiting the outcome of the working party's report before they formally apply for the positions. One of the specialists resigned his position after he advised the board that he believed that patients would be better catered for privately under Medibank. It is only in the field of anaesthetics that there was some difficulty, and the Director-General arranged for a full-time anaesthetist to be appointed. The appointment does not reduce the number of sessions available for visiting anaesthetists.

### 25. TECHNICAL TRADE TEACHERS AND APPRENTICES

**Mr. Melloy**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities—

(1) How many technical trade teachers were employed by his department in the various trades in 1970 and in 1975?

(2) How many apprentices were there in the various trades in 1970 and in 1975?

(3) How many resignations of trade teachers were there in each of the last five years?

(4) How many vacancies exist for trade teachers at present and in which trades?

*Answers:—*

(1) The number of technical teachers (in trade courses) are:

	1970	1975
Aircraft Mechanic .. ..	1	2
Blacksmith .. ..	1	2
Boat Builder .. ..	1	4
Boilermaker .. ..	21	41
Bookbinder .. ..	1	1
Breadbaker .. ..	1	2
Bricklayer .. ..	5	14
Butcher .. ..	2	6
Cabinetmaker .. ..	3	12
Carpenter and Joiner ..	44	70
Coach and Motor Body Building .. ..	2	5
Coach and Motor Painting ..	3	6
Coach and Motor Trimming ..	1	3
Compositor .. ..	4	6
Cooks .. ..	2	7
Dental Technician .. ..	1	1
Electrical Fitter/Mechanic ..	52	70
Electrical Fitter (Automotive)	1	4
Fitter and Turner .. ..	54	73



	1970	1975
Fitter—Diesel and Heavy Earthmoving Equipment ..	1	6
French Polisher .. ..	2	2
Jeweller .. ..	1	1
Ladies Hairdresser .. ..	14	29
Letterpress Printer .. ..	5	5
Lithographic Printing— Camera Operation .. ..	1	2
Lithographic Printing and Platemaking .. ..	2	2
Mens Hairdresser .. ..	1	1
Motor Mechanic .. ..	40	52
Moulder .. ..	2	2
Optical Mechanic .. ..	1	1
Painter and Decorator .. ..	8	12
Panelbeater .. ..	5	7
Pastry Cook .. ..	1	3
Patternmaker .. ..	1	1
Photo Engraver .. ..	1	1
Plasterer .. ..	2	2
Plumber .. ..	26	33
Radio and Television Mechanic	8	9
Refrigeration Mechanic .. ..	3	7
Sheetmetal .. ..	3	8
Signwriter .. ..	3	3
Stereotyper .. ..	1	1
Stonemason .. ..	1	1
Tiler .. ..	1	1
Typewriter Mechanic .. ..	1	1
Upholsterer .. ..	1	2
Watchmaker .. ..	1	1
Woodmachinist .. ..	2	8
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>533</b>

(2) Apprenticeships are of 4 years duration, whereas apprentices attend in courses in Technical Colleges for 2 or 3 years length only. The number of apprentices attending Technical Colleges are as follows. For information as to the total numbers of apprentices, information will have to be sought from the Minister for Industrial Development, Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs.

Trade Courses	Number of Apprentices in Years	
	1970	1974
Aircraft Mechanics .. ..	42	36
Blacksmithing .. ..	68	64
Boatbuilding .. ..	23	50
Bollermaking .. ..	1,141	1,345
Bookbinding .. ..	20	23
Breadbaking .. ..	185	82
Bricklaying .. ..	369	580
Business Machine Mechanics	16	9
Butchering—Retail .. ..	43	194
Cabinetmaking .. ..	392	419
Carpentry and Joinery .. ..	1,905	2,958
Coach and Motor Body Building .. ..	103	106
Coach and Motor Painting ..	212	275

Trade Courses	Number of Apprentices in Years	
	1970	1974
Coach and Motor Trimming ..	15	31
Composing (Including Hand and Machine Composing) ..	237	154
Cooking .. ..	76	97
Dental Technicians .. ..	32	56
Electrical Fitters and/or Mechanics .. ..	1,921	2,358
Electrical—Automotive .. ..	113	96
Fitting and Turning .. ..	1,603	1,872
Fitting—Diesel and Heavy Earthmoving Equipment ..	80	272
French Polishing and Lacquering .. ..	51	48
Jewellery .. ..	25	24
Ladies Hairdressing .. ..	1,194	1,143
Letterpress Printing .. ..	102	104
Lithographic Printing (Camera Operating) .. ..	18	11
Lithographic Printing and Platemaking .. ..	41	42
Mens Hairdressing .. ..	39	21
Motor Mechanics .. ..	1,733	2,118
Moulding .. ..	100	57
Optical Mechanics .. ..	33	37
Painting and Decorating ..	488	564
Panelbeating .. ..	401	516
Pastrycooking .. ..	51	63
Patternmaking .. ..	30	26
Photoengraving .. ..	17	26
Plastering .. ..	121	146
Plumbing .. ..	905	1,037
Radio and T.V. Mechanics ..	160	156
Refrigeration Mechanics ..	141	199
Sheetmetal Working .. ..	298	356
Shipwrighting .. ..	16	..
Signwriting, Pictorial and Screen Processing .. ..	63	64
Stereotyping .. ..	17	5
Stonemasonry .. ..	12	18
Tiling (Wall and Floor) ..	18	35
Typewriter Mechanics .. ..	19	19
Upholstering .. ..	56	67
Watchmaking .. ..	25	27
Woodmachining .. ..	116	131
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>14,886</b>	<b>18,137</b>

(3) Resignations of technical teachers (in trade courses) are not available prior to 1-7-73. Details of resignations for each six month period since 1-7-73 are as follows. These resignations include some technical teachers who did not take up duty after appointment. 1-7-73 to 31-12-73, 5; 1-1-74 to 30-6-74, 6; 1-7-74 to 31-12-74, 6; 1-1-75 to 30-6-75, 12; and 1-7-75 to 8-9-75, 5.

(4) At present, all Technical Colleges are adequately staffed to meet existing requirements for apprenticeship training. However, to meet the future needs for

additional teaching staff because of resignations, retirements, promotions, block release training and teacher training, it is envisaged that additional teachers will be appointed to take up duty in January 1976. The trades where vacancies will occur will, to some degree, be determined by promotions to Technical Education Branch and Technical College positions currently advertised, but applications have been called for possible vacancies in the following trades:—Carpentry and Joinery; Painting and Decorating; Bricklaying; Tiling/Plastering; Plumbing; Electrical Fitter/Mechanic; Boilermaking; Fitting and Turning; Fitter—Diesel and Heavy Earth-moving Equipment; Motor Mechanics; Motor Cycle; Automotive Electrical; Panel-beating; Composing; Letterpress Printing; Ladies Hairdressing; Breadbaking; Butchering; Cooking; Optical Mechanics; Dental Technicians; and Upholstering.

#### 26. ACCOMMODATION FOR NORTHERN AND WESTERN RAILWAY GANGS

**Mr. Katter**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Transport—

(1) What measures are being taken by his department to alleviate the poor accommodation facilities provided for gangs repairing the northern and western railways system?

(2) Can camp wagons be supplied for all gangs working on the Mt. Isa-Townsville line and, specifically, can such wagons be supplied for the gang now based at Torrens Creek and living in huts without electricity or water?

*Answers:—*

(1) In terms of an agreement entered into by him with relevant railway unions, the Commissioner for Railways is committed to a very substantial expenditure on the upgrading of accommodation for migratory gangs to a standard not less than that set by the State Industrial Commission. In addition, there will be a continuing programme for the manufacture in the department's workshops of approximately 20 camp wagons per year.

(2) It is not policy to provide camp wagons for all migratory gangs, the larger gangs being accommodated, while temporarily encamped at a particular locality, in bondwood huts. The gang cited by the honourable member is a mechanised relay gang comprising 39 men.

#### 27. CLOSURE OF SMALL BUSINESSES

**Mr. Katter**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Industrial Development, Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs—

(1) How many small businesses, with a gross income of less than \$250,000, have ceased to exist as a result of the Commonwealth Government's assault on individual enterprise in Queensland and in Australia as a whole?

(2) What specific factors have created this destruction of the small businessman throughout the State and the nation?

*Answers:—*

(1) Whilst precise figures are not recorded in the form sought by the honourable member, it is an undeniable fact that many businesses which hitherto have been efficient and viable have, through no fault of their own, been forced to discontinue their operations a result of Commonwealth attitudes and policies. As is well known, in the area of manufacturing the greatest impact has been felt in the textiles, footwear, furniture, electronics, domestic appliance and precision engineering fields.

(2) The major factors which have contributed towards this unfortunate situation would undoubtedly be lack of business confidence in relation to the Commonwealth's economic, trade and tariff policies; inability to obtain financial help to preserve liquidity; and, above all, inflation which, as the honourable member will well know, is considerably higher in this country than in most of the Western democracies.

#### 28. CORONER'S INQUIRY INTO EXPLOSION AT MAYGAR STREET, WINDSOR

**Mr. Yewdale**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General—

(1) Will a coroner's inquiry be held into an explosion at Maygar Street, Windsor, some 19 months ago in which five persons were injured?

(2) Does the Coroners Act require an inquiry to be held?

(3) If no inquiry is to be held, what is the reason?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 3) There is no provision in the Coroners Act for an inquiry into an explosion as such.

29. TEACHER TRANSFERS

**Mr. Yewdale**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities—

(1) What opportunities exist for young persons to transfer from one teaching field to another should they find during training that they are not suited to work with a particular age group?

(2) Is a transfer permitted from kindergarten to primary-school training or from primary to secondary and is any credit given for work or qualifications obtained from the previous training?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) Students usually wish to change from a secondary course to a primary course. This situation presents few problems at the university graduate level as a one-year post-graduate primary teacher preparation course exists at North Brisbane College of Advanced Education. However, while most three-year courses have a fairly common core, differences occur because of the specialty towards which the course is slanted. It is seldom possible to transfer with full credits although half credits may be granted provided colleges can make special arrangements to overcome the deficiencies of the students in their new programme. Each college has to make a decision in individual cases, bearing in mind its own organisation and resources. Transfer from a primary course to a kindergarten course and vice versa is somewhat easier. A student undertaking pre-school options within a primary course is essentially a primary teacher with some specialisation in the pre-school area. A kindergarten-trained teacher is essentially a pre-school teacher but with some expertise with primary children up to about eight years of age. Credits on transfer can be more easily granted although no guarantee of full credits could be given. Provision does exist, of course, for the transfer of trained teachers between the divisions, subject to the requirements of the service as a whole and sometimes after completion of a short in-service conversion course.

30. FLY-OVER, JINDALEE EXPRESSWAY JUNCTION

**Mr. Marginson**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads—

With reference to my question of 13 December 1972 in regard to the very dangerous traffic conditions at the junction of the Jindalee Expressway and the main highway at Darra—

(1) Has any further consideration been given to the construction of a fly-over for traffic or the installation of traffic signals at this junction?

(2) When is it likely that some improvement will be carried out at this dangerous location?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) Yes, and while improvement work has not been programmed at present, the position will be reviewed later this year when final Budget figures are known.

31. IPSWICH GENERAL CEMETERY TRUST

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

(1) Is he aware of a crisis situation in regard to the Ipswich General Cemetery Trust and that the three remaining trustees have resigned or are about to resign from the trust?

(2) Can his department offer any help or assistance with respect to the administration of the trust?

(3) Is it possible for his department to take over the administration and control of the Ipswich Cemetery?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 3) I am most concerned over the situation that has developed with respect to the Ipswich General Cemetery Trust, particularly since the remaining three trustees submitted resignations from the trust. I am hopeful of being able to appoint new trustees to control the operations of the Ipswich General Cemetery in the very near future. The administration of the Warrill Park Cemetery Trust will be kept in mind at the same time. It is not possible under existing legislation for my department to take over the administration and control of a cemetery when trustees resign in block. In such cases I trust that the honourable member would share my view that there is at least a moral obligation for the local authority in whose area lies that particular cemetery to accept the responsibility for its administration if local citizens decline nomination as official trustees.

32. PHOTOSTAT COPIES OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION FORMS

**Mr. Marginson**, pursuant to notice, asked the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

(1) Is he aware that S.G.I.O. compensation offices are unable to accept photostat copies of form 5A and form 5 injury certificates, form 4 applications or

declarations from employers, when the original forms have been mislaid by either the S.G.I.O., the applicant or the employer?

(2) What is the reason for this policy and will he consider allowing the use of photostat copies of documents in such circumstances, in view of the unnecessary delay in making compensation payments and the inconvenience caused to workers?

*Answers:—*

(1) Yes.

(2) S.G.I.O. has made a practice of requiring the lodgment of original documents to ensure their authenticity. Vital comments by a medical practitioner could, for instance, be deliberately eliminated in the process of photocopying. However, where documents have gone astray and cannot be located, photocopies are accepted provided such copies are signed personally by the same person who originally signed. So far as I can ascertain, the administration receives very few complaints about its attitude in its non-acceptance of photocopies of the documents referred to.

33. ELECTROCUTION OF FOOTBALLER,  
MAREEBA

**Mr. K. J. Hooper**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General—

Further to my question of 15 April to the Minister for Health concerning the tragic death of a footballer at Davies Park, Mareeba, and his answer that a coronial inquiry was to be held, has this inquiry been held and, if so, what was the coroner's finding?

*Answer:—*

The Coroner has not yet received the police file and is therefore unable to set down a date for opening the inquest.

34. NEW SCHOOLS AND SITES

**Mr. K. J. Hooper**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities—

(1) When will new schools be built at (a) Beachmere, (b) the Paradise Point-Hollywell area and (c) Ridgewood Heights?

(2) How much money was spent in 1974-75 on the acquisition of school sites and what amount does he envisage that his department will spend in 1975-76?

(3) Does he realise that to maintain the departmental practice of seeking primary-school sites of 16 acres and secondary-school sites of 35 acres will require massive funding which the present State Government is not prepared to outlay?

(4) Does he envisage a change in Department of Education policy so that schools can be built on smaller sites adjacent to park land so that the community can share facilities?

*Answers:—*

(1) My department's forward-planning programme based on recent assessments of population growth tentatively provide for new schools in the following periods—(a) Beachmere—subsequent to 1979; (b) Paradise Point-Hollywell area—not earlier than 1979; (c) Ridgewood Heights—1977. These dates will be subject to change if current predictions of population trends prove to be substantially inaccurate.

(2) Funds for capital works are administered by Department of Works. My department is awaiting details from the Department of Works of the total expenditure during 1974-75 and is not in a position to answer the honourable member's question in the absence of those details. Spending in 1975-76 will be heavily influenced by the amount of carry-forward commitment on my department's capital works and cannot yet be assessed.

(3) I and my officers are concerned at the outlay faced by the department in acquiring sites for future schools. Ways and means of alleviating the problem are presently being examined.

(4) The question of sharing community facilities has been under investigation for some time and this does in fact already occur by local arrangement in some areas.

35. SCHOOLS IN WOODRIDGE-KINGSTON  
AREA

**Mr. K. J. Hooper**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities—

(1) Is he aware that, in spite of the 60 new primary-school teaching spaces costing \$1,728,632, as outlined in a Press release by Mr. T. Newbery on 20 January, the

number of children being taught in temporary and demountable classrooms in the Woodridge-Kingston area remains at over 1,000?

(2) Does he intend to limit the total enrolment of the two newest Woodridge primary schools, Mabel Park and Harris Fields, to a reasonable figure of between 600 and 800, or can the people of Woodridge expect the same shoddy treatment in forward planning that allowed Woodridge State School enrolment to grow to 1,660, Woodridge North State School to 1,250 and Kingston State School to 1,220?

(3) What new schools will be opened in the Woodridge-Kingston area as from the beginning of 1976 and 1977?

(4) When can the people of the Woodridge-Kingston area expect a second State high school in their district?

*Answers:—*

My colleague Mrs. Kyburz has already made many representations to me in relation to the schools in the Woodridge and Kingston areas. Indeed I thank her for her invitation to visit this area and to inspect its various educational institutions.

(1) It is an unfortunate fact of economic life that facilities can be provided only to the extent that available resources permit. Under these circumstances it is essential to construct building programmes on a priority basis so that all areas of the State receive impartial treatment. The 60 new primary teaching spaces referred to indicate quite clearly that, far from neglecting the Woodridge-Kingston region, my department has, in fact, diverted a significant percentage of available funds for capital works to that area.

(2) My department always endeavours to keep schools to a manageable size by the establishment of new schools as resources permit. Unprecedented growth in the Woodridge-Kingston region has necessitated the use of some transportable accommodation. In this connection I would remind the honourable member that, when school population peaks have passed (for example as at Woodridge State school, where the enrolment is currently 300 fewer than the figure quoted by him), transportable accommodation may eventually be removed economically, whereas permanent but unnecessary accommodation would represent a significant wastage of funds.

(3) Current planning envisages the establishment of at least two primary schools in the area in the next two years, and a third if this proves to be necessary.

(4) A second high school in the area is of high priority and will be constructed as soon as funds permit.

36. D. G. OGLE PTY. LTD.

Mr. Ahern for Mr. Akers, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General—

(1) What are the names and addresses of the registered owners of D. G. Ogle Pty. Ltd.?

(2) When was this company registered in Queensland?

(3) What is the paid-up capital of the company?

*Answers:—*

(1) Records at the office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs indicate that the following are the shareholders of the company, D. G. Ogle Pty. Ltd.—Clayton, Richard John, of 124 Kitchener Road, Ascot—subscriber share only; Murrell, Peter Arnold, of 7 Drummond Street, Alderley—subscriber share only; and Brisbane Community Telecasters Pty. Ltd.

(2) Incorporated on 3 May 1972.

(3) \$100.

37. SUMMARY OF BUILDING ACT

Mr. Ahern for Mr. Akers, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads—

(1) Will he prepare a summary of the provisions of the Building Act, as they apply to single-unit private dwellings, to enable the home-building industry to adjust to the standard building by-laws?

(2) If so, will he make the summary available to home builders and arrange seminars for them on the provisions of the Act prior to its proclamation?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) Action is being taken to prepare a document outlining, in simple form, the requirements of the standard building by-laws with relation to the erection of single-unit dwellings. This document will be made available to the public when finalised. Officers of the Department of

Local Government are in the course of conducting a series of seminars at major centres throughout the State to inform local authorities and persons connected with the building industry on the requirements of the standard building by-laws. Arrangements have been made for a special session at each seminar to be set aside for those persons actively engaged in the building industry, including home-builders.

38. TECHNICIANS-IN-TRAINING

**Mr. Wright**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities—

(1) Was a technician-in-training committee, comprised of Government, industry and trade union representatives, set up by this Government in recent years?

(2) Did Government representatives go to New Zealand to investigate relevant legislation in that country pertaining to the training of technicians, following recommendations of this committee?

(3) Why were the unanimous recommendations of this committee, which was chaired by Mr. C. Gilmour, not proceeded with by this Government?

(4) Was it recommended that legislation applying to technicians-in-training, and similar to the Apprenticeship Act, should be introduced?

(5) What guarantee of employment have those persons who are at present technicians-in-training?

*Answers:—*

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes, in February 1972. Mr. H. Muhl, Under Secretary of Industrial Affairs, and Mr. C. Gilmour, who was at that time Director of Technical Education, visited New Zealand and discussed with the appropriate authorities the operation of the New Zealand Act for the training of technicians for the building industry.

(3 and 4) The recommendations of the technician-in-training committee were considered by the Departments of Education and Labour and Tourism. Certain recommendations which would have led to the preparation of a draft bill for the consideration of Cabinet were approved in principle. This legislation would have established a system for training technicians which paralleled the apprenticeship system. However,

it was considered that further detailed information was necessary regarding the New Zealand legislation, the manner in which it was being implemented and the industries to which it was being applied. Approval was therefore given for Mr. Muhl and Mr. Gilmour to visit New Zealand and they discussed with the appropriate authorities the operation of the New Zealand Act for the training of technicians. These officers found that whilst the legislation could include all industries it was only being implemented in regard to the building industry and there was no indication that any consideration was being given to other industries being included. Actually technicians-in-training generally were not being included except as stated—those in the building industry. The Queensland committee had suggested that a pilot scheme might be implemented in regard to the engineering industry in the first instance. However, since the committee made its recommendations there have been no further representations from industry for this legislation to be introduced. One of the main responsibilities of the committee chaired by Mr. Gilmour was to have the position, classification and role of the technician in industry recognised and understood. Because of the composition of the committee, being made up of representatives from industry, trade unions and Government departments, this objective was achieved. Since 1972 new courses have been introduced for the training of technicians which have given further recognition and understanding to this level of employment. Furthermore, the Board of Advanced Education and the Colleges of Advanced Education are planning to replace many of the present certificate courses. This will now be possible because most students wishing to enter such courses have completed Grade 12.

(5) Representatives of industry and commerce have been directly involved in the syllabus preparation of these courses to ensure that they are of the appropriate level and that they satisfy the needs of the employers. Furthermore, courses have been introduced only where a known demand exists. Because of this, technicians educated through courses in Queensland have had little or no difficulty in obtaining employment. Let me assure the honourable member that this proposal has not been shelved. It will receive further consideration as soon as the economy of the

State returns to some degree of normality and industry expresses support for such legislation.

39. TEACHER-HOUSING

**Mr. Wright**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities—

(1) Has his department a policy pertaining to the standard of teacher-housing in (a) city, (b) provincial and (c) rural areas?

(2) In view of the repeated requests made to him for the setting up of a teacher-housing authority, what action has been taken to implement such a necessary body?

(3) How many (a) houses and (b) flatettes are presently provided for teachers in Queensland and how many new accommodation units are planned for 1975-76?

*Answers:—*

(1) It has long been the policy of my department when providing official housing for teachers to ensure that such housing is not below existing community standards. I would point out to the honourable member that it is many years since housing was provided in the metropolitan area. In provincial and rural areas it is provided only where private accommodation is either unobtainable or excessively expensive.

(2) The question of the establishment of a Teaching Housing Authority is currently under investigation by the Inter-Departmental Committee established by Cabinet (decision No. 21039 of 26-8-74) and under the terms that the committee will investigate and report on the provision of housing accommodation generally provided by the State other than welfare housing.

(3) One thousand and sixty houses, 50 duplex dwellings, 60 single teachers quarters and 10 flatettes are presently provided for teachers. Twelve houses, three duplex dwellings and two single teachers quarters are under construction or are about to be commenced in the very near future. The extent of the provision of additional projects in the current financial year, including those projects already programmed for construction and new projects to be programmed, will depend on the resources made available to my department from loan funds.

40. COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY INTO NON-WELFARE HOUSING

**Mr. Wright**, pursuant to notice, asked the Premier—

With reference to the special committee appointed by Cabinet last year to inquire into non-welfare housing in Queensland—

(1) Who were the members and what Government departments did they represent?

(2) How many times has it met since its appointment?

(3) Has a report been made following its deliberations and, if so, what are the general recommendations?

(4) Was consideration given to the specific area of housing for teachers and has any recommendation been made regarding the establishment of a teacher-housing authority?

(5) Will he make copies of the committee's recommendations available to interested members of this Assembly?

*Answers:—*

(1) The members of the Committee are—S. Schubert, Deputy Co-ordinator-General, Co-ordinator-General's Department (Chairman); G. Campbell, Commissioner, Queensland Housing Commission; N. Hitchins, Deputy Commissioner, Queensland Housing Commission; L. Hiel-scher, Under Treasurer, Treasury; and K. Houston, Under Secretary, Works Department. The Committee co-opted additional members, namely—E. Bergman, Senior Public Service Inspector, Department of the Public Service Board; J. Brett, Department of Mines, Senior Administration Officer; W. Hamilton, Assistant Director-General of Education; and J. Bensted, Deputy Director (Administration), Department of Commercial and Industrial Development.

(2) Approximately once every two months. However, additional discussions were held with various associations and unions and officers from housing authorities in other States.

(3) A report has been finalised by the committee and will be presented to Cabinet in two weeks.

(4) Yes. The committee has given consideration to the specific area of housing for teachers, as well as for other Crown employees.

(5) The report has yet to be presented to Cabinet.

41. LAND ADJOINING CLEVELAND FISH BOARD DEPOT

**Mr. Goleby**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement and Fisheries—

(1) Is he aware that land adjacent to the Cleveland Fish Board depot is for sale, including an all-tide boat ramp?

(2) Will he consider the purchase of the property to enable ship-to-shore service for fishermen in the southern end of Moreton Bay?

*Answers:—*

(1) Yes.

(2) Purchase of the property is a matter for consideration by the Fish Board and, while it would appear desirable to secure such an adjacent property and facilities for long-term development, there are other relevant factors. The board has ample room available to extend its facilities at Cleveland and this could well suffice for future needs. The honourable member's suggestion, however, is being reconsidered by the board, which will take appropriate action consistent with the over-all economic position.

42. INTRASTATE TRADE BY AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL LINE

**Mr. Jones**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Transport—

(1) Did he put forward the proposal on 25 May that A.N.L. ships should be permitted to trade between Mackay, Townsville, Cairns and Brisbane?

(2) What is the present position in relation to the proposal?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) As indicated by the Honourable the Premier recently and following a meeting in Townsville arranged by the honourable members for Townsville and Townsville West with North Queensland businessmen, I undertook to carefully examine the general question of transport, including shipping, to North Queensland. There are many complex issues involved including constitutional ones; but I can assure the honourable member that, in line with the policy of the Government, the improvement of transport facilities to North Queensland, which includes the question of the operation of intrastate shipping by A.N.L., will receive every consideration.

43. BUS TRANSPORT FOR STUDENTS

**Mr. Jones**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Transport—

(1) What safety regulations are applied to the conveyance of students to and from school?

(2) Are school buses and private buses conveying school children allowed to carry two and three times as many students as the number of adults the same vehicles would be licensed to carry?

(3) Does this ruling apply to high school students and, if so, why does the Education Department officially recognise and pay more in subsidy for carrying students over 15 years of age?

(4) In view of the concern expressed by parents and citizens' associations and their anticipation of serious accidents occurring, could spot checks be carried out on buses in Cairns relative to the number of students carried, as opposed to the licensed carrying capacity of the buses?

*Answers:—*

(1) So far as buses authorised under the State Transport Act, 1960-1972 are concerned, I would invite the honourable member's attention to the provisions of sections 63 and 64 of that Act.

(2) Certificates of Approval issued in respect of motor omnibuses authorise the carriage of a maximum number of passengers both seated and standing. When the vehicle is being used partly or solely for the carriage of primary school-children, the maximum number of passengers that may be carried on the vehicle is the number of standing passengers specified in the Certificate of Approval plus the number of passengers who can be safely seated. In addition, where large-type omnibuses are concerned the over-all number permitted must not exceed 90.

(3) See reply to (2). Any request for information on school conveyance service buses operating under the control of the Department of Education should be addressed to the appropriate Minister.

(4) Yes, but if the honourable member has any information concerning a bus carrying more persons than its certificate allows, I would appreciate some details of it for investigation.

44. RAILWAY CROSSING, BOUNDARY STREET, TOWNSVILLE

**Mr. Aikens**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads—

With regard to my previous questions and my visit with him to the National railway crossing at Boundary Street, Townsville, can he now give any information on any proposals to alleviate the frightful traffic jams which occur every day at this point, causing inconvenience and a hazard to life and limb?

*Answer:—*

It is anticipated that work will commence about the end of September on widening the roadway opposite the National Hotel to provide a turning slot for outbound vehicles turning right into Boundary Street. This work will temporarily relieve congestion at the intersection until major permanent works construction can be carried out in about two years' time.



## 45. QUEENSLAND MINES AFFAIR

**Mr. Hanson**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General—

(1) Is he aware of a report tabled in the New South Wales Parliament by the Corporate Affairs Commission on what is known as the Queensland Mines Affair, which exposes a number of loop-holes in Australian company laws and the inability of State laws to deal effectively with spurious interstate share-trading activities?

(2) Under Queensland company law, can a principal of a company be free from prosecution for insider-trading provided that this company is registered in the Australian Capital Territory and his dealing in shares is done outside of this Territory?

(3) Under Queensland company law, what is the position of a director who, in respect of any security, makes a statement which he knows or suspects is false or misleading, and is he liable for prosecution?

(4) Is he or his department studying the odious acrobatics of the Queensland Mines Affair and is he well briefed in these matters?

(5) What action will he take to assist aggrieved people in this State?

*Answers:—*

(1) Yes. The honourable member may be referring to the recent article in the "Financial Review" reporting on this matter. In this respect, I would point out that this article did not fairly represent the full contents of the report tabled in the New South Wales Parliament in that it conveniently omitted those parts dealing with a reference to sections 124 and 378A of the Companies Act. Section 124 of the Companies Act deals with the duty and liability of officers and in respect of the alleged offences committed against the provisions of this section (as contained in the Rae Report on the company, Queensland Mines Limited) this would not have been a breach of those provisions in force at the relevant time. Amendments of section 124 and the insertion of section 124A of the Companies Act, which had effect from 1 January 1972, remedied the situation by referring to acts generally by an officer of a corporation rather than a company. Such acts, if committed at the present time, would be an offence against those sections of the Companies Act. Section 378A also commenced from 1 January 1972 and this provides for reciprocity in relation to offences. It might also be noted by the honourable member that a legal opinion was obtained in relation to specific statements by a particular person whilst a director of Queensland Mines Limited (a company

incorporated in the Australian Capital Territory) which may have contravened the equivalent provisions of section 94 of the Queensland Securities Industry Act 1971. Such opinion indicated that the particular statement was not made "with respect to securities" as provided for in that section but was made in relation to drilling. Action is being taken in relation to uniform amendments to the securities industry legislation to remedy this situation.

(2) (a) If, in relation to securities listed on the Brisbane Stock Exchange a transaction was effected through a member firm of that exchange, the office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs would institute inquiries if it was of the opinion that breaches have occurred of particular sections, in force at the relevant time, of the Companies Act and the Securities Industry Act. In this respect, attention is drawn to my remarks in answer to the previous question relating to reciprocity in relation to offences. Even if a person resident in Queensland entered into similar transactions as indicated above, the Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs would, depending upon the circumstances, give consideration to this situation. (b) The honourable member's attention is drawn to my answer in relation to question (1) concerning the relevant date of alleged offences committed against the provisions of section 124 of the Companies Act in force at that time. The present provisions of the Companies Act provide that an officer of a corporation who makes use of specific confidential information acquired by virtue of his position as such an officer to gain directly or indirectly an advantage for himself or another person is liable for loss suffered by another person.

(3) A company director who makes a statement which is likely to induce the purchase or sale of any securities by others or is likely to have the effect of raising or lowering the market price and which at the relevant time he knew or had reasonable grounds for knowing was false or misleading in a material particular may be in contravention of section 94 of the Securities Industry Act 1971 and sections 375 and 375A of the Companies Act 1961-1974. Under the Securities Industry Act 1971, a person on conviction on indictment in relation to the above would be subject to a penalty not exceeding \$10,000 or imprisonment for not more than five years or both. A convicted person would also be liable to pay compensation to an aggrieved person.

(4 and 5) Consideration has been and will continue to be given to the principles dealt with in the Senate Select Committee report on Securities and Exchange and in particular that section of the report recently

tabled relating to Queensland Mines Limited. Action is already in train to bring about substantial changes in securities industry legislation on a uniform basis.

#### QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

##### NEWMARKET BIRD AND ANIMAL SANCTUARY

**Mr. MOORE:** I ask the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads: Has he visited the Newmarket bird and animal sanctuary lately, and what does he propose to do to protect the wallabies, hares, possums, flying phalangers, marsupial mice and other animals that may need to drink water from Enoggera Creek? There is a proposal by the Brisbane City Council to put a road through which would prevent the animals from obtaining a drink of water. Will the Minister also consider putting to Cabinet a proposition to resume this land? The Brisbane City Council paid only about \$1,500 for it, and I think it would be a good buy.

**Mr. HINZE:** I think the honourable member forgot a few animals; I was out there yesterday, and there are many more animals roaming in the area than the ones that he mentioned. Be that as it may, this is the part of Newmarket Park referred to as the bird sanctuary, and the Brisbane City Council is at present doing some work there for the provision of a sporting field on what is known as the Chinaman's area along Enoggera Creek. There is a problem in that access is needed to the proposed sporting complex, and, if this does come to fruition, it may cut off the animals' access to Enoggera Creek. I think it would be a sensible proposition to fence off the portion known as the bird sanctuary (so that people could not even walk around in that tree area, thus keeping it protected for all time), and then pump water into the tree area from Enoggera Creek so that the animals could obtain water without having to go to Enoggera Creek. I will be making such a recommendation to the council.

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

#### INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

##### INITIATION

**Hon. F. A. CAMPBELL** (Aspley—Minister for Industrial Development, Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs): 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 Industrial Development Act 1963-1973."

Motion agreed to.

#### POLICE SUPERANNUATION ACTS AMENDMENT BILL

##### INITIATION

**Hon. A. M. HODGES** (Gympie—Minister for Police): 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 Police Superannuation Act 1974 and the Police Superannuation Act 1968-1974 each in certain particulars."

Motion agreed to.

#### NEW FARM LIBRARY VALIDATION BILL

##### INITIATION IN COMMITTEE

(The Chairman of Committees, Mr. W. D. Hewitt, Chatsworth, in the chair)

**Hon. R. J. HINZE** (South Coast—Minister for Local Government and Main Roads) (12.4 p.m.): I move—

"That a Bill be introduced to validate the erection of a building in New Farm Park in the City of Brisbane and the use of the building and part of the park for library purposes."

The purpose of this Bill is to validate the use for library purposes of part of the land included in New Farm Park and to declare that the erection and use of a building by the Brisbane City Council for such purposes on the land are lawful and always have been lawful, notwithstanding the provisions of the City of Brisbane Town Planning Act and the Brisbane Town Plan or the omission by the Council to comply with the provisions of the town plan. The subject land is owned by the Council and is included in the existing open space zone under the town plan.

Honourable members will recall that the erection of a municipal library by the council in New Farm Park was the subject of litigation earlier this year. The result of this litigation was that the Full Court of the Supreme Court decided that, under the town plan as it then stood, the use of the subject land for the purpose proposed was not permissible, as of right, but required the prior consent of the council.

Subsequent to the decision of the Full Court, the council proposed an amendment of the town plan to make municipal libraries and certain other uses permissible as of right in the existing open space zone. This amendment was rejected by the Governor in Council on the ground that the use of land in public parks for municipal library purposes should be subject to the prior consent of the council so that interested persons would have a right of objection to the council against the use of the land in this manner, and a right of appeal to the Local Government Court against any proposal of the council to grant consent in the face of objections.

Subsequently, I exercised the powers vested in me under the City of Brisbane Town Planning Act and advertised an amendment of the town plan for the purpose of providing that the use of land for municipal library purposes in the existing open space zone would be permissible subject to the prior consent of the council. This amendment of the plan was approved by the Governor in Council by Order in Council published in the Government Gazette on 24 May 1975.

In terms of this amendment, it would have been in order for the Brisbane City Council to initiate action for the purpose of obtaining its consent to the establishment of a municipal library on the part of New Farm Park in question. This would have entailed the carrying out by the council of advertising procedures under the Act, the possible lodgment of objections and possible appeals in the Local Government Court. The undertaking of such procedure would have been time-consuming.

I would mention that the litigation which ensued in connection with the erection of the library building on the subject land was not against the principle of siting the library at the particular location, but was on the ground that the erection and use by the council of a building for municipal library purposes at that site was not permissible as of right under the town plan as it then stood.

I think most people of the locality consider that a municipal library is necessary in the New Farm area, and that the site on which the building has been erected is a convenient site for the library. From a personal inspection I made of the site, I feel that it is a suitable one and that the establishment of a municipal library there will not detract from the use and enjoyment of the balance of the park by the public.

The Government has taken into account the substantial amount already spent by the council on the erection of the building, the evident need for a public library in the area and the suitability of the site. In view of these factors, it was decided to introduce legislation to validate the establishment and use of the library on the subject land. This will relieve the council of the necessity to undertake the procedure under the City of Brisbane Town Planning Act in respect of such use.

The Bill, which is a short measure, will apply only to the proposed municipal library in New Farm Park, and the establishment

of municipal libraries in other locations will be subject to the provisions of the Brisbane Town Plan.

As honourable members know, this has been a very controversial matter politically for some time. The honourable member for Merthyr has spoken about it in this Chamber, and I think that Alderman Dawson, a member of the Brisbane City Council, has also had something to say about it. They are both elected representatives of the area involved. It will be recalled, too, that Alderman Dawson and some of her friends, members of the A.L.P., stood outside the gates of Parliament House and waved banners. They were advised, of course, that work was already in train to make the library available to the public.

**Mr. Hanson:** The member for Merthyr tried to run her down with his car.

**Mr. HINZE:** That is not fair. I will not allow anybody to speak against my colleague the honourable member for Merthyr in his absence; in fact, I will always give a hand in protecting him, whether he is present in the Chamber or absent.

**Opposition Members interjected.**

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! Opposition members are being too noisy.

**Mr. HINZE:** The position is simply this: prior to the last State election the member for Merthyr asked me to inspect the proposed site. I did so, and agreed with him that, as it was a low-lying area subject to inundation, it would, when filled, be the ideal site for a library. A beautiful library has now been erected on it and all that this legislation does is allow the council legally to conduct the building as a library. I therefore commend the motion to the Committee.

**Mr. MARGINSON (Wolston) (12.11 p.m.):** The Opposition welcomes the introduction of this legislation. For a long time a measure such as this has been necessary and its passage through this Parliament will enable long negotiations and procedures associated with the amendment of the Brisbane Town Plan to be avoided. As we know, an amendment to the town plan can be objected to and the objection can be heard in the Local Government Court. Such an objection could delay the opening of the library for some considerable time.

The opening of the library, has, of course, already been delayed for far too long. This delay is due largely to the actions of the member for Merthyr, who, as usual, lurked in the shadows while directing the operations

of the Save New Farm Park Committee. We would go so far as to say that we look forward to the second-reading and Committee stages of the Bill and also to its third reading.

Let me trace the history of this matter. In 1965 the Brisbane City Council purchased a block of land in Brunswick Street for the purpose of establishing on it a library. The area of the land was only 27 perches. It was purchased on the recommendation of Alderman Crawford, who was at that time the representative of the ward in which the land was situated.

**Mr. Miller:** A very sensible person, too.

**Mr. MARGINSON:** I believe he is; but, like the honourable member and me, he can make mistakes.

Although the land was held by the Brisbane City Council for some time, no start was made on the construction of the library. Nine years later the council came to the conclusion that the area was too small for a library. The council was fully justified in arriving at that decision. Brunswick Street is now a very busy thoroughfare, and the traffic congestion and noise associated with it would not create the ideal surroundings for a library; but, above all, neither in Brunswick Street nor on a 27-perch block would sufficient parking space be found for library patrons.

I have no doubt that certain Government members will allege that the Brisbane City Council sold that land only for the purpose of making a considerable profit.

**Mr. Miller:** That would be right, too.

**Mr. MARGINSON:** I thought the honourable member for Ithaca would be the first one to say that. The Save New Farm Park Committee has claimed that the land would realise from \$95,000 to \$97,000, whereas, in fact, it was sold at auction for \$59,000. The committee grossly exaggerated the position in its allegations.

I deal now with the attitude adopted by the member for Merthyr. On 26 February 1974 he was quoted as saying that he would like to see the building unions impose a green ban on the site in New Farm Park so that the erection of the library building could not be commenced. He followed that up in November of the same year (which was after the State election date had been announced but before the actual election) by promising the people of Merthyr that if re-elected he would recommend to the Minister for Local Government that the Brisbane Town Plan be amended. When he saw that his opposition to the building of

this library in New Farm Park was losing public support—he did not receive support in February when he called for a green ban—he decided in November, realising that a State election was in the offing, to change his policy and say, “I want the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads to amend the City of Brisbane Town Plan so that a library may be built in New Farm Park.” That was a remarkable change in attitude. It is well to remember that there was a change in circumstances and that an election was forthcoming.

As recently as three weeks ago tomorrow, in the debate on Matters of Public Interest, the honourable member for Merthyr told us how much he had done to get the library established in New Farm Park. The library building is now constructed but, in the light of the stand of people like the honourable member for Merthyr, it cannot be used. As the Minister told us this morning, it could not be used by right. In its decision the court said that the library could not be used by right and that the council would have to make certain amendments to the town plan and ordinances.

There is a remarkable difference between the two proposed sites. The park provides tranquillity and serenity where people, particularly old people—

**Mr. Miller:** What about the flood waters?

**Mr. MARGINSON:** The honourable member harps on that.

In the park surroundings, people will be able to use the library under ideal conditions in contrast with those on the alternative site.

I commend Alderman Dawson, who has never changed her attitude to the library. She was very vexed and wrote to the Minister when the Save the New Farm Park Committee distributed objection forms in every letter-box in the New Farm area (I have one of them here) in typewritten form asking people to sign the objection and lodge it with the council. It was an objection to a certain part of the town plan affecting the library.

We are very happy that the Minister has seen fit by means of this Bill to ensure that the library will open. As he said, the people of New Farm desire a library in that locality. Why should the library be stopped simply because some people, solely for political reasons, wanted to prevent the Brisbane City Council from using it?

As I said, we support the Bill wholeheartedly and look forward to its other stages being dealt with promptly.

**Mr. MILLER** (Ithaca) (12.19 p.m.): I am not surprised that the honourable member for Wolston should say, on behalf of the Opposition, that the Opposition fully supports the move by the Minister to make lawful an unlawful act of the Brisbane City Council. I would be very surprised if he did not support the Brisbane City Council.

**Mr. Marginson:** I would be very concerned if you did.

**Mr. MILLER:** I am very concerned about what we are doing today as a Parliament. This is the second time that we have had to validate such actions of the Brisbane City Council. The first instance related to Nundah and this one relates to New Farm Park. In his opening remarks the Minister said that the Bill, which is a short measure, will apply only to the proposed municipal library in New Farm Park and that the establishment of municipal libraries in other localities will be subject to the provisions of the Brisbane Town Plan.

I ask the Minister and members of the Opposition to state what action they will take if the new town plan says that no further libraries will be built in parks and the Brisbane City Council decides to proceed, as it did on this occasion. Will they want to validate the unlawful use of further parklands by the Brisbane City Council? As it is presently stated, they could not do that; yet today we are making this unlawful act lawful. What will be the action in the future? I would not be surprised at all if the new town plan provides that libraries will be allowed in parks as of right under common law provided there are no objections. I will be very disappointed if that is so. I am disappointed that we are here validating the action of the Brisbane City Council and making lawful its unlawful act. I am totally opposed to the measure.

If a private individual built a structure in similar circumstances, the boot would be on the other foot. The Brisbane City Council would be the first to say, "Remove that structure from the site." However, although on the one hand it would say that to an individual, on the other hand it wants the Government to stand behind it and validate its unlawful act. It is a case of, "Don't do as we do. Do as we say." It is quite apparent that the Brisbane City Council has two standards: one to be adhered to by it and another to be adhered to by private individuals.

Personally, I think a stand should have been taken by the Government on this unlawful act. As the Government has set a precedent now, what will happen next time the council takes action of this type? The action is unlawful now. If the new town plan provides that it is unlawful and if the Brisbane City Council proceeds as it did in this case, will the Government be inconsistent and say, "We are sorry. The town plan says that you cannot build a library

there, so we will not allow you to do it."? Today we are creating a precedent that I do not think we can ever change. If there is one thing I want to see, it is consistency. I would like Parliament to consider today whether or not it is being consistent in allowing validation of this unlawful act.

Is this to be the pattern in every Brisbane park if the Brisbane City Council feels that a structure should be erected? I hope not. I respect the people in Bardon for the stand they have taken to preserve their park against alienation by the Brisbane City Council. Chapter 4 allows people the opportunity to object if they wish; but we all know that in any suburb only a few people are prepared to do the groundwork of going out and asking people to sign petitions. If in any suburb these people are not willing to take that stand, how many would be prepared to take their place? Not very many. We are all aware that only a few people in any suburb are willing to take an active part. Thousands are ready to object, but those who will act and initiate moves would not total 100. The others are merely prepared to sign objection papers. What we have to do is consider the position that will be created if the new town plan provides that libraries may be built in parks as of right under chapter 4 if people do not object.

Let us consider the history of the establishment of a library in New Farm. The honourable member who has just resumed his seat outlined the history as he sees it. A few weeks ago the honourable member for Merthyr outlined the history as he saw it. If his account is wrong, I hope that the next speaker from the Opposition will correct it. The honourable member for Wolston said that Alderman Dawson has continued to take the same stand throughout the episode of the building of a library in New Farm. The honourable member for Merthyr told us that Alderman Dawson actually erected a sign on the old site pledging the construction of a library on that site. I hardly see how she was being very consistent. Had she put a sign in New Farm Park to the effect that she believed a library should be built in New Farm Park, she would have been consistent. However, the honourable member for Merthyr said that during three consecutive election campaigns Alderman Dawson promised the people of New Farm a library on the old site. So I was rather surprised to hear the honourable member for Wolston claim that Alderman Dawson had been consistent. Her action was far from consistent.

The C.M.O. wanted to build a library on the old site. It was for that purpose that the land was sold to the Brisbane City Council at a very reasonable figure. As the Brisbane City Council chose not to build a library on that land it should have offered to sell the land back to the former owners at the same price for which they sold it to the Brisbane City Council. It was for the purpose of a library that the land was given—not sold; in

my opinion it was a gift. Many developers would have been delighted to have that land given to them at the low price paid by the Brisbane City Council. In all honesty, if the Brisbane City Council wanted to be sincere, it should have sold back the land, at the same price, to the person who gave it to the council or a member of his family. Of course it did not do that. The council decided to sell the land and take the profit, as it has done with a good deal of other land. The council is being very consistent. It likes to make money out of the ill fortunes of the citizens of Brisbane.

**Dr. Crawford:** A different set of rules.

**Mr. MILLER:** It applies a different set of rules altogether to its own dealings. On 25 February the council commenced work on the library foundations in New Farm Park.

**Mr. Dean:** 1974.

**Mr. MILLER:** Yes. Then on 10 March 1974 the park was inundated by flood waters. Had I been the alderman representing that area, I would have considered whether the park was a suitable site for a library or any other permanent building. On many occasions the council has claimed that it believes in open space, yet it persisted in erecting that structure in the knowledge that that open space was subject to flooding. I am rather amazed.

Even following 21 May 1974, when a group of citizens in that area informed the Brisbane City Council that they would take the council to the Supreme Court—and they won—the Brisbane City Council still persisted. It is quite obvious that the council does not listen to the citizens in any area. It believes in making a decision and implementing the decision whether or not the people believe the decision should be implemented.

The Minister said that the council's action will be validated. As I said earlier, I am very concerned about the action that we as a Government are taking. I hope that in his reply the Minister will assure the Committee that this action will not create a precedent for the construction of buildings in other parks in Brisbane. I hope also that the next Opposition speaker will assure the Committee that the Opposition is concerned about the action being taken today and does not want to set this precedent for the future.

**Mr. DEAN (Sandgate) (12.30 p.m.):** I fully support the submission by the honourable member for Wolston on behalf of the Opposition. I also support the Minister because he has used a great deal of common sense in bringing down this legislation today.

Let us face the issue squarely. The building was in fact erected, and at great cost to the people of Brisbane.

**Mr. Moore:** It should never have been built.

**Mr. DEAN:** I am not going into the pros and cons of that issue. I am not a member of the Brisbane City Council, and I am therefore not competent to speak on behalf of that body. I speak now from a common-sense and logical point of view. I am not in a position to say whether a mistake was or was not made; but to allow to lie idle a building erected at such a cost to the ratepayers, or to order its demolition, would have been absolutely scandalous.

The honourable member for Ithaca mentioned precedents. Many precedents have been created in this place over the years. It is not so long ago that approval was given for the construction of the new Conservatorium of Music on land that was part of the Botanic Gardens. Many other buildings in the technical college area occupy what was formerly parkland. It is only a few years ago that the new city morgue was built on the bank of the Brisbane River, and no objection was raised then. I took objection, but, of course, it must be appreciated that a morgue is a necessary facility in the city. Nevertheless, there was no hue and cry at that time from members of the Government of the day.

I know New Farm fairly well, and it is clear that the library is in a very suitable position for the people. As to the threat of flooding—we have been told by people who should know that the new cultural centre to be built on the other side of the river near Victoria Bridge will be subject to flooding. Of course, I am not in a position to say whether that is right or wrong. The real issue at present is that the library has been built, and the Minister has taken a very common-sense attitude to it. There is no point in adopting the pig-headed, dog-in-the-manger attitude displayed by the honourable member for Merthyr over the last few months. What shocking displays he put on in this Chamber! In saying that I am not taking advantage of his absence overseas enjoying himself; I say it because I am concerned at the unfair attitude that he took in relation to the local alderman, Alderman Dawson.

**Mr. Moore:** What did he do?

**Mr. DEAN:** He played politics in some of the lowest ways. Alderman Dawson is quite capable of defending her character and integrity, but I must say that the actions of the honourable member for Merthyr did him no credit at all. He tried to force the issue. If an order had been made for the demolition of the library building, we would have seen some somersaults and other acrobatic feats by the honourable member for Merthyr.

The Minister has taken a sensible and logical attitude towards the library. It is a very necessary facility, and it will play an important part in the lives of children and adults in the Merthyr electorate. I do not think that the speech just made by the honourable member for Ithaca did him any

good. He made no important points. I feel sure that the measure when put to the vote will receive, if not unanimous support, at least a great measure of support. For my part, I am quite happy to see the validation proposed by the Bill, and I support it fully.

**Mr. AHERN** (Landsborough) (12.34 p.m.): I would be disappointed, Mr. Hewitt, if you did not on this occasion allow a somewhat wider debate on the New Farm Library case, because it has very wide ramifications in park management for the State's 131 local authorities. The Local Government Department and the Lands Department have certainly changed their approach to the whole question of park management in the light of what happened in the New Farm Library case.

I realise, of course, that the Minister has no real alternative to introducing the legislation before the Committee; nevertheless, I express my apprehension and concern about it. Certainly the building exists and, in this instance, in the interests of the ratepayers, the Council's action has to be validated. But I trust that this will not be the order of the day throughout the State so that, when local authorities build baby clinics, libraries and so on in parks, and certain concerned citizens in the locality successfully challenge the legality of their actions, the council concerned can immediately race to the Government of the day and say, "We have expended ratepayers' money here so you must validate our action." The Minister has probably informed local authorities that this will not be the case, but I am sure the situation must be causing concern to the Local Government Department.

As I said at the outset, this case changed our attitude towards the whole concept of park management throughout the State. I want to put forward a few ideas and ask honourable members to consider the whole question. Firstly, on the surface it would appear to me that future actions of this nature will merely come under the town-planning procedures of the council. It may come about that, in giving permission for a building for a football club, a baby clinic or some semi-public purpose, a council will have only to initiate action under its town-planning procedures and call for objections and so on. It appears to me that the Government is making it too easy for all local authorities, including the Brisbane City Council, to change the status of city parks.

Are we making it too easy for interested parties to bring pressure to bear on local aldermen or shire councillors, particularly in relation to long-established parks? They may respond to strong representations from a football club or other such body and say, "Well, the area is low and mosquito-ridden, anyway, and the trees are going to die from infection and therefore we should be changing the use of this particular reserve to a sporting use." The local authority would then only have to initiate town-planning changes

and the zoning would be changed. Are we making it too easy for them, too, to change the use of parkland?

As I understand it, that was what the New Farm Library case was all about, the court said that the status of parks such as New Farm Park should not be easily changed. I do not think the public of Queensland wants to see the status of long-established parks changed at all, even if the area is low-lying and a little flood-prone. I suggest to the Minister that we should be looking towards providing better and stronger legal protection for the State's parks rather than simply saying that it is a town-planning matter. If there is a need for land for use by sporting clubs, it might perhaps be simpler to insert in the Local Government Act a provision requiring subdividers to set aside land for this purpose. I can see you looking at me, Mr. Hewitt. I realise that I am diverging a little from the subject matter of the Bill. However, I believe that the situation could well be met by subdividers making land available. It is usually on the outskirts of towns, where new subdivisions are taking place, that these needs suddenly emerge and local authorities find difficulty in meeting them. In such circumstances, perhaps the suggestion I have made could be implemented.

Parks are few enough in central city areas and pressures are strong, and I think that the matter is too big to be left to town planning. In fact, my sole purpose in taking part in the debate is to express the hope that the proposed Bill will not change the present status, thereby placing in jeopardy some of the very old parks that now exist in the city of Brisbane and in other fairly large centres outside the metropolitan area.

**Mr. LOWES** (Brisbane) (12.41 p.m.): I endorse the remarks of the honourable member for Landsborough and particularly his reference to the effect that the decision in the New Farm Park case has had on town planning relative to parks.

In my opinion, a distinction ought to be drawn between open parkland and parkland that includes enclosed playing fields and enclosed areas such as, in the instant case, a library. I think that these matters are affecting the minds of all honourable members. Certainly they affected the minds of all members of the Liberal Party who considered the party's local government policy at its convention last week-end. Honourable members will find that that policy will become effective throughout the Brisbane City Council area after the next local government election.

In his introductory remarks, the Minister referred to the New Farm Library as being a controversial political matter. It is true that it did become a controversial political matter as early as 1961, when there was an untimely change of local government in Brisbane. From that time on, a well-formulated plan that had been initiated and put forward by Ald. Harold Crawford, who

then represented the Merthyr ward, was disregarded. It was for the New Farm library to be sited at a junction in Brunswick Street near the shopping centre, where it would be available to a great number of people.

That plan had been put forward in 1959, but from 1961 onwards the wishes of the people were disregarded and the matter did become a controversial political matter. In fact, the site, which had been dedicated almost without cost—a mere \$5,000-odd—was used in 1971 as the temporary site for the A.L.P. election campaign—or the site for the temporary A.L.P. campaign; I am not sure which. It was certainly used for political purposes at that time. When the Brisbane City Council election was held, the same site was again used for political purposes. On that occasion, the A.L.P. council candidate used the site for the erection of her election signs. Those are particular instances showing how the New Farm Library became a political football.

The matter became political because of the gross disregard of the former Lord Mayor (Ald. Clem Jones) for the town plan and also because of his gross disregard for the law. It was matched only by the gross disregard of the Labor-controlled Brisbane City Council for the wishes of the people.

From about 1960 the people had amply demonstrated their feelings by the presentation almost annually to the council of petitions seeking the erection of a library in their area. In 1959-60 the people had been given cause to expect that a library would be constructed in the near future, but over the next 11 years they saw their hopes dashed as an inactive city council, in total disregard of the wishes of the people as well as of the law, did nothing.

Opposition members asked why the construction of the New Farm Library became a political issue. It became political because this Government recognised its duty to act in the interests of the people and to abide by the law whereas the Labor city council did not subscribe to these principles.

On 10 November 1974 the Minister for Justice was quoted in "The Sunday Mail" as saying that the use of parks really comes down to the people, and again I say that the Government has shown regard for the wishes and wants of the people. The Brisbane City Council, in contrast, has adopted an apathetic approach to the people's needs. The people are referred to generally in delightfully vague terms such as "the masses" or "the electorate".

In New Farm the people banded together and formed the Save New Farm Park Committee. They spoke with one voice. Instead of the criticism levelled by members of the Opposition at the temporarily absent member for Merthyr, he deserves praise for the way in which he was instrumental in organising that committee.

In May last year, when this group of vocal citizens could see that the Brisbane City Council was showing utter contempt for the wishes of the people by annexing part of New Farm Park and commencing foundation work on the site, they took the matter to the Full Court of Queensland, which had little hesitation in deciding unanimously that the council's activities were in contravention of the law. The Labor city council, which pretends to have the interests of the people at heart, flagrantly disregarded their wishes and all the sound principles of town planning by commencing the construction of a library on a totally unsuitable site. The people of New Farm united against the council and, as I say, appealed to the Full Court of Queensland. It told the Brisbane City Council, "Hold your hand; you can do no more here. You are in flagrant disregard of the law; you are acting illegally."

**Mr. Aikens:** And this Minister will validate all those illegalities; is that the point?

**Mr. LOWES:** The matter was before the court. Again the council showed utter contempt for the court, as well as for the people, by flogging the property for a cool profit of \$50,000.

The honourable member for Wolston said that the original plan for the library did not provide for parking. The original plan for the council library did provide for parking. The findings of town-planning groups show that people do not make exclusive visits to libraries; people who visit a library are usually in the area for other purposes. The suggestion by the honourable member for Wolston that no provision for parking was made in the plan is right off the mark.

The honourable member for Townsville South said that we are validating council errors—

**Mr. Aikens:** Its illegalities.

**Mr. LOWES:** And its illegalities. Fortunately this Chamber can validate acts that would otherwise be invalid. A farcical position was brought about by the council's contemptuous behaviour. The council had spent large sums of money on the building and the only alternative was to tear it down. At times good sense must prevail over the law. As a member of Parliament I resent having to validate something that was done knowing that it was obviously contrary to the law, but in this instance good sense should prevail. On that basis it is our duty to resolve this farcical act by a Labor council and therefore I support the Bill.

**Mr. AIKENS (Townsville South) (12.52 p.m.):** Mr. Hewitt, I do not pose as a patriarchal oracle but, as you know, I have had considerable experience in local authority matters and considerable experience in matters similar to this. As we are considering validating illegal acts, I suggest to honourable members that



they turn up an Act passed in about 1946 by the then A.L.P. Government to validate an illegal expenditure of scores of thousands of dollars by the Townsville City Council, of which I was then the deputy mayor. That money was not spent merely on the erection of a library or anything like that. During the war we had a lot of money which was virtually running out of the tills. We could not spend it because we could not buy anything, so we decided to do a lot of work that is normally covered by capital expenditure, the raising of loans and such legal flim-flam. We put an extensive water supply into Stuart; we extended electricity installations to Oonoonba and Aitkenvale; we built the city council ice works at great cost and established the Townsville Municipal Library, the municipal wood depot, and so on—all in the interests of the people. The Government of the day was not game to stop us because all these things were done in the interests of the people, and after the war it brought down a rather remarkable Bill validating all the illegal things we had done in the interests of the people.

On this occasion we must consider whether the Bill is in the interests of the people. No-one has yet said whether New Farm Park is Crown land vested in the Brisbane City Council, or whether New Farm Park is owned exclusively by the Brisbane City Council.

**Mr. Marginson:** Correct—freehold.

**Mr. AIKENS:** If it is owned exclusively by the Brisbane City Council, that places a stronger obligation on the council to do nothing that is inimical to the interests of the people of Brisbane, who own the park.

In 1938 or 1939 we had an almost parallel case with a library in Townsville. The School of Arts, in which was situated the Townsville Library, run by a very efficient committee, was going broke. The council, of which I was a member, negotiated with the School of Arts committee to take over the library as well as the School of Arts. At that stage it had an overdraft of £1,100. The librarian, Mrs. Classon, was very efficient. We agreed to take over the library for the overdraft and to keep Mrs. Classon on as librarian. That is how the Townsville Municipal Library came into being.

During the war, of course, the building was seized by the Army. After the war it was handed over to the T.R.E.B. to give it an opportunity to get on its feet. (I am being as brief as I possibly can. I know that time is marching on, and I do not want to elaborate on all these things.) Angus Smith and his council tried to grab the building and hand it over to T.R.E.B. Being in Parliament, I was able to stop that barefaced theft of valuable property belonging to the people of Townsville. The library, having been established in another place, was kept going.

The present council, of which the honourable member for Townsville West is the mayor, had on its hands a very valuable building and land; I would say it was worth \$150,000. Lo and behold, it was given away to the arts council or a similar body. The arts council is controlled by Alderman Innis Reid, the deputy mayor, who is very interested in the arts. She went down to that frightful, shocking turn-up in Canberra recently—that sex and socialism show. I do not doubt that the School of Arts is now run fairly efficiently as a general cultural centre, but I have no doubt that, with the tendency of a lot of people in Townsville, led by Alderman Innis Reid, to set up various other departments that in my opinion have nothing to do with the council, appointing social workers and duplicating jobs which are the responsibility of Governments and various other organisations—I have no doubt that the W.E.L. will get its long, talon-like fingers into it. We all know, as a result of the shemuzzle in Canberra recently, that the letters "W.E.L." stand for "We endorse lesbianism". I have no doubt that its members will get into this building, which rightfully belongs to the city of Townsville.

It is about time the Minister for Local Government, who is a very efficient and very forthright man, kept his eye on some of these councils. I really believe that some councils are doing far too much work that is not within their province. They are doing work which I think belongs to Government bodies and various other organisations. It is about time someone pulled them up.

I had intended to deal with Parkinson's law and with the fact that today there is far too great a tendency to say that the town planner does not agree with this or that. It is about time, both in local government and in the State Government, that we got it into our heads that all these experts are supposed to be on tap, not on top. Unfortunately, far too many of them are on top. Far too many members of Parliament, aldermen or councillors are too spineless to tell them that they should not be on top, but on tap, and that the final decision rests with the elected representatives of the people.

**Hon. R. J. HINZE** (South Coast—Minister for Local Government and Main Roads) (12.59 p.m.), in reply: I appreciate the contributions from the members on both sides to this validating legislation, which is quite short. I recognise the thoughts expressed by the speakers from the Opposition as well as the others who have spoken—the members for Landsborough, Ithaca, Brisbane and Townsville South.

I understand the thoughts expressed by the members on the Government side that we are validating something that is illegal. However, I wish it to be understood that the legislation refers specifically to the New Farm Library. The Bill has been introduced because we think it is the common-sense

step. We believe that the people want the Government to introduce the validating legislation. I emphasise that it will not set a precedent. I inherited both the Nundah Library problem and the New Farm Library problem. I had to get them off my plate somehow. I am doing this in all honesty and in the belief that it is what the majority of the people of Queensland want at this time. I do not want anybody to be under the misapprehension that this Government will continue to validate action that it thinks should not be validated.

Motion (Mr. Hinze) agreed to.

Resolution reported.

#### FIRST READING

Bill presented and, on motion of Mr. Hinze, read a first time.

[Sitting suspended from 1.3 to 2.15 p.m.]

### CHIROPODISTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

#### SECOND READING

**Hon. L. R. EDWARDS** (Ipswich—Minister for Health) (2.16 p.m.): I move—

“That the Bill be now read a second time.”

The word “chiroprodist” is derived from the Greek words “cheir” meaning hand and “podus” meaning a foot and means literally the handling of the feet. In times long passed the chiroprodist was a person who cut toe-nails and trimmed corns and bunions, but the modern registered chiroprodist is as far removed from this concept as is the modern surgeon from the blood-letting barber of old. Chiroprody deals with the care and treatment of the feet in health and disease. It is based on podology, which is the study of the foot, its physiology, anatomy and pathology.

The modern chiroprodist is required to qualify in his profession by virtue of a course of training at a university, college or institution extending over a period of three years. During this course of training the modern chiroprodist spends almost 3,000 hours in both theoretical and practical clinical training and studies medical chemistry, medical physics, biochemistry, biology, psychology and general anatomy as well as chiroprody, microbiology, and introductions to medicine, surgery and pathology.

**Mr. Jensen** interjected.

**Dr. EDWARDS:** I am glad that the honourable member for Bundaberg supports me in my statement. I was amazed at the ignorance displayed by some honourable members of what a chiroprodist actually does and what is required in his art.

In addition the course covers such subjects as statistics, data processing, professional communication and introduction to business, along with therapeutics, dermatology and sociology.

**Mr. Melloy:** This is the course to be introduced?

**Dr. EDWARDS:** Yes.

**Mr. Melloy:** I cannot see it in the Bill.

**Dr. EDWARDS:** The Government is not responsible for introducing the course. The course is the responsibility of the Queensland Institute of Technology when it comes into operation next year.

Concurrently with his studies at the university, college or other institution the trainee is required to spend eight weeks of his vacation, during his second and third years, in practical clinical training in an approved situation.

A registered chiroprodist specialises in the care of the health of the feet and employs medical, mechanical, surgical, electrical or manual methods to diagnose and treat ailments or abnormalities of the feet. He treats people of all ages and in all walks of life—the child, the mother, the worker who spends many hours a day on his feet, elderly people and the physically handicapped. He removes superficial growths on the foot and treats nail deformities, corrects abnormalities by paddings, appliances and prostheses, and by manipulation, massage and electro-therapy restores muscles to normal function. The modern chiroprodist is trained also to make appliances and prostheses to the specification required for his patient.

The chiroprodist has a great responsibility—I repeat “great responsibility”—in the practice of his profession, for even the simple cutting of nails performed in an incorrect manner could, in persons suffering from certain conditions, result in grave damage to the patient and might lead even to the amputation of toes or feet. Recognition of this fact and of the importance of adequate training of chiroprodists caused the Australian Medical Association to give its approval and support to the registration of chiroprodists and to the qualifications contained in the Act at the time the Act was framed. There has been no deviation from this support by the Australian Medical Association in the interim.

As one honourable member—I think the honourable member for Port Curtis—pointed out at the introductory stage, the quality of footwear available on the market today, especially some of the more radical types of footwear, is conducive to foot ill-health and the consequent need for care by a chiroprodist.

The expansion of health services into the community has increased the demand for registered chiroprodists, but the number of persons currently registered is insufficient to meet demands. Although a course of training in chiroprody is expected to commence at the Queensland Institute of Technology in 1976, there is no recognised course of training available in Queensland at present. The Australian Chiroprody Association (Queensland) has estimated that a minimum of 204 chiroprodists are required this year to meet demands, but the number currently registered

is 108. The projection for 1980 is 226, but this figure would not include any rapid expansion of community health centres.

As the first graduates from the course of training at the Queensland Institute of Technology cannot be expected before the end of 1978, Queensland must therefore look to persons trained in other States to increase the ranks of registered chiropractors, at least until that date. It is not anticipated that more than 20 trainees a year will undertake the courses at the Queensland Institute of Technology, and, as 72 of the presently registered chiropractors are aged 50 years or more, it is probable that Queensland will be unable to meet its own needs from its own resources for many years to come.

There are presently chiropractors registered in other States and specified countries who are very competent in the practice of their profession and who have applied for registration in Queensland, but who do not possess the academic qualifications which the Act presently requires for registration. To enable the board to register these persons, it is proposed to insert a provision within the requirements for registration that the board may register persons who are currently registered in other States and specific countries, who have undergone a course of training in chiropractic which is recognised by the board as being adequate training and who are able to satisfy the board that they are competent to practise chiropractic.

The last requirement is very important. The provision will not in any way lower the standards of the profession, nor is it expected that it will lead to a large influx of chiropractors to Queensland; but it is hoped that sufficient numbers will be attracted to enable Queensland to meet at least a large part of its needs.

Cabinet decided that Government nominees to boards and committees should not be appointed, or continued as members, when they have attained the age of 70 years. The Bill contains a provision to give effect to this decision, and the opportunity has been taken to extend its terms to all members of the board.

The Bill also contains a provision which will give effect to Cabinet decision that officers of the Public Service of Queensland should not receive fees or allowances for attendance at meetings of the board held during the ordinary office hours of that member. However, a saving clause has also been provided so that such a member would not be prevented from receiving and retaining out-of-pocket expenses which he has necessarily incurred in attending any meeting of the board, or in carrying out any other function of the board which he has been authorised by the board to carry out.

I commend the Bill to the House.

**Mr. MELLOY** (Nudgee) (2.23 p.m.): The Bill generally is acceptable to the Opposition. There are certain matters that the Minister

cleared up in his second-reading speech, one of which related to the training course to be set up in Queensland. I should like to ask the Minister if it has been ascertained whether this course will be of a standard that will be accepted in the other States of the Commonwealth. The Queensland Act provides that qualifications obtained in other States are recognised in Queensland, and it is to be hoped that the Queensland course will be accepted throughout the rest of Australia and in other parts of the Commonwealth.

The amendment of section 8, which places restrictions on eligibility for membership of the board, is timely. Perhaps it is just as well that the provision concerning board members who attain the age of 70 years, die or become mentally ill does not apply to members of Parliament. If it did, particularly the final part of it, the Government would lose half its members!

Generally speaking we accept the Bill as it is presented and feel that it will tidy up the calling, although I am compelled to say that the calling has an inflated status as far as medicine is concerned. But apparently the A.M.A. accepts it, the Parliament accepts it and the public accept it as an essential service to the community. I think there is something to be said for having this calling controlled by registration. As I say, I think the calling has an inflated status in view of the fact, as has been pointed out by the honourable member for Townsville South, that a person need not necessarily put up a sign saying he is a chiropractor but can still practise in that calling. There is nothing in the Bill to say that an unqualified person shall not carry out the work of a chiropractor, or that it is an offence to hold one's self up as a chiropractor unless one is registered, but, as I said, we accept the Bill.

**Dr. LOCKWOOD** (Toowoomba North) (2.26 p.m.): We can have no objection to the proposals contained in this Bill until we consider the qualifications for registration. In Victoria the course conducted under the auspices of the Australian Chiropractic Council ran into great difficulty in 1969 and 1970 and had to be abandoned because it was very difficult and expensive. Much of the curriculum which is adhered to by the council—it is, indeed, very necessary—is covered in other courses, particularly in nursing and some of the other paramedical courses. Chemistry and physics, the basic sciences, are covered in high school. Anatomy is not covered in high school and there would need to be a course in anatomy, particularly that of the lower extremity—the leg and the foot. A knowledge of microbiology is also necessary. I feel that biochemistry is sufficiently covered in many nursing courses. Pathology, physiology and the application of medicine and therapeutics are covered in other courses.

While insisting that persons who do practise chiropody have a definite understanding of the lower limbs as they are affected by a great many diseases, particularly vascular diseases and the diseases of degeneration, I think that we could well shorten this course for persons who can satisfy the board as to basic qualifications they would have acquired while undertaking courses which overlap the course recommended by the Australian Chiropractic Council. By doing this we could shorten the course considerably.

We could argue over the length of the course but I would leave that to the board. Persons who satisfied the board as to their qualifications could undergo a very short course, pass the theory part of the examination and then undergo a period of apprenticeship under a master chiropractor. Had my suggestion been adopted some time ago, I feel that the shortfall of chiropractors in our society would have been obviated. They are needed at the moment and as people live longer we will need more chiropractors per head of population.

The adoption of this procedure might also have caused a greater acceptance of chiropody in our society. I think a three-year course is too long for a person who has reached a matriculation standard of education. If it were possible for a person to convert to this course from some other paramedical course I feel we could obviate this problem.

**Mr. Jensen:** What about the drop-outs from medical school?

**Dr. LOCKWOOD:** Some of them might well be inclined towards chiropody or other paramedical fields.

Although I have no objection to the clause in the Bill, I think it is a pity there is no alternative entrance to chiropody.

**Hon. L. R. EDWARDS** (Ipswich—Minister for Health) (2.31 p.m.), in reply: I thank honourable members for their comments. There are only a couple of points to which I think I should reply.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition mentioned two matters, the first of which was whether qualifications gained in Queensland would be accepted by other States. There is general reciprocity among the Australian States, including Queensland, and the course at the Queensland Institute of Technology has been designed so that registration boards in other States will accept qualifications gained in Queensland. No doubt this will apply also in New Zealand, Great Britain, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

The second matter mentioned by the honourable member for Nudgee was that he did not see anything in the Act making it unlawful for a person to hold himself out as a chiropractor if he does not hold the necessary qualifications. Section 26 of the Act irons that out.

**Mr. Melloy:** The Act does not stop them from working as long as they do not call themselves chiropractors.

**Dr. EDWARDS:** If the honourable member reads the Act a little more carefully, he will find that, as it stands, it covers most situations.

**Mr. Melloy:** They cannot claim to be chiropractors; they cannot claim to be registered; but there is nothing to stop them practising.

**Dr. EDWARDS:** I think that the honourable member is misunderstanding the section. I am quite happy with it.

The honourable member for Toowoomba North suggested a shorter course in chiropody. It has been accepted throughout Australia, and indeed throughout the world, that the length of the proposed course is reasonable. Although what the honourable member said has some value, the education authorities believe that a course of this type will produce the best results. Quite a big problem could arise if sufficient numbers of people are not adequately trained to do this work.

**Mr. Jensen** interjected.

**Dr. EDWARDS:** As I indicated in my second-reading speech, they are given eight weeks' compulsory practical training at the end of the second year and the third year of the course. In my opinion, that is adequate, and I accept that standard.

Motion (Dr. Edwards) agreed to.

#### COMMITTEE

(Mr. Kaus, Mansfield, in the chair)

Clauses 1 to 5, both inclusive, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

#### AMBULANCE SERVICES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

##### SECOND READING

**Hon. L. R. EDWARDS** (Ipswich—Minister for Health) (2.35 p.m.): I move—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

In my opening address I gave the Committee a broad outline of the purposes of this Bill. Now that honourable members have had the opportunity to study this legislative proposal, I shall elaborate upon its intent.

A great deal has been said both in this Chamber and in other areas concerning the need for "ambulance employees to stand on street corners to earn their own salaries."

Community involvement in health and welfare related services has been given great prominence in the last two or three years and is being actively encouraged by the Government in another sphere by making available portion of the funds needed to conduct

a number of such services. I particularly stress "portion of the funds" because the community is required to meet portion of the cost. I realise also that community involvement in health and welfare services is a principle supported by the Opposition in this House. It seems incongruous then that in the provision of ambulance services this community involvement does not produce the same support and approval.

Ambulance services throughout Australia are financed in much the same way as in Queensland, except that the Government of this State is much more generous. In 1973-74 Queensland contributed \$2,597,933 towards its ambulance services. While the amount contributed in Victoria by the Government of that State was slightly higher, when the figures are reduced to a population basis, Queensland contributed \$1.32 per head of population while Victoria contributed 75c and New South Wales only 43c per head.

Community support of ambulance services could be further enhanced if the Commonwealth Government would grant the same tax deductibility to subscriptions to ambulance services as it does to medical benefits contributions. I am sure that Opposition members would agree with that contention.

The involvement of the community in ambulance services in Queensland extends also to the operations of the services by the election of the committee controlling an ambulance service by contributors to that service. As there are 100 committees established throughout the State, this involvement is considerable.

In many areas, particularly the smaller country areas, the number of persons offering for election is limited and it is inevitable that a local businessman will be appointed in one or more instances.

Each committee is situated within a zoned area of the State, and the committees within each area elect a member of one of those committees to be their representative on the State council of the Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade. Inevitably again one or more businessmen will be elected to represent the zones.

Should such a businessman subsequently engage in any contract for profit with a committee or with the State council, he is, under the present provisions of the Act, disqualified from continuing as a member of that committee and, in consequence, of the State council. Alternatively, should a businessman nominated for election to a local committee be involved at that point in time in a contract for profit with the committee or State council, his nomination cannot be accepted. Not only does this discourage interest in the ambulance service by persons in positions to be helpful to the service but, in the smaller areas, it could create problems of sufficient numbers to nominate for election.

It is considered that this situation is unrealistic and it is proposed to delete this disqualification clause in respect to both the State council and the committees of the Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade.

Sufficient protection against unethical practices exists in the present Act to militate against such practices and the removal of ground for disqualification is in line with similar deletions from other legislation.

There are occasions when the local community is unable to meet the financial needs of an ambulance committee by reason of local and temporary circumstances, such as the present crisis in the beef industry. In these circumstances a committee may need temporary financial assistance to enable it to continue to operate, and a number of honourable members have suggested that the Act be amended to grant to a committee legal title to its land holdings, which presently is vested in the State council of the Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade. It has been suggested that this would enable committees to seek temporary financial accommodation from local lending bodies.

I recognise that these circumstances do occur from time to time but I would rather ensure that the temporary financial assistance required by a committee be obtained on such terms as will not impose the possibility of future hardship upon that committee. To this end inclusion has been made in the Estimates for my department of an amount to be appropriated by this Parliament to enable a non-repayable grant to be made, through the State council, to any committee which can support a claim of financial hardship. In addition, low interest, short-term loans may be made by the State council to meet any immediate financial obligation. I believe that this method is of greater benefit to committees than obtaining financial accommodation by other means.

In terms of the relevant awards and of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1961-1972, each ambulance committee is the employer of its employees and the State council has no statutory authority to appear, intervene or conduct any industrial cause in the Industrial Court or before the Industrial Commission. To avoid the possibility of an industrial cause concerning a particular committee being resolved in such a manner that it would, or could, affect some other committee or committees, it is desirable that the views of the ambulance service as a whole should be tendered for the courts or the commission's consideration. The clause now being introduced in this Bill will enable the state council to assume the role of the employer and to negotiate in any industrial cause when, in its opinion, the resolution of such clause is likely to affect more than one committee. This will ensure uniformity throughout the whole of the ambulance service in the conditions of employment of ambulance employees. The operation of this

clause will not affect the right and responsibility of a committee to endeavour to resolve any local industrial cause by its own efforts when there is no possibility of repercussive effects on any other committee.

Another clause which is provided in the Bill is to recognise the Public Service Board as the body which has supplanted the Public Service Commission.

At the present time, the relevant award provides that a promotions board consider all applications for a position of superintendent and recommend to the committee an applicant, or a panel of applicants, for consideration of appointment. The employing committee is obliged to give consideration to the recommendation of the promotions board but is not obliged to appoint the recommended applicant or one of them, as the case may be.

A further clause sought in this Bill is to supplant the promotions board by an appointment board and to require that a committee shall appoint to a vacant position of superintendent, secretary, deputy superintendent or other prescribed officer only those applicants selected by the appointment board. This will ensure that career opportunities will exist within the ambulance service as a whole for qualified efficient employees. To enable this to be done, it will be necessary to determine the qualifications, efficiency and seniority of each employee within the ambulance service and to prescribe how the appointment board will operate. I will speak on these aspects later.

Some little time ago the Auditor-General drew attention to unsatisfactory practices which existed, and had existed for some time, within a certain committee. The Auditor-General was of the opinion that a police investigation of the matter was warranted and the committee was advised accordingly. After consideration of the report and associated matters, the committee decided that it did not propose to refer the matter to the police as it had made inquiries of the officer concerned and was of the opinion that such officer was essentially honest, had contributed in no small measure to the successful financial operations of the committee and would not carry out such practices in future. As there was no provision within the Act to force the committee to report the matter to the police, and as such power was not given to the State council, my department, after consulting with the Solicitor-General reported the matter to the police. The police investigation has, I understand, been completed and recently I received a report on the matter.

To ensure that such a situation does not occur again in the future, this Bill seeks to make it mandatory for a committee to report to the police and to the Auditor-General every instance in which there is reason to suspect that money or other property belonging to or received by a committee has been

stolen or not brought to account. Further it will ensure that a committee will not do or fail to do, or promise to do or not to do, anything which will in any way militate against the laws of this State. For the information of honourable members I would mention that, should a committee contravene this provision in any way, adequate means exist within the Act to take whatever action is necessary against the committee, even to the extent that, if warranted, the Minister could abolish it.

Cabinet decided that members of boards and committees who are officers of the Public Service of Queensland should not receive fees or allowances for attendance at meetings held during the ordinary working hours of that officer. Two clauses contained in this Bill are designed to give effect to Cabinet's decision in this regard—one in respect of the State council and the other in respect of committees. A saving has, however, been included to ensure that such a member may be paid out-of-pocket expenses necessarily incurred by him in attending a meeting or carrying out any other authorised function of the State council or of a committee.

Earlier I mentioned that it would be necessary for qualifications, efficiency and seniority of an employee to be determined in respect of the whole of the ambulance services in regard to appointments to positions upon the recommendation of the appointment board and to prescribe how the appointment board should operate. Under the present provisions of the Act, seniority of an employee is determined only in respect of other employees within one and the same committee. A clause has been included in this Bill which provides the means by which the seniority of any employee may be determined in relation to any other employee within the whole of the ambulance services, while a further clause provides that efficiency shall be determined by the appointment board in respect of those positions over which it has authority and by the committee in all other cases.

It is foreseeable that at some time an employee will be selected by the appointment board because of qualifications and efficiency which it considers superior to those of an applicant having seniority. The right of appeal presently in the Act has therefore been retained; that is, any unsuccessful applicant employed by the committee in which the vacancy existed who duly applied for the position will have the right of appeal to an appeal board consisting of a stipendiary magistrate, a representative of the committee and a representative of the appellant.

It is considered that the appointment board which made the recommendation which led to the appeal should have its views made known to the appeal board, and a further clause seeks to ensure that it may appear before the appeal board and make any representations it feels necessary.

The final clause in the Bill seeks to provide a further schedule to the Act dealing with the establishment, constitution, business and operations of the appointment board.

The appointment board will consist of five members of State council, who will be the president of the State council, a representative of each of the two trade unions of which ambulance employees are members and two members of State council representing zonal regions.

Provision is made also for a sixth member of the appointment board, who will be a representative of the committee in whose employ the vacancy to be considered by the board exists.

The appointment board is empowered to set the qualifications required by an applicant to fill the vacant position, to determine the special aptitudes which constitute efficiency and to notify all committees of all vacancies which exist in the prescribed positions from time to time.

In considering applicants, the appointment board is empowered to sit at any place it deems fit, to make whatever inquiries it may think necessary and to interview applicants.

When the appointment board has made its selection, it is required to notify the committee of the name of the selected applicant, or panel of selected applicants, together with all relevant details and the names of all unsuccessful applicants, who have the right of appeal.

The employing committee is obliged to appoint the selected applicant, or one of the panel of selected applicants, and to notify the appointment board of the name of the appointee.

In brief, while many of the provisions could be regarded as administrative, the Bill nevertheless seeks to introduce career opportunities throughout the ambulance service and to provide the means by which this can be achieved.

I commend the Bill to the House.

**Mr. MELLOY** (Nudgee) (2.49 p.m.): The Opposition has some reservations about the Bill and, as the debate proceeds, they will be dealt with. The Minister again mentioned—he referred to it in his introductory speech—that present appeal rights will be retained. For instance, if a Rockhampton man unsuccessfully applies for a position in Ipswich, he has no right of appeal whereas applicants in Ipswich have the right of appeal.

The Minister said that the provisions of the Bill would embrace the whole of the ambulance service in Queensland and that the creation of the appointment board would place all members of the ambulance service into one category and give them equal eligibility and privileges. This would relate to their opportunity to apply for appointments with other committees. Apparently the Bill will restrict their right of appeal. If

a man from any centre feels that he is qualified for a particular job in another centre and is rejected, he should have the same right of appeal as members of the centre concerned.

**Dr. Edwards:** Are you going to support that when the Public Service Board appoints somebody from outside the service?

**Mr. MELLOY:** The Minister is referring to somebody outside the Public Service whereas these officers are within the ambulance service.

**Dr. Edwards:** They are outside the committee.

**Mr. MELLOY:** Yes, but one cannot be compared with the other. If a public servant in Rockhampton applies for a job in Brisbane, he has a right of appeal if he is not appointed. That should also apply to the ambulance service.

**Dr. Edwards:** You must admit that each committee is autonomous.

**Mr. MELLOY:** Exactly, but the creation of the appointment board will upset that autonomy. The Bill provides that the appointment board will have the right to select applicants from a panel and recommend them to the particular committee but it also provides that the appointment board may, if it likes, recommend only one person.

What happens then, if the committee rejects the recommendation of the appointment board? The Minister might reply to that later. These matters must be investigated. If the whole matter is to be thrown open, it should be done properly, thus ensuring that nobody is disadvantaged by the creation of the appointment board. If it is to be thrown open to all centres in Queensland, any officer who feels that his qualifications are superior to those of the person appointed should have the right of appeal simply on the basis that he is a member of the ambulance service in Queensland.

As I said, some of these matters will be dealt with by other speakers when the clauses are discussed.

**Mr. DEAN** (Sandgate) (2.54 p.m.): I express some disappointment with the Bill. At the initiation stage last week I gained the impression that the Bill would lie on the table for longer than it has. Actually I have been caught a little unawares; nevertheless, after perusing the Bill quickly and studying its principles as fully as I could in the time available, my fears concerning the destruction of the autonomy of local committees have not been allayed.

I wish to refer to my own committee in this city which has enjoyed autonomy for many years. I have gained the impression that many principles have been included in the Bill to pander to the weak and perhaps inefficient committees in some parts of Queensland that will be only too eager to shed their responsibilities to the State council

or somebody else. Some of them would be quite happy for the State council to take over their work which would result in their becoming rubber stamps. As a committee-man, not only on this committee but on others, I always like to feel that I pull my weight. As soon as I feel that I am not able to do that, and that I no longer have autonomy to devote my talents, such as they are, to the work of the committee, I can see little use in remaining a member.

The Bill does not allay the fears that I had originally in this direction. From the little study and research that I have been able to undertake, I am inclined to think that the Bill has been inspired by something that took place in another part of the State. I refer directly to weaknesses that became apparent in Townsville. Why action was not taken by the people concerned in that case, and whether some people had friends in other places who could protect them, I do not know. But I cannot see why amendments are necessary at this stage, especially if they are being brought down to cover up malpractices and misappropriation of funds that took place in another part of Queensland. I think it wrong that every committee in Queensland should be penalised for that reason. So far as I am concerned, it is a pity to inflict one law on all committees because of the misdemeanours of one.

I think it will be found rather difficult as time goes by to attract the right type of person to serve on ambulance committees. There are men and women with managerial and other abilities who, as good citizens, like to serve on community committees that deal with everyday aspects of life. However, if the autonomy of such committees is removed or restricted, those on ambulance committees will have very little say in the appointment of persons to their brigades.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition pointed to a manifest weakness in the replacement of the promotions board by an appointment board. If a committee wants to appoint a person who it feels can do the most efficient job, its decision can be over-ruled by State council, which will be the sole employer and sole arbiter in appointment matters.

From the research that I have carried out, it appears that this originated in the Cairns ambulance conference on about 5 August 1975. This appears in one of the reports of the Cairns conference at which this matter was raised—

“As the State Council state in the Memorandum of the 5th August, 1975—

(i) The proposals could involve the removal of a substantial degree of the present autonomy of Committees.”

That puts the situation in a nutshell. I feel that the making of regulations by the Governor in Council is the only reasonable way in which this autonomy should be removed.

As the Deputy Leader of the Opposition said, we will be considering the clauses this afternoon, but I cannot see at this stage that the fears that I had when the Minister introduced the Bill have been removed. I repeat that I do not think it should be necessary to bring down a piece of very important legislation that will affect all committees, good bad or indifferent, in Queensland. I suppose I could be a little parochial and say that the Brisbane committee's efficiency has always been recognised throughout Queensland. I am not claiming that that is the result of my membership, because I have only served on it for a few years. The diligence of the Brisbane committee has always been recognised—from long before I joined it. In some instances some people have looked sideways, as it were, at the Brisbane committee when they have compared it with other committees that just do not do their job.

Many persons regard appointment to ambulance committees, and other local committees, as a means of attaining social standing. This is found, too, with membership of many local authorities. Here I speak with some authority, because I have made a study of local authorities throughout Queensland. Many of them can be placed in the same category as local ambulance committees. Being chairman of an ambulance committee gives people some kind of social standing; at the same time many others do a very fine job and work very hard. The Brisbane committee stands out as a shining example of what can be done through an efficient administration.

That is all I have to say at this stage except that the fears I expressed about the autonomy of the local committee when I first heard the Minister's introductory remarks last week have not been allayed.

**Mr. JENSEN (Bundaberg) (3.1 p.m.):** As the honourable member for Sandgate said, the Brisbane committee is very efficient. I believe the ambulance bearers of the Brisbane centre do not have to go out into the streets and collect money or run raffles or lucky numbers to augment subscriptions, but those in many other areas in Queensland do. I might have made a mistake in my speech at the introductory stage when I said that the people of Brisbane did not pay. What I meant was that the ambulance bearers did not have to go out and collect money through other means; the subscriptions are sufficient to enable the ambulance service to run efficiently. But, as the Minister said just a moment ago, some areas are now finding it very difficult to run their ambulance service.

I believe that a month or so ago there was a report in a newspaper that either the Miriam Vale or the Mt. Perry ambulance centre had to dispense with the services of one of its bearers and that the Queensland council gave the centre a grant of \$2,000 to carry



on. This is most important when one considers that bearers in certain areas have to go out and collect money. They will not do this for much longer. I cannot see bearers going out and running lucky numbers and other raffles and bingo to augment the funds of their committee.

I have here a report which shows that the costs of the Bundaberg service are increasing. Last year the cost per case was \$10.58, whereas the previous year it had been \$9.54—an increase of \$1 per case in one year. During the year covered by the report, the Bundaberg ambulance treated 18,643 cases. The centre finished the year with a credit balance of some \$47,000. Receipts totalled \$249,000, including \$38,000 raised by the staff benefit committee. A total of \$38,000 was raised last year by the ambulance bearers of Bundaberg, and of that sum \$28,286 was raised from bingo. This money will go to the purchase of an aerial ambulance. The bingo is run every Monday night and advertisements appear in the Press stating that the first jackpot is \$1,000 in 45 calls; the second jackpot is \$1,000 in 47 calls, with a bonus jackpot of \$200 in 46 calls. About 1,000 people play bingo every week and in one year the bearers have raised over \$28,000 towards an aerial ambulance.

But subscriptions are to rise. It was mentioned at the annual meeting that there will be an increase in subscriptions very shortly. An article in the "Bundaberg News-Mail" stated—

"An increase in the annual subscription rate was mooted in the annual report of the chairman of the Bundaberg Ambulance Committee, Mr. D. G. Rattray."

Subscriptions are continuing to go up and, as the Minister said, they are not tax deductible. This is a sore point with many members of the community. People come to me and tell me they have put their subscription in their income tax return but it has been wiped every year. I believe that subscriptions should be allowed just as medical benefits payments are, especially as they are to be increased.

We must realise that the ambulance is not operating in the days of the horse and buggy. At one time it might have had to treat a few people for snake bite, the occasional broken arm or an injury caused by a kick from a horse, but today the ambulance is a service just as important as the fire brigade, if not more important, having regard to the number of cases treated. The Bundaberg centre, for example, treated 18,000 cases last year. As I said in my speech on the introduction, it is about time we looked at the ambulance service as a State responsibility.

The fire brigade receives financial support from fire insurance companies, and the ambulance service should receive similar support through companies providing life assurance and superannuation policies. A percentage of the premiums could be made available for the ambulance service and the

amount collected in that way could be subsidised by the Government. Why should the fire brigade operate under one set of rules while the ambulance remains a voluntary organisation? It is about time the matter was considered carefully. It is no good the Minister's simply referring to what happens in other Australian States and then telling the House the amount of money contributed by the Queensland Government. Almost every day of the week one hears Government Ministers saying, "We are the leaders in this field. We have shown every other Australian State the way." Why can't Queensland show the other States the way in the field of ambulance services? As I said at the introductory stage, the ambulance service assists insurance companies to minimise pay-outs for death or injury, but those companies do not contribute towards the cost of maintaining the ambulance service. It is about time legislation was introduced in this House to make the ambulance service a State matter, not a community matter, and make it unnecessary for people to raise money by running raffles or bingo or making other collections.

I mentioned at the introductory stage that the Rockhampton ambulance centre provides free service to everybody, whether or not they are subscribers. The honourable member for Rockhampton will agree that my statement was correct.

The honourable member for Sandgate informed me that the Brisbane ambulance centre does not go to court to collect the money if a person who is not a subscriber does not bother paying.

In Bundaberg, the subscription for a family is \$15 a year and for a pensioner couple it is \$7 a year. However, if a person who is not a subscriber is knocked down in Childers, the 25-mile trip from Childers to Bundaberg by ambulance costs him \$114.

**Mr. Miller:** Do you believe that the ambulance service should be part of Medibank?

**Mr. JENSEN:** Well, if dentists and other services are part of Medibank, the ambulance service should be part of Medibank.

**Mr. Miller:** Is that A.L.P. policy?

**Mr. JENSEN:** I am not saying that it is A.L.P. policy. When I rise in this Chamber, I state what I think is correct.

In my opinion, the amendments made to the Ambulance Services Act have not done anything to overcome the real fault in the system. It is about time the importance of the ambulance service to the community was appreciated. Bearers should not have to go onto streets to collect money to keep their centres open. In my opinion, it is a damn disgrace that they should have to do that. It is not done in Brisbane and in some other centres. Some small centres cannot raise

sufficient money to keep the ambulance service going. Of course, the State council might come to their assistance with a grant, as it has done in one case in my district.

I am very concerned because I believe that small amendments are being made to the legislation now and again and the over-all problem in the State is not being considered. The Government should keep in mind the number of cases that the ambulance service has to cope with. Heart attacks seem to occur more frequently these days, and the accident rate is increasing every day in proportion, one might say, to the increasing number of vehicles on the road. So the work of the ambulance service will continue to increase. In fact, one can see the increase in the number of ambulance vehicles in various areas because of the number of motor-vehicle accidents. I hope that the Minister will look at the matter in a new light and be able to say to honourable members, "We are leading the other States, not running behind them", instead of saying, "They don't do it; why should we?"

**Hon. L. R. EDWARDS** (Ipswich—Minister for Health) (3.9 p.m.), in reply: I think that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition misunderstood what I said earlier. What I tried to say to him by interjection was that the situation is the same as it is in the Public Service. For example, if a public servant employed by the Department of Health applies for a vacancy in that department, he has the right of appeal against any other applicant or member of the Public Service who may be appointed. If, however, an employee of the Education Department applies for a vacant position in the Department of Health and is not successful in his application, he has no right of appeal. Public servants who are employed outside the department in which the appointment is made have no right of appeal if they are unsuccessful in their applications for appointment. This principle has been accepted by the Public Service Board as well as by the unions concerned. Obviously the Labor Party also subscribes to it, so as it is the principle on which we are operating under the Bill, I am surprised at the conduct of members of the Opposition on this occasion.

The honourable member for Sandgate claimed that the Brisbane centre was the ideal one. We are aware of the tremendous job that has been done in Brisbane, and I cannot see that any provisions in the Bill will affect the operations of the Brisbane centre.

I am glad to have the support of the honourable member for Bundaberg in my appeal to the Federal Government to allow ambulance contributions to be tax deductions. I hope he will make representations to his counterparts in Canberra.

**Mr. Jensen:** It will be a waste of time.

**Dr. EDWARDS:** We, too, found it a waste of time.

**Mr. Jensen:** The previous Federal Liberal Government wouldn't make any concessions.

**Dr. EDWARDS:** We have made many applications to the Commonwealth Government, but we have been unsuccessful. As the member has said, it is a waste of time applying to the Labor Government in Canberra. Finally, I appreciate the comments that have been made.

Motion (Dr. Edwards) agreed to.

#### COMMITTEE

(Mr. Kaus, Mansfield, in the chair)

Clauses 1 to 12, both inclusive, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

#### MOTOR VEHICLES CONTROL BILL

#### COMMITTEE

(The Chairman of Committees, Mr. W. D. Hewitt, Chatsworth, in the chair)

Clauses 1 and 2, as read, agreed to.

**The CHAIRMAN:** As proposed amendments will affect clause 3, I shall postpone consideration of that clause.

Clause 4—Meaning of terms—

**Mr. JONES** (Cairns) (3.15 p.m.): I was appreciative when, at the conclusion of the second-reading stage, the Minister indicated that additional time would be available for members to peruse the Bill before discussing it in Committee.

The Bill provides for registration of vehicles that are operated off carriageways, roads and highways, and for compulsory third-party insurance. We realise that difficulty could well be experienced in defining the term "public place". However, I am still of the opinion that too wide a category is encompassed. It will mean that so long as one of these recreation vehicles is registered and carries a number-plate, it will be licensed to operate in virtually any area defined as a public place which, in effect, means anywhere in the community. I am sure that local authorities will experience great difficulty until they are able to define public places or until declared areas are established. Eventually we will have to consider the suggestion I made at the second-reading stage, namely, that only those public places subject to the authorisation and approval of the respective local authority should be so defined.

As I have just been handed a copy of the proposed amendments, I have not had time to look at them closely, but I believe that the legislation will cover only motor vehicles (and that that term will cover any vehicle of a recreational type according to certain descriptions set out in the regulations at a later date), and will not cover land yachts or human-propelled vehicles.

I am concerned about the definition of "track" in subparagraph (a) of the definition of "public place", which reads—

"a track which at the material time is being used as a course for racing or testing motor vehicles and from which other traffic is excluded during that use;"

I take it that any vehicle, be it a mini-bike or a motor vehicle of any type, will, as at present, not have to be registered, but will have to be carried to and from a track. While they are being operated in a controlled racing situation they will not have to be registered, but immediately they are operated away from a circuit they will have to be registered. I take it that the definition of track covers a place where unregistered vehicles of any type may operate, and that only the club rules shall stipulate who shall operate or compete on a track.

**Mr. KAUS** (Mansfield) (3.20 p.m.): I understand that recently in Victoria what was called a trial competition was held, with motor bikes being ridden on a rough track at 4, 5 or 10 miles an hour. The course was in a forestry reserve. I would like the Minister to explain how motor-cycle clubs conducting such trials would be covered by the Bill. I understand that the police attended one of the trials in Victoria and fined 28 people because their motor-cycles were not registered and were classed as being unroad-worthy.

**Mr. K. W. Hooper:** Where were the trials being held?

**Mr. KAUS:** In a forestry reserve, which is the only place where this type of trial can be held.

**Mr. K. W. Hooper:** With permission.

**Mr. KAUS:** Yes. Doubtless they had permission from the local authority.

I wondered whether motor-cycle clubs operating in similar circumstances would be covered under this Bill. A similar problem could arise with trials held in Queensland. I know that most clubs have their own property, which would be private property.

**Hon. K. W. HOOPER** (Greenslopes—Minister for Transport) (3.21 p.m.): First, let me allay the fears of the honourable member for Cairns by assuring him—and I have already given this undertaking—that the legislation will be returned to the Chamber for amendment if his concern is justified. I am sure that the aspects he raised are sufficiently covered.

As to the reference by the honourable member for Mansfield to what happened in Victoria—under this legislation the area he mentioned would not be considered as being a public place, so the type of thing that occurred in Victoria would be excluded under this legislation.

Clause 4, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 5 and 6, as read, agreed to.

Clause 7—Registration of recreation vehicles—

**Mr. JONES** (Cairns) (3.23 p.m.): Clauses 7 and 9 relate to the registration of recreation vehicles and the provision of third-party insurance for them; but nowhere does the Bill provide for the inspection of the vehicles at regular intervals. I realise that it could create some difficulties. Perhaps the Minister could elaborate on the circumstances in which recreation vehicles will be inspected. To me, lack of provision for inspection is a fault in the Bill. It seems that no proper checks for roadworthiness are catered for. It has been suggested that regulations be made for the inspection of the vehicles by the registering authority, but no subsequent inspection appears to be provided for.

**Hon. K. W. HOOPER** (Greenslopes—Minister for Transport) (3.24 p.m.): I do not know whether at the introductory stage or in my second-reading speech I mentioned that that would be covered by regulation, but I certainly intended to. The difficulty is that we do not know exactly where the greatest numbers of these vehicles will be. We have a fair idea where they will be found, but we do not know exactly. They could crop up in any part of the State. Discussions were held with the Division of Occupational Safety and Weights and Measures in which I indicated our desire that inspections be provided in the areas with the greatest numbers of these vehicles, as close as possible in the initial stages to where they are used. Later the matter might have to be discussed further with the department to see whether this procedure is desirable in the future. We are certainly hoping that that department will co-operate with us in the initial stages by going to where most of the vehicles are.

Clause 7, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 8 to 10, both inclusive, as read, agreed to.

Clause 11—Liability of owner of vehicle—

**Hon. K. W. HOOPER** (Greenslopes—Minister for Transport) (3.26 p.m.): I have carefully considered the submissions made by honourable members on the second reading of the Bill in relation to the effects of the owner-onus provisions, especially as these would affect minors aged from eight to 17 years. In deference to the honourable members' wishes and as we are breaking new ground with this legislation, I am agreeable to the provisions of the Bill being concentrated on user-onus.

In doing so I hope that we will be able to achieve our objectives without having to adopt the more stringent owner-onus alternative. I am sure that all honourable members, like myself, are anxious to see that this legislation is effective. If it is found that user onus is not having the desired effect, then I assure honourable members that I will consider introducing an amendment to apply

owner onus. Clause 11 as it now stands will be redundant if the principle of user-onus is acceptable to honourable members.

Therefore I oppose clause 11. I think my reason for doing this is obvious. I fore-shadow treating other clauses in the same way.

**Mr. JONES** (Cairns) (3.27 p.m.): I am pleased to hear the Minister's explanation and to learn that he is amenable to suggestions made on both sides of the Chamber. This matter may have been difficult to enforce and the Opposition is pleased with the course he is adopting.

Clause 11, as read, negatived.

Clause 12—Persons authorized to drive recreation vehicles—

**Mr. JONES** (Cairns) (3.28 p.m.): This clause provides—

“ . . . a person who has attained the age of 8 years is authorized to drive a recreation vehicle . . . ”

It has been expressed to me that the age is too low in certain circumstances.

**Mr. K. W. Hooper:** I know that we are trying to help one another in this matter. Could I be bold enough to ask where this type of expression came from? Was it from families, parents—

**Mr. JONES:** It came from people involved in the sport of mini-bike riding and also from people concerned with the operation of beach buggies. A child of eight would be under the immediate control of the person conducting a sporting meeting and, provided he had the correct type of helmet and riding gear, there would be no difficulty there. No doubt helmets and riding gear will be covered by regulations. However, a child of eight operating a beach buggy which could travel at up to 22 miles an hour could create a dangerous situation in certain circumstances.

During the second-reading debate I spoke of terrain and the ability and physical capabilities of a child to operate and control such a vehicle. Any sound motor vehicle, including a beach buggy, is all right if it is under control; but I very much doubt whether a child of eight years of age is physically capable of handling a vehicle of such capacity and speed. I feel that the age is perhaps too low, particularly for the operation of beach buggies. These vehicles have four wheels, and they remain upright even if they are not effectively controlled, whereas if a rider loses control of a mini-bike, which has only two wheels, it will, in most cases, fall over.

I said at the second-reading stage that under certain conditions of terrain such vehicles become lethal weapons. In the case of a beach buggy driven in a public place, a child of eight may not have a physique capable of controlling it. There was a suggestion during the second-reading debate that

there would be a scale of horsepower graduated to age. It would still be necessary to ensure that vehicles did not become too dangerous, and the horsepower too great, in areas apart from public places. Public places are defined to provide third-party insurance cover for pedestrians and other innocent parties who are not participating in this activity but who may be injured; but when it comes to the operation of recreation vehicles, “public place” becomes too broad a definition, and this could be very dangerous. I highlight the case of a child eight years of age driving a beach buggy in a public place. Although the vehicle may be registered and bear number-plates and the driver legally qualified to operate it, it could be very dangerous. I think we may well have to look at this matter later.

**Hon. K. W. HOOPER** (Greenslopes—Minister for Transport) (3.32 p.m.): I thank the honourable member for his comments. I know he has been concerned about this matter. I should like him to know that many members, including myself, share his concern. However, investigation has shown that most beach buggies are registered with the Main Roads Department for use on the roads, and that use requires the driver to be in possession of a current driver's licence. That therefore rules out children eight years old. The honourable member's fears are no doubt real, but we have not found any evidence of what he suggests. However, the position will be watched closely, and if what he suggests does in fact take place, I shall most certainly amend the legislation accordingly.

Clause 12, as read, agreed to.

Clause 13—Offences concerning recreation vehicles—

**Hon. K. W. HOOPER** (Greenslopes—Minister for Transport) (3.33 p.m.): For reasons which I have already outlined to honourable members in relation to the omission of clause 11 in the printed Bill, I now move—

“On page 5, omit all words comprising lines 29 to 39, both inclusive.”

Amendment (Mr. Hooper) agreed to.

Clause 13, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 14—Offences with recreation vehicles by persons who cannot hold driving licences—

**Hon. K. W. HOOPER** (Greenslopes—Minister for Transport) (3.34 p.m.): The engine capacity and speed provisions of this clause are identical with the Victorian legislation on which, as I said when introducing the Bill, this legislation is based.

I am grateful to the honourable member for Everton, as well as the honourable member for Cairns, for their contributions to the debate on this particular clause.

On advice now available to me through the industry, it would appear that the engine capacity of what I shall, for convenience, refer to as trail bikes has progressively increased from 50 millilitres to 70—and then to 80—and now to 90 and even 100 millilitres.

Apparently the most popular available capacities are 80 and 90 millilitres and I am confident that honourable members would not like to see bikes with an engine capacity in excess of these approved for the purposes of this legislation.

On the assumption that honourable members are prepared to accept engine capacities of 80 and 90 millilitres, an upper speed restriction of 35 kilometres per hour would be unrealistic—bearing in mind that this applies when they are being ridden on a flat surface. I therefore oppose the clause.

Clause 14, as read, negated.

Insertion of new clause—

**Hon. K. W. HOOPER** (Greenslopes—Minister for Transport) (3.36 p.m.): I move the following amendment—

“On page 5, insert as clause 13 the following clause:—

**‘13. Offences with recreation vehicles by persons who cannot hold driving licences.** A person who has not attained the age of 17 years shall not drive in a public place—

- (a) a recreation vehicle having two wheels or three wheels unless the vehicle has an engine capacity of not more than 90 millilitres;
- (b) a recreation vehicle having more than three wheels unless the outer diameter of the wheels of the vehicle does not exceed 305 millilitres; or
- (c) a recreation vehicle at a speed exceeding 50 kilometres per hour.

Penalty: \$200

For the purposes of this section the outer diameter of a wheel is the diameter thereof measured from the surface of the tyre tread to the surface of the tyre tread.’”

**Mr. LINDSAY** (Everton) (3.37 p.m.): I rise to thank the Minister for what to me is perhaps the greatest thrill I have experienced in this House. When a student of mine from last year heard that this Bill was to be introduced, he came to me and asked could he read the speech I had made and also examine the Bill. This he did and came back with a speech prepared for me which I covered in fairly great detail in my second-reading speech. The basis of this boy's argument was that the original clause 14, which has now been deleted, was in fact an injustice to boys of his age, boys in the 14, 15 and 16-year-old age group. As I indicated in my second-reading speech, this age group already have bikes and I explained in some detail the type of bikes

they have. But the point is that boys of that age are quite advanced in physical development and they need a bike with a 90 millilitre capacity if they are in fact to have the enjoyment of riding trail bikes. Under the original clause, boys of 14, 15 and 16 would have been restricted to a bike with a 70 ml capacity with a maximum speed of 35 km/h on a substantially flat surface.

Many of these boys already have bikes which, together with a helmet, gloves and the associated paraphernalia, have cost their parents in the vicinity of \$400 to \$500 and as the clause stood, they would not have been able to use them. They will now be able to use these bikes—mainly, I feel, because of the efforts of this boy in my electorate. With the passage of this Bill it will be most gratifying for me to be able to say to him, “Well, you've done it.” This should be an indication to all teenagers and all students who come into the gallery so often that if they do contact their members about issues that concern them, the member is only too ready to listen and receive advice, particularly on subjects with which he is not familiar. I would be the last to pretend that I am an expert on trail bikes.

I am very grateful to the Minister for introducing this provision and I hope that the Press will give the matter some coverage from the point of view of encouraging students—not necessarily university students and Q.I.T. students, but secondary school students—to take an interest in politics. What is being done here affects the lives of everyone, and it is very gratifying to me that the boy concerned has been able, in fact, to have the law changed to bring about a just situation for those in his own age group. One little point that might perhaps attract Press coverage of the efforts of the boy in question is that I understand he as a relative of a very senior member of the Opposition.

**Mr. JONES** (Cairns) (3.41 p.m.): Members of the Opposition are appreciative of the spirit in which the Minister has approached this section of the legislation. I hope that young riders will also appreciate the manner in which the legislation is now being altered. It is to be hoped that they will not abuse their mentors but will be guided by the spirit of the initiatives that have been taken in this Chamber.

As a former rider of motor-cycles, both on the road and on the track, I certainly appreciate what the Minister has done and the way in which the legislation has been debated. Better riders, better motorists and better road users come from people who have been well trained and become skilled in the operation of motor-cycles. Although I have not ridden a motor-cycle for the last few years—they are getting a bit toey for me—it is my boast that in all the time I have been operating a motor vehicle I have not had one major accident. I had a few mishaps with motor-cycles in the early years

when I was young and headstrong, but nothing very serious. I knew how to control a motor-bike in a particular situation. Fortunately for me, that probably had much to do with my being here today.

I commend to young fellows the idea of joining motor-cycle clubs as soon as they can, and I hope that parents will ensure that their lads, in operating motor-cycles, take all possible safety precautions and accept the assistance and advice available to them from older members of the club. They should not get on a bike simply because it has a bit of power; they should learn to operate and control it correctly. The element of danger should be taken away but the excitement should remain. That is the best possible atmosphere for motor-cycle sports.

As I said previously—and I think it bears repeating—I hope that the riders will appreciate the spirit in which this particular section has been amended to allow them to graduate to bigger motor-cycles and not be restricted to motor-cycles such as those used by 8-year olds.

Amendment (Mr. Hooper) agreed to.

New clause 13, as read, agreed to.

Clause 15—Standards for use of business vehicles—

**Mr. JONES** (Cairns) (3.44 p.m.): The clause provides for a certificate of inspection to be given in respect of a business vehicle. Again, it does not provide for inspections to be carried out at regular intervals, so a vehicle may be inspected only at the time of purchase and, perhaps, at the time of registration or resale. I suppose that the Minister will give a similar explanation but I remind honourable members that we are concerned with the carriage of passengers. One of the reasons why the Bill was introduced to control vehicles of this type was that a particular situation arose on an island, off the beaten track and away from declared roads.

The certificate of inspection is a very important adjunct to registration permitting the carriage of passengers. If the legislation does not provide for the frequency of issue of certificates of inspection, I ask the Minister to include such a provision within the Bill. Whether the certificate is issued every 12 months or every two years, for example, may not be of paramount importance; the important thing is that such certificates shall be issued. I would also ask the Minister to provide that the vehicles be subject to intermittent inspection.

Clause 15, as read, agreed to.

Clause 16—Liability of owner of vehicle—

**Hon. K. W. HOOPER** (Greenslopes—Minister for Transport) (3.46 p.m.): Whilst honourable members have accepted user-onus as the main concept of this legislation, I suggest that owners should at least have clearly defined duties imposed upon them where

vehicles are to be used for the carriage of passengers for reward or for the carriage of passengers in connection with a business.

Failure to comply with these duties should constitute an offence which attaches a suitable penalty.

Where the carriage of people is involved, the owner should also be held to have permitted the use of his vehicle and be guilty of neglect of duty if he permits it to be driven by a driver who does not hold a current driver's licence.

I therefore oppose the clause.

Clause 16, as read, negatived.

Insertion of new clause—

**Hon. K. W. HOOPER** (Greenslopes—Minister for Transport) (3.47 p.m.): I move the following further amendment—

“On page 6, line 40, insert as clause 15 the following clause—

**15. Duties of owner of vehicle.**

(1) The owner of a motor vehicle had for use for the carriage of passengers for reward or for the carriage of passengers in connexion with the conduct of a business—

(a) shall, at all times when the vehicle

is so used, be the holder of a current certificate of registration or of renewal of registration, as the case requires, duly issued under and in accordance with the Main Roads Act 1920-1972 or under and in accordance with corresponding legislation of any other State or Territory of the Commonwealth in respect of the vehicle;

(b) shall, at all times when the vehicle is so used, be the holder of a current certificate of inspection granted under the Inspection of Machinery Act 1951-1973 in respect of the vehicle; and

(c) shall not permit or suffer the vehicle to be so used unless it is driven, at the time of such use, by a person who is the holder of a current driver's licence within the meaning of the Traffic Act 1949-1975 that authorizes him to drive that class of vehicle.

Penalty: \$500.

(2) Upon a charge of breach of duty referred to in subsection 1 (a) or (b) it is a defence to show that—

(a) the motor vehicle was in the possession of another person at the time of the use in question; and

(b) the person charged with the breach of duty did not have, at the time of the use in question, any control as to the use to be made of the motor vehicle.

(3) Upon a charge of breach of a duty referred to in subsection (1) (c) evidence that a motor vehicle was used on the occasion in question shall be evidence and, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, conclusive evidence that the use was with the permission of the owner charged with the breach of duty."

**Mr. JONES** (Cairns) (3.45 p.m.): From the wording of the proposed new clause, as outlined by the Minister and as appears in the notes handed by him to me, it appears that it will be an improvement on the existing clause and will also complement the provisions of the clause previously numbered 16.

If the clause strengthens the provision, as it appears to by providing for liability to devolve on the responsible persons, so that they will be held responsible at law for failure to comply with the provisions, the Opposition will support it. The new clause appears to have strengthened the provision and can only benefit people who are carried as passengers in recreation vehicles of a different style. In effect, they are buses which are being operated for recreational purposes, without the passengers participating in their operation. The new clause will give them greater protection. It ensures that responsibility now falls on the owner or operator of such a vehicle.

Amendment (Mr. Hooper) agreed to.

New clause 15, as read, agreed to.

Clause 17, as read, agreed to.

Clause 18—Provisions concerning offences under ss. 15 and 17—

**Hon. K. W. HOOPER** (Greenslopes—Minister for Transport) (3.52 p.m.): With the omission of clause 11 of the printed Bill and the consequential renumbering of subsequent clauses, it will be necessary to amend clauses in the Bill which refer to renumbered clauses. I therefore move the following amendment—

"On page 7, omit from line 15 the words 'ss. 15 and 17' and insert in lieu thereof the words 'ss. 14 and 16'; omit from line 16 the words 'section 15 or 17' and insert in lieu thereof the words 'section 14 or 16'; and omit all words comprising line 23 and insert in lieu thereof the words 'section 14 and with an offence defined in section 16, according to the'."

Amendment (Mr. Hooper) agreed to.

Clause 18, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 19 and 20, as read, agreed to.

Clause 21—Application of specified laws within declared areas—

**Hon. K. W. HOOPER** (Greenslopes—Minister for Transport) (3.53 p.m.): I move the following amendment—

"On page 8, line 2, omit the words—  
'section 19'

and insert in lieu thereof the words—  
'section 18' "

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 21, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 22, as read, agreed to.

Clause 23—Offences in declared areas—

**Hon. K. W. HOOPER** (Greenslopes—Minister for Transport) (3.55 p.m.): I move the following amendment—

"On page 8, line 40, omit the words—  
'section 21'

and insert in lieu thereof the words—  
'section 20'."

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 23, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 24, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—

**Hon. K. W. HOOPER** (Greenslopes—Minister for Transport) (3.56 p.m.): Speed restrictions have been provided in the Bill in respect of the driving of recreation vehicles in a public place by drivers who cannot hold driving licences. Fully registered vehicles, which are not recreation vehicles within the meaning of this legislation, can also be driven in public places. There is no provision currently contained in the Bill in relation to the maximum speed at which persons under 17 years may drive these vehicles in a public place. It is essential that the speed restriction applicable to recreation vehicles also applies to these persons driving any other motor vehicle in such places.

I move the following amendment—

"On page 9, after line 18, insert as clause 24 the following clause—

**'24. Speed restriction on drivers under 17 years.** A person who has not attained the age of 17 years shall not drive in a public place a motor vehicle at a speed exceeding 50 kilometres per hour.

Penalty: \$200.'

**Mr. JONES** (Cairns) (3.58 p.m.): Sub-clause (1) (b) and (c) of clause 24 as printed, which relates to dangerous driving, duplicates the law already existing in section 328A of the Criminal Code and the relevant sections of the Traffic Act. I ask why the provisions in the Traffic Act and the Criminal Code have had to be duplicated in this legislation and why the provisions of the Traffic Act and the Criminal Code would not apply in any event.

The Minister is to be commended on his introduction of the new clause 24, which relates to maximum speed of a recreation vehicle being driven in a public place. I regarded that as an omission, and I said so in the second-reading debate. I am pleased to see the Minister moving to amend the Bill in accordance with our suggestion. The problem exists in relation to lads from eight to 17 years of age, or over 17, driving

a registered vehicle at excessive speeds in a public place. That has always been a problem and I am pleased to see that the Minister has seen fit to move the amendment to include this new clause.

However, I am concerned to know why the duplication has occurred in relation to dangerous driving.

**Mr. KAUS** (Mansfield) (4 p.m.): Sub-clause (1) (b) of clause 24 of the Bill as printed reads—

“for the carriage of passengers for reward or for the carriage of passengers in connexion with the conduct of a business;”.

What if one kiddie gives another kiddie a double on his bike? Would they be punished for driving dangerously because one wants to give the other a lift?

**Hon. K. W. HOOPER** (Greenslopes—Minister for Transport) (4.1 p.m.): In reply to the remarks of the honourable member for Mansfield, dangerous driving is dangerous driving whether it is defined by this Bill or by the Traffic Act. If driving with a pillion passenger is considered to be dangerous driving or dangerous riding, the persons involved will most certainly be dealt with.

**Mr. Kaus:** But are they allowed to use a bike?

**Mr. K. W. HOOPER:** The same conditions would apply to these vehicles in this matter as to any others.

In reply to the honourable member for Cairns—the Government can be advised only by the legal fraternity in these matters. Our advice is that it is desirable to provide for a summary offence. I know that I wanted this and so did the Government. We wanted these offences to be dealt with in the Magistrates Court. That is the only reason for its inclusion.

Amendment (Mr. Hooper) agreed to.

New clause 24, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 25 and 26, as read, agreed to.

Clause 27—Power of arrest without warrant—

**Mr. JONES** (Cairns) (4.2 p.m.): Again I ask why this clause provides for power of arrest without warrant. The police need not arrest or have the power to arrest without warrant. These days there seems to be a leaning towards giving power of arrest without warrant. Too many Acts contain this provision. I feel it would be remiss of me if I did not draw the attention of the Committee to this clause. I do not think it is necessary. The police have wide enough powers already to handle situations in these circumstances without being given the power of arrest without warrant within the provisions of this Bill.

**Hon. K. W. HOOPER** (Greenslopes—Minister for Transport) (4.3 p.m.): The reason is self-explanatory. It is the very

same as that obtaining under the Traffic Act. As I have pointed out to the honourable member, only a police officer will have this right to arrest. The other authorised officers, as such under the legislation, will certainly not have this power.

Clause 27, as read, agreed to.

Clause 28—Authorized officers' powers re traffic offences—

**Hon. K. W. HOOPER** (Greenslopes—Minister for Transport) (4.4 p.m.): I move the following amendment—

“On page 11, line 7, omit the words—  
‘section 21’

and insert in lieu thereof the words—  
‘section 20’.”

**Mr. JONES** (Cairns) (4.4 p.m.): I wish to make a passing comment on this clause, which gives very wide power to the authorised officers in relation to traffic offences. I trust that this power will not be exercised over-zealously, particularly during the embryo stages of enforcement of this legislation. I hope that restraint will be practised and that the power given by this provision will not be exercised with the zeal that is sometimes displayed in other situations.

Amendment (Mr. Hooper) agreed to.

Clause 28, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 29 to 34, both inclusive, as read, agreed to.

Clause 35—Function of Local Government to execute Act—

**Mr. JONES** (Cairns) (4.5 p.m.): I am sure that in some areas of local government the Bill is welcomed. However, some fears have been expressed to me that enforcement by local authorities will be rather difficult. I covered this matter concisely at the second-reading stage. I said then that local authorities already have adequate powers to control this type of activity in their own areas through their own by-law-making processes. I wonder whether by this clause we are giving local authorities too much added responsibility. It has been said in this Chamber that all the Acts that we pass, irrespective of whether they deal with litter, noise pollution, supervision of child-care centres, or anything else at all, seem to throw added responsibilities onto local authorities.

I do not think that it is the function of local government to police all Acts that we pass. However, I feel that certain provisions of this legislation will be welcomed by local authorities, as they will henceforth have added power to control and remove vehicles and to declare the areas in which they may be used. They will also obtain some revenue, if not from registration fees at least from fines imposed for breaches. I might call it a “two bob each way” Bill. Local authorities view the legislation rather cautiously and, from the talks that I have



had with them in the short time that has been available for discussion on it, they appear to welcome certain of the provisions.

Clause 35(6) gives the Minister the right to veto any decision of the local authority. In fact, the Minister is able to usurp all the powers of local authorities. I hope therefore that he will not be over-zealous; I hope that he will use restraint and allow local authorities to look after their areas in their own way. They are approaching these responsibilities with some trepidation, and I hope that carrying out the provisions of the Bill will not be burdensome to them.

I feel, however, that local authorities will have many problems on their hands in implementing this legislation. I know that the Minister has admitted that it is a difficult area of responsibility. I merely bring to the attention of the Committee that once again, as we do too often and too lightly, we are saying, "Let the local authority do it." There are times when local authorities do not have the resources necessary to enforce an Act. If we are passing laws that are unenforceable, we might as well not pass them at all. I hope that this provision will be given consideration at a later stage. It may revert to the Government for enforcement, with the assistance of local authorities.

Clause 35, as read, agreed to.

Clause 36, as read, agreed to.

Clause 37—Protection of persons executing Act—

**Mr. JONES** (Cairns) (4.10 p.m.): This is a clause which provides protection for persons executing the Act, but I think if we look very closely at the second-last line we might find that the omission of the words "a local authority" might place a local authority in a very difficult situation. Clause 37 from line 46 reads—

"Act shall render the Crown or any of the aforesaid persons liable in law in respect thereof."

In effect we are affording the Crown or a person protection under this clause but not a council. A council is not the Crown and it is certainly not a person. Neither the legal interpretation of "person" nor the legal meaning of "the Crown" could be stretched to include a local authority. It might be advisable to insert at line 46 after the word "Crown" the words "a local authority". Lines 45 and 46 would then read—

"Act shall render the Crown, a local authority or any of the aforesaid persons liable in law in respect thereof."

That would give the local authority protection similar to that afforded to any authorised officer who might be enforcing the provisions of the Act. Harking back to clause 35, let us not forget that it is the function of local government to execute the Act and I think that if the Crown and persons involved in executing the Act are to be protected by

this clause the words "a local authority" should be included in line 45 after the word "Crown".

**Hon. K. W. HOOPER** (Greenslopes—Minister for Transport) (4.12 p.m.): I have noted the honourable member's concern but I would like to inform him that a local authority is a body corporate and is therefore classified as "a person".

**Mr. JONES** (Cairns) (4.13 p.m.): I accept the Minister's explanation. I took my point as a bush lawyer, but I will accept the Minister's interpretation.

Clause 37, as read, agreed to.

Clause 38—Power to make regulations—

**Mr. JONES** (Cairns) (4.14 p.m.): I repeat and stress the point I made in my second-reading speech that I can see no provision in this clause allowing us to object to regulations, nor do I know whether this Parliament will have the usual statutory power to review the regulations when they are introduced. In effect this Bill will be implemented by regulation, and the regulations are yet to be determined. We are not aware of the nature of the regulations proposed and there are some unanswered questions in relation to fees, penalties under \$100, the cost of licence fees, the size of vehicles, the size of number-plates, the type of person permitted to be an authorised officer and the method of appointment, the period of registration, the renewal of certificates of inspection, and so on. No doubt all these things will be covered by the regulations and the Governor in Council has the power to make them. I realise that regulations cannot be made which are inconsistent with the Act and that the power to make regulations is conferred by this clause. I would just like the Minister to answer a couple of questions and I will then be satisfied to leave this legislation to be tested by the public.

**Hon. K. W. HOOPER** (Greenslopes—Minister for Transport) (4.15 p.m.): The honourable member for Cairns expressed concern about the regulations. I again inform him that the legislation is covered by the Acts Interpretation Act, which requires that regulations be laid on the table of the House within 14 days.

Clause 38, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 39 and 40, as read, agreed to.

Clause 3—Arrangement of Act—

**Hon. K. W. HOOPER** (Greenslopes—Minister for Transport) (4.16 p.m.): Several amendments have been made to the Bill, some of which have resulted in the renumbering of certain sections. It is essential that this clause be now amended to meet these alterations.

I move the following amendment—

"On page 2, omit all words comprising lines 3 to 6, both inclusive, and insert in lieu thereof the words—

'PART II—RECREATION VEHICLES (ss. 6-13);

PART III—BUSINESS VEHICLES (ss. 14–17);

PART IV—DECLARED AREAS (ss. 18–22);

PART V—DANGEROUS DRIVING (ss. 23–24);”

Amendment (Mr. Hooper) agreed to.

Clause 3, as amended, agreed to.

Bill reported, with amendments.

## STATE COUNTER-DISASTER ORGANIZATION BILL

### SECOND READING

**Hon. A. M. HODGES** (Gympie—Minister for Police) (4.18 p.m.): I move—

“That the Bill be now read a second time.”

When the Bill was introduced, many constructive suggestions were made by honourable members and I believe that, on reflection and after studying the Bill, they will see that the greater proportion of these suggestions are already embodied in the provisions of the legislation. In my reply to the comments expressed, I propose to deal with the views expressed that were common to a number of speakers and give details of specifics where appropriate.

The suggestion that mass resignations occurred over the seconding of police sergeants to the State Emergency Service was erroneous. This did not occur, and in fact the service has increased its membership by over 2,000 since 1974 and the total registered throughout the State is 6,166 members with additional members in the process of registration. Furthermore, the expansion of the scope and activities, the revitalisation and increase in staff and resources, the changed concept of the State Emergency Service and the fostering and support by the Government, have encouraged the establishment of some 35 additional local emergency service organisations in local government areas, and a total of 80 organisations are presently functional throughout the State with others in the process of establishment.

Some honourable members suggested that conflict arises between the police and the State Emergency Service. This conflict is not a reality and in fact the opposite is the situation and the closest co-operation occurs. This was typified in the Darwin disaster when the Police-State Emergency Service team, in close harmony and co-operation with community organisations, supported fully the Commonwealth in assisting the victims of the disaster.

I believe any deficiencies that were apparent in the areas of command, control and communications have been overcome, and that training, forward-planning and provision of equipment will negate any further difficulties that might arise.

Since honourable members have had the opportunity of perusing the Bill, the many

questions involving compensation should have been resolved. However, the following points are made:

One clause contains a provision that is only an extension of existing arrangements. State Emergency Service members are covered by the provisions of the Workers' Compensation Act for both training and counter-disaster operations and activities. Members and volunteers working under the auspices of the State Disaster Relief Organisation also have similar provisions.

As to compensation for use of resources, these arrangements are part of existing provisions of the State Disaster Relief Organisation and this is a formalisation of these provisions. Each case has been, and will always be, treated justly on its merits. So it can be seen that there will be no requirement to provide major additional funds for compensation aspects. As I stated at the introductory stage, this compensation relates to members engaged in relief operations and does not pertain to the victims of disaster. Financial aid and support for the victims of disaster are items for the decision of Government at the time, based on the effects of a disaster, and planning, with constant review, is always made in these matters.

Reference was made to the fact that honourable members are involved in counter-disaster operations. The training and forward planning by counter-disaster agencies and their members prepare them for a systemised, rapid, skilful gathering of facts in specific, preselected categories to give an insight into, and a factual picture of, human and material needs to allow the provision of adequate support as part of a total system, and not just one related to one area or aspect. Deficiencies in the past in counter-disaster operations have usually been the result of an unaware, uninformed, non-counter-disaster-educated community or a communication gap among the agencies, organisations or voluntary bodies involved. The concept of this legislation and its application will ensure that these problems will be overcome and the so-called need to cut red tape will be unnecessary. Counter-disaster agencies always work within a framework of established priorities and any variations to planned relief can disadvantage other sections of community victims or cause the redistribution of resources from other areas of operations. Experience has revealed this weakness from time to time.

I am sure all honourable members will realise that training and planning fit the responsible executives, whether they are permanent officers or community volunteers, for the tasks required. Honourable members will always be involved in their own areas and it is suggested that they become involved in community counter-disaster groups in local areas and support the counter-disaster executives responsible for the control of counter-disaster operations. I know honourable members will also have many, many commitments at these times.

Regarding counter-disaster information and education matters, I point out for the information of the House that a very active programme has been developed and that the State Emergency Service presently is engaged in ensuring awareness in our Queensland communities. Everybody has no doubt seen the "Be aware" and "Join the aware community" slogans of the State Emergency Service. The State Emergency Service undertakes these activities by—

Community counter-disaster training; community counter-disaster education and information programmes; industrial and commercial counter-disaster advisory and planning programmes; preplanning of community resources for use in cyclones, floods etc.; and co-ordination of State Emergency Service members, community volunteers and community voluntary organisations in counter-disaster operations.

Enabling these actions to be undertaken has meant an increase in the permanent staff of the State Emergency Service from five officers in 1974 to 28 in 1975, divided between State Headquarters, Brisbane, and country districts. They are officers who are trained in all aspects of emergency and counter-disaster planning, training and operations. These officers are required to—

- (1) assist with the training and administrative co-ordination of volunteer staff and organisation;
- (2) formulate and engage in counter-disaster education and information programmes in all aspects;
- (3) assist in the preparation of counter-disaster plans at all levels;
- (4) support and help maintain State emergency-service organisations throughout Queensland; and
- (5) provide specialised equipment or support for all types of disasters or emergencies at all times.

Counter-disaster public information and education programmes also are in the process of production as part of Commonwealth-State agreements and these programmes will be on-going activities. The first programme produced will be a cyclone and cyclone-surge public information programme. Queensland has made a major contribution in terms of information, expertise and staff support and, with a Natural-Disaster Organization—State Emergency Service project, the public in Queensland and all areas of Australia will be made aware of the aspects of cyclones and cyclone surges.

**Mr. Hanson:** Is quite a bit of finance coming from the Commonwealth?

**Mr. HODGES:** In many areas, yes. Quite a bit of funding is coming from the Commonwealth Government under the new agreement between the States and the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth is providing funds to support these programmes for the public in

all States, with the State organisations being responsible for the input and distribution aspects.

The cyclone programme includes: posters, brochures, a "do" and "don'ts" card, newspaper advertisements, voice tapes, 12-minute 16 mm colour films, and three-minute 35 mm colour and sound film/video tapes.

All material is intended to arouse awareness and interest, and detail individual action that can be taken to minimise the effects on life and property. It is planned that the material should be in the hands of the State Emergency Service State Headquarters early in October 1975. It can be seen that a positive approach operates and that the legislation will allow a greater contribution to occur.

Honourable members may not realise what additional support has been provided for the State Emergency Service and how this assistance is allowing such a rapid development.

On the financial side, the State's contribution increased from \$73,119 in 1973-74 to \$313,136 for the 1974-75 period. It is expected that budgetary consideration will allow the 1974-75 rate to be maintained or even increased, with grants to local authorities for the support of their local emergency service, and subsidies as part of Commonwealth-State agreements for intermediate headquarters in local government areas, the cost to be shared on the basis of 50 per cent Commonwealth, 25 per cent State and 25 per cent local authority.

The Commonwealth's contribution increased from \$40,000 in 1973-74 to \$133,777 for 1974-75, and is expected to be in the vicinity of \$360,000 for 1975-76, with subsidies as part of State-Commonwealth agreements for intermediate headquarters in local government areas.

I have previously detailed the restructure of the permanent staff of the State Emergency Service. At the introductory stage mention was made of the defence force and regular troops. In times of disaster, as part of State Disaster Relief Organisation standing orders and State-Commonwealth agreements, the Commonwealth has always provided defence force support on request from the State. The natural disaster organisation reaffirmed the Commonwealth policy again in April 1975, and this support is divided into two categories.

Category "A"—assistance is provided where immediate action is necessary to save human or animal life or to prevent extensive loss or damage to property and where civilian resources are inadequate, not available or cannot be mobilised in time, this immediate assistance is to be rendered at the most appropriate defence force level. Local Regular Army commanders are empowered to provide this assistance on request and it is most likely that requests for this assistance will

come from State organisations such as police, counter-disaster or emergency-service organisations.

Category "B" assistance is given where there is time for the individuals and the authorities concerned to take precautionary measures and immediate action is not imperative. The majority of requests for defence force assistance will fall into this category. Where a request is received from a source other than the proper State authority, the request will be referred to that authority for verification. Authorisation for defence force assistance in category "B" situations will be obtained by the natural disaster organisation. All district controllers and defence force commanders currently possess the details and procedural arrangements for this support.

This is a summary of policy, as approved by the Minister for Defence for use of Army Reserve (C.M.F.) in natural disaster—

(A) The commander of the military district decides, in the circumstances, what men and material are to be used. Normally he calls in the resources of the Regular Army, as they are the most readily available. Should these resources be inadequate, the military district commander may, with the authorisation of the local field force commander, co-ordinate the use of Army Reserve personnel in camp at the time of the disaster or emergency.

(B) If the Regular Army resources are inadequate and Reserve personnel in camp are not available, or there are no units in camp at the time, the local field force commander may authorise the military district commander to use available Reserve personnel on a paid voluntary basis for the operation of specialised and urgently needed Army equipment. Any response would be entirely voluntary.

So this is the policy. However, honourable members should consider the following points concerning Army Reserve members: Routine employment of paid volunteer reserve personnel could have a deleterious effect on the recruiting and actions of community-minded volunteers of the emergency service. There is nothing to prevent individual members of the Reserve from joining the local emergency service organisation as volunteers under the conditions which apply to those organisations. Where the Reserve is used, it should preferably be fully equipped and organised units with proper support so they can achieve the most effective results. It is important that, because of its association with State and local governments at community level, the State Emergency Service should continue, and expand even further, as the principal volunteer force to assist the statutory authorities and the community to cope with disasters. It is in our best long-term interests that State organisations should continue to be the principal agencies to assist the community in coping with disasters.

The encouragement of youth to be aware of the aspects of disaster can best be achieved within the framework of the curriculum of education institutions. The training of educators in matters of disasters and counter-disaster measures would be a step in the right direction. State emergency services throughout Australia are currently viewing this situation and seminars have been conducted at the National Emergency Services College, Mt. Macedon, involving education administrators and officials.

As to the change from civil defence to State Emergency Service—though the State Emergency Service may have had its origin in the former Civil Defence Organisation, the concept has entirely changed from an English or European-type organisation to one which is applicable to the Queensland and Australian scene. The staff of the State Emergency Service, together with their counterparts in other States and the Commonwealth, are changing all aspects on a progressive basis, and the next 12 to 18 months will see further changes.

That Mackay and Ipswich have developed viable counter-disaster organisations reflects great credit on the communities and the officials concerned. To further demonstrate the upgrading of the aspects of the organisation for the benefit of the Queensland public, it is proposed that disaster district control groups will conduct exercises in their local areas in a simulated cyclone and cyclone-surge situation. These exercises will be undertaken as follows—

Mackay-Townsville, 18-19 October 1975;  
Cairns-Innisfail, 25-26 October 1975.

Officials from the State Counter-Disaster Organization and staff from the State Emergency Service are assisting in the preparation of the exercises and will support the disaster district controller in the conduct of the exercises. This type of activity will continue with the staff of the State Emergency Service being more actively engaged and providing suitable support.

Tide gauges have been installed along the coastline from Cairns to Mackay and this is just another example of the forward planning that is occurring to cope with disaster.

The comments relating to Sir Charles Barton were most inappropriate and I feel sure all honourable members can only agree that the success of the present State Disaster Relief Organisation is a reflection of his chairmanship. Provision is made in the Bill for the director of the State Emergency Service to be the executive officer of central control and as such this officer will be constantly engaged in counter-disaster matters and duties for both the organisation and the State Emergency Service.

Members on both sides of the House have indicated a desire that the provisions of this legislation should apply as soon as possible. I commend the Bill to the House.

**Mr. MELLOY** (Nudgee) (4.37 p.m.): This is a very important Bill. Looking closely at it, I think it could be a very dangerous Bill because of the effect it could have on the life of the community in times of emergency. The power given to the Co-ordinator-General, as director of the State Counter-Disaster Organization must be looked at very closely. His power to declare a state of disaster is limited to 14 days. Because of the power he has to direct people away from disaster areas, he could destroy homes and families within that time. It will be within his discretion to decide where people will be sent, and who will be sent. He might decide to send children away and allow the parents to remain or he might decide to send the family away and allow the man of the house to remain. We know the effect this had during the Darwin disaster. We have heard stories of family life being destroyed, marriages breaking up and general disorder in the social life of the area. This must be looked at very carefully.

Parliament must have overriding power in this situation. In the event of a state of disaster being proclaimed, Parliament should be given the opportunity to hear the Minister's remarks on the situation, not necessarily at short intervals, but at such times as to enable Parliament to assess the need for a continuation of the declaration of a state of disaster.

After 14 days, the Governor in Council can give authority to the Co-ordinator-General, in his capacity as director, to continue the state of disaster. If a disaster is of such major proportions that it needs the proclamation of a state of disaster for 14 days or more, Parliament should have a say in the matter.

I think there should be provision in the Bill for Parliament, if it is not sitting, to be recalled to consider the situation. I do not doubt the sincerity of the Co-ordinator-General as the director of the organisation but, after all, he is only human, and we do not want to see any form of dictatorship. I am told that that situation was almost reached in Darwin, and we do not want to see it happen again. The whole community became subject to the whim of one man. It could well happen after a major catastrophe where a prolonged state of disaster was proclaimed.

**Mr. Lester:** That business in Darwin when Major-General Stretton was running it—don't you think that was a good idea for the time being?

**Mr. MELLOY:** Many people did not seem to think so. He was very emotional when removed from that position. That indicated that he had become so absorbed with the task that he was no longer able to make a reasoned appraisal of the situation. That, at any rate, is how it appeared from the reports coming from Darwin.

We do not want any one man saddled with responsibilities that create distress within the community. (I was going to say that that

is the responsibility of Parliament!) I think that Parliament could look more rationally at a situation than could a person who was intimately involved in it over a period of time. It is perhaps desirable in the circumstances to have someone who, at short notice, is able to direct and determine certain action, but, once the first wave of a disaster has passed, I do not think that that is necessary. In the first days of a disaster, when people are panicking and no-one knows what to do, there must be someone at the top with a firm hand who is able to take decisive action; but when that time is past, I do not think that that situation should continue longer than necessary.

To sum it up, I think that the director should report to Parliament as soon as possible once the first wave of disaster has passed. I think that 14 days is more than sufficient for the director to have this power. It may be necessary to direct actions of a minor nature after the first week, but when what has to be done becomes a matter of policy, I think that that should be the responsibility of Parliament. Even though a state of disaster could be continued for 14 days, it could at least be provided that if Parliament is not sitting it be called together within 10 days, and the director should report to the Parliament and allow Parliament to make decisions of a lasting nature.

The Bill also brings up other matters that could cause some concern. I refer to the involvement of other departments and other legislation. The disaster organisation is, for example, to control oil spills. Here the fire services would have to be contended with and the question would arise whether the Co-ordinator-General would be able to control the fire services and whether they would be amenable to direction from the director of the State Counter-Disaster Organization. Some conflict could arise there, and that is one of the things that Parliament would have to resolve.

The Bill also covers enemy attacks and hostilities. Here the Army is involved. How do we handle the situation if we have conflict with the Army about who decides what action shall be taken?

Infestations, plagues and epidemics are covered by the Bill and in these would be involved both Queensland and Federal Health authorities. These problems have to be ironed out.

I think that the Bill contains much that is desirable and very necessary. This has been demonstrated by many of the errors that have been made when disasters have befallen Queensland. I think the Bill is a step in the right direction and we go along with quite a number of its provisions; but I urge the Minister to look at the points I have raised because we do not want any suggestion of a dictatorship being established or of unnecessary restrictions on our social or domestic activities. The implementation of any of the provisions of the Bill will require studied consideration and should not be the

result of a panic decision. We will look further at the matter when we consider the clauses.

**Mr. CASEY** (Mackay) (4.46 p.m.): Having now studied the Bill there are just a few points I wish to raise in relation to it. As the Minister said, many of the points raised during the introductory debate are in fact covered by the Bill, and covered quite well. I thank the Minister for his remarks giving due praise to the organisation that we have to date built up in the Mackay area to cope with disasters. I would like to say, particularly for the benefit of the honourable member for Nudgee who was concerned about the strong powers contained in the Bill, that it is most necessary to have strong powers in this legislation. I have seen many unfortunate incidents occur during a disaster. I well recall one incident during the 1958 flood in Mackay.

**Mr. Hodges:** It would be far better to act on the moment than to wait.

**Mr. CASEY:** Yes. The incident I am thinking of occurred during the 1958 flood in Mackay.

Police endeavoured to evacuate the Cremorne area but certain residents would not leave. Later in the day when they were forced onto rooftops they agreed to be evacuated. Unfortunately a police officer lost his life in the execution of that evacuation. Unquestionably his life would not have been endangered if the police had had stronger powers to remove people from their houses if they would not leave when they were told to do so.

**Mr. Melloy:** It would be better if these powers were given in the early stages of disasters.

**Mr. CASEY:** That is one point that comes to mind. People do become a bit stubborn when asked to do these things. I realise, as the honourable member for Nudgee says, that there is the danger that we might get some overzealous person issuing instructions, or some person might panic and perhaps go a little bit too far.

The Minister said quite a lot about support and assistance from the Army. We have to look very hard at the probable circumstances in a disaster similar to the one that occurred in Darwin. Because the Northern Territory comes under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth, very fortunately the Commonwealth was able to step in immediately. As director of the Commonwealth disaster organisation, Major-General Stretton, together with the Minister for the Northern Territory, Dr. Patterson, flew straight to Darwin and took over the situation. Major-General Stretton was set up immediately as the director of operations. It was very fortunate indeed that the headquarters of all the Commonwealth departments in the Northern Territory were situated in Darwin and that their top officers were

right on the spot. They were able very quickly to mount a rescue operation and to start evacuation. This was possible because they had virtually a clear line straight through to Canberra. In other words, the situation in Darwin was such that it was necessary to mobilise immediately the resources of the whole nation.

Although certain clauses in the Bill deal with the powers that devolve upon people relative to the declaration of a state of disaster, it must also be remembered that there is complementary Commonwealth legislation under which certain powers are conferred. I believe that, under that legislation, the Commonwealth has power to step in and take control in a disaster situation. I do not think that any of the provisions of the Bill spell out clearly what would happen in Queensland in that regard, and I think that the Minister acknowledged in his comments that all Australian States will have to look into this matter.

**Mr. Hodges:** They can't step in and take over from us, but there is greater co-ordination and co-operation between the Commonwealth and the States than there has ever been before.

**Mr. CASEY:** I think that, in retrospect, the Minister must agree that in Darwin, and even in Brisbane, it was very necessary for the State to have access to the external resources that only the Commonwealth could supply to assist in such an emergency. In Brisbane, fortunately, although Commonwealth assistance was made available, operations were, in the main, organised by the State Government. Probably the State was fortunate that the disaster occurred in the capital city, where the major resources of the State could be mobilised fairly speedily. It was a different kettle of fish in the Gulf area, as I am sure the Minister will agree because he and I met up there on that occasion. It certainly was not nearly so easy to set up operations for the rehabilitation of the people of the Normanton and Karumba areas and for the resumption of normal business and community life. In fact, Karumba is still not back on its feet completely after last year's flood.

**Mr. Hanson** interjected.

**Mr. CASEY:** It was certainly a very fast operation to fly out so many people in the Normanton area and then fly them back again. However, very few of those who returned to Normanton could then go back to the cattle properties from which they had come or from which they had been rescued. They had to stay in the town. That was all right for members of the coloured community who were receiving social security payments; they were well cashed up and the pubs still had plenty of beer. Others were not so fortunate.

I think the Minister did say that, in the light of what is to happen under Commonwealth legislation and with improved training and back-up facilities, other alterations may be required in the near future. When they are effected, an effort must also be made to ensure that there is a clearly defined line of authority if the Commonwealth does step in and a clearly defined way in which it can support and assist the running of the operation.

When cyclone "Althea" struck Townsville, the major assistance was provided by the Army. Again, I suppose it was fortunate that there was a major Army base at Townsville with not only back-up equipment but adequate manpower to move straight in and assist. The State may not be so lucky next time. The next disaster may occur in a place where the necessary resources are not available and where immediate back-up support cannot be obtained from the Commonwealth.

When one sees the financial implications of some of the disasters that occur and the cost to the Commonwealth Government, one must accept, despite the fight that has been going on between the State and the Commonwealth Governments, that only the Commonwealth Government has sufficient resources to overcome the hardships that people suffer as a result of natural disasters.

Provision is made in the Bill for the setting up of disaster districts. The Minister did not advert to this principle in his second-reading speech, but I would counsel him to ensure that these disaster districts are not tied exactly to the police districts. If they were tied, grave problems would result and, as I said at the introductory stage, the Mackay district would be a classic example of this.

This matter has been discussed in our local disaster control group, and I have been asked to counsel the Minister to provide that, in the event of a disaster in the Mackay area, control of counter-disaster and disaster-relief work be placed in the hands of only one person, namely, the inspector of police. Located as he is in the centre of the Mackay district, he would be able to properly control relief work.

The Bill will allow local authorities to play a very important role in counter-disaster work. In the past a number of local authorities have not been prepared to play their part in combating the effects of a disaster. Those who have suffered directly as a result of a disaster realise the need to become involved in counter-disaster operations. There were, however, a number of local authorities that did not co-operate to the fullest extent with the former State Disaster Relief Organisation or the more recently established State Emergency Service. I do not know how this problem will be overcome. Perhaps we should ensure that our district control groups are able to take control and determine the prior planning that is necessary to meet a disaster.

District control groups will need the fullest co-operation from every organisation and instrumentality in their areas.

In one case that comes to mind the planned local district control group did not even get off the ground for the reason that the police officer in charge of that district was not prepared to co-operate. He has now retired from the Police Force. He adopted the attitude that he alone should be responsible for counter-disaster work and that he should have the right to request co-operation from other persons as he required it. That is the type of problem we may come up against. We simply might not get co-operation from everybody, so it is necessary to provide that all people, whether they be Government departments, semi-government instrumentalities or local authorities, come to the fore in making their resources available. There are, after all, a lot of little kings in departments and local authorities.

**Mr. Hanson:** Sawdust Caesars.

**Mr. CASEY:** Yes, persons who feel they are the kings of their own areas. They believe that no-one else has any knowledge of the work involved in their areas. They are in for a very rude shock indeed when they find there is a need for them to co-operate with everyone.

It was a wonderful experience for me to sit in on two consecutive mornings at meetings of the Darwin disaster control group. These meetings were held a fortnight after the Darwin cyclone and were chaired by the controller of disaster work in the Northern Territory, Mr. McHenry. Incidentally, the honourable member for Nudgee expressed concern about the period of 14 days. When Mr. McHenry was given sweeping powers to deal with disaster problems, they were for three months, and at the end of the three months an extension was required. It is difficult to tie the granting of emergency powers to a mandatory time. As the honourable member for Nudgee pointed out, the highest authority in the land should control the situation at all times and should be able to take back control if the situation is not being handled properly.

Despite the way in which some sections of the media presented the initial problems facing Darwin, I place on record that, generally speaking, there was no panic in Darwin. I was amazed at the way in which local groups were organised by the afternoon of Christmas Day. Even prior to the arrival of Dr. Patterson and Major-General Stretton in Darwin, the local groups had their own rescue operations under way. That was possible only because they had a proper disaster plan. In addition, a fortnight earlier, they received a scare from a cyclone in the Arafura Sea which, so to speak, gave them a dry run similar to the one that the Minister suggests is to be held in the near

future in North Queensland. That gave them an opportunity to sort out some of the bugs in their organisation.

Cyclone "Tracy" hit Darwin on Christmas Eve, but by daylight, when people were getting out from the wreckage of their homes and other places, things were moving. When I talked to Darwinites I was amazed to learn what they were able to achieve on the first day in the way of settling one another down, being thankful that they were alive and moving on to implement a proper plan for rescue operations. It may be appropriate at this stage to repeat that Brisbane was extremely lucky that rescue operations were carried out close to the State's main resources. That was very important. Fortunately for us all Governments are looking more closely into disaster problems.

At the introductory stage I said that I had made a fairly close study of these things. I did so for a very personal reason. I suffered badly from Cyclone "Ada". At that time I lost very heavily through damage to certain equipment that I owned and work that was under way. No thought was given then to supporting businesses and helping them get back on their feet. I am glad that this provision is included to help people who suffer in a disaster. It is important that small and medium-size businesses get back into operation quickly, so that employment is available for people who have suffered, thus giving them an opportunity of getting back onto their own feet.

While some provisions in this Bill could be a little stronger, the areas that concern me mostly relate to the delegation of authority or control as it affects governmental authorities as high as the Commonwealth Government and down the scale to local authorities.

**Mr. LAMOND** (Wynnum) (5.4 p.m.): I do not intend to deal at length with the Bill. However, it is welcome seeing that it is intended to provide help for affected sections of the community. This is essential, as we all know. As time passes and the people responsible for the execution of the Bill's intentions carry out their tasks, we will doubtless find that certain provisions do not quite fit all circumstances of emergencies that might occur. Seldom, if ever, are we prepared for an emergency. Emergencies come in various forms and seem to have the unhappy knack of arriving at the most inconvenient times. As we have all seen, most people affected by an emergency are in a state of shock and are not thinking clearly as they would in normal circumstances. It is essential that somebody be at hand to lend assistance.

The Bill provides for powers, administration, duties and controls in times of emergency. Although, perhaps, those provisions are not as comprehensive as they might be, they meet a need and will provide a basis for help. A perusal of the clauses relating

to control, assistance by business organisations, central group control and the powers of the director reveals that we now have an organisation to turn to. At a time of disaster, we turn to someone. Usually it is the police or the people in authority in a town. Frequently it happens, however, that they are not sufficiently organised to cope with the problem or are too few in number. I have been in districts affected by minor and major cyclones. Panic sets in. Often the people who take control are not authorised to do so and lay down requirements as to what should take place. They have no structural organisation to back them up. We find that well-wishing people—in many cases service organisations and others—establish an unco-ordinated set of rules that frequently clash one with the other.

Many examples of that were evident during the Brisbane flood. I can quote an example when approximately 14 power boats were made available at an agreed point; because they were overlooked by someone in authority, they remained at that point for the entire morning while the occupants sat listening to the radio, hearing calls for assistance from all over Brisbane. That was an instance of complete lack of co-ordination between organisations.

I think that the community as a whole is hungry for legislation such as this. That is evident from the fact that so many organisations are already endeavouring in their own way to establish the means with which to cope with minor emergencies, which often occur. Many bodies are in that category. One I refer to is the Coast Guard. It has set up a system that we could well learn from. It has established its own radio control and has its own aircraft and a number of clearly marked power boats. Its members patrol the waters up and down the Queensland coast. In many cases they are the first to arrive at the scene of an accident and are suitably equipped to handle any problem. The Coast Guard has taken unto itself the duty of carrying out patrols and assisting people who may be in need of help. It is a completely voluntary body and is but one of the organisations so established within the State.

I repeat that the community is more than ready for this measure. We could cite examples from coastal and inland Queensland—in fact, from all parts of Australia—where lives have been lost because organisation was inadequate to meet the problem as it occurred. However, like all Bills and rules that are brought down, the various clauses of this Bill, which have yet to be put into operation and tried, could need amendment to fit in with certain circumstances. It would be impossible to set out requirements covering all the eventualities in cases of emergency. Generally, the Bill suffices to lay down the framework for the establishment of such an organisation.



Other honourable members have referred to the problems that arose in Darwin and claimed that they were worsened by the appointment of a certain controller. I feel that had the controller not been there the effects of the emergency would have been much greater. It is not only during a cyclone, flood or other emergency that loss of life occurs; it frequently occurs subsequently as a result of problems that arise following a disaster. It is at this time that we need control.

Those of us who have seen emergencies, including those that occurred during our Army service, know that without proper control a great number of lives could be lost in, say, an evacuation. This situation applies to all emergencies. While we do not want dictatorial power, as one of the earlier speakers said, we want intelligent control of the armed services, the emergency services and all of those people who involve themselves in this type of work.

I commend the Bill. As I said, as time goes on certain minor amendments will be necessary. However, in principle I am pleased to see it becoming legislation in Queensland.

**Mr. TURNER** (Warrego) (5.12 p.m.): I rise to support the Bill before the House. I commend and congratulate the Minister on the introduction of this worth-while legislation. Much has been said in this Chamber about the cyclone-prone areas along the Queensland coast and also about Darwin. I point out that the legislation covers the whole of the State and any area might suffer a disaster of some kind.

Several years ago cyclone "Little Audrey" struck in Western Queensland and did much damage in that area. Aavale had to be evacuated. This bears out my statement that whatever area we live in, we are all likely to reap the benefits of this legislation.

Similar legislation already exists, but this Bill will combine the resources and provide extra protection to councils that use their equipment. Those are good features of the Bill.

The honourable member for Nudgee expressed concern about giving powers to one man with the risk that they could be exercised in a dictatorial way. I agree with the honourable member for Wynnum that this type of power is necessary during a disaster. I do not think that it can be or will be over-used. It is a very necessary part of the legislation and it will not be abused.

I believe also that there is concern in some areas about compensation for injuries or damage to equipment. I feel that this is adequately covered by the Bill. I believe that damage to property caused by people who may be working under the terms of this Bill is already covered by another Act. I support the Bill, and I also support the

previous speaker in that I, too, believe that it is long overdue. I commend it to the House.

**Mr. AKERS** (Pine Rivers) (5.15 p.m.): I rise to support the Bill, and I congratulate the Minister on its introduction. It will provide guide-lines for many similar Bills throughout Australia, and probably the world. Why the honourable member for Nudgee should say that it is a dangerous Bill is beyond my comprehension. Of course it is dangerous. Any Act of Parliament that gives police or public servants power to take away the civil rights of the people is dangerous.

But it is even more amazing that a member of the A.L.P. should complain about the removal of civil rights. One has only to think of the actions that the Queensland Government had to take to unravel the residents of Queensland from the web created by the A.L.P. when the Government parties took over in 1957. They have been doing it ever since. The loss of civil liberties brought about by "coughdrop" Whitlam, the blasphemer from Werriwa, has left Australia reeling. Medibank, the Government insurance corporation, the most amazing Australian overseas trade corporation—all will remove civil liberties. Perhaps I should include in my list the state of disaster every time an A.L.P. Government is elected in Australia.

Sometimes, on very rare occasions, we must be prepared to lose some rights, such as during the Brisbane floods, when cyclone "Tracy" hit Darwin, and when cyclone "Althea" reached Townsville. The Minister has weighed these temporary losses against the gains to be made from adequate control and I believe that he has made sufficient provision for the protection of the civil rights and liberties of the people when a state of disaster is declared.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I draw the attention of the honourable member for Archerfield to the fact that he may not interject from other than his usual seat in the House.

**Mr. AKERS:** He has a most unusual seat, Mr. Speaker; I can see the shape of it from here.

The rights of the people are being protected in the Bill, and it was ridiculous of the honourable member for Nudgee to describe it as dangerous. He did not have one good thing to say about it. The nearest he came to it was to say that the Opposition will support it in some ways.

**Mr. Melloy:** Of course I did. I applauded it.

**Mr. AKERS:** If the honourable member applauded it, I cannot see how he can claim that it is dangerous. He cannot have

read the Bill thoroughly and studied the provisions in it that protect the rights of the people.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! If the honourable member for Archerfield does not refrain from interjecting, I shall be dangerous.

**Mr. AKERS:** The Bill also makes provision to protect the civil rights of the director, his officers, and other persons working under his control in discharging their functions and duties under the Act. I believe that that is extremely important. Many of the problems that arose in the Australia Day flooding last year were the result of obstruction by ghoulish sightseers. I would have dearly loved to come into Brisbane to see the sight of the century, but I refrained. There is nothing I could do to help so I stayed out of the way. I believe that the provision to allow the director and his officers to carry out their work unimpeded is extremely important and I commend the Minister on it.

When the Bill was introduced I was very worried that it might mean another imposition on local authorities. The Pine Rivers Shire Council at present has equipment that belongs to the State disaster organisation and its storage is creating problems for the shire. There is an allocation for local authorities in this Bill which will allow them to maintain equipment and to erect a building in which to house the equipment they are keeping for the organisation. Again, I believe this provision will make it well worth while for local authorities taking part and will encourage them to do so. At present there is a disincentive because it costs them money and just becomes a nuisance. Probably the greatest fault in our disaster organisation at present is the fact that its members have so little practice. An example of what should be done is given by the cities of the Northern Rivers region of New South Wales, where excellent work—

**An Honourable Member:** We've never had an organisation like this before.

**Mr. AKERS:** That is so, there has been no such organisation and the setting up of this one will give people a chance to get together and learn how to handle equipment. I was going on to quote as an example the part that rowing clubs play in the flood rescue organisation in the Northern Rivers. They practise all the time and this practice is designed around a sport. When a flood is heading for Lismore, the Lismore Rowing Club can turn out in a few minutes because they have had the practice; they can get their equipment and boats together and be ready to help straight away.

With this organisation, with the controls imposed by this legislation and with the people appointed to be in charge of each of the districts, this organisation will work quite well.

The Minister has answered a query from the honourable member for Mackay on my next point. However, I must reiterate that we should be careful not to keep the areas covered by this Bill strictly to police districts; areas such as Albany Creek, which is in the Brisbane police district, will come under the control of the Pine Rivers Shire Council. This is an instance where overlapping could create some problems. Once again I congratulate the Minister on the introduction of the Bill. I commend it to the House and look forward to its speedy implementation.

**Mr. LESTER (Belyando) (5.24 p.m.):** I support the State Counter-Disaster Organization Bill and I would like to pay tribute to those many people who already meet weekly or fortnightly to try to work out a way to combine forces whenever there is a serious threat to their area or to their town. These people give selflessly in the hope that they will be able to help everybody else whenever the need arises.

This Bill will be a boon not only to people in the cities but also to those living in the country. Only a week ago I was in Blackwater and I watched a group of people there practising ways and means of helping in times of disaster. I realised then how much they were doing for the betterment of the State as a whole.

The Bill will be of great assistance to people in country areas, where the problems may be a little different from those experienced by city people; although they are usually on a smaller scale, they are of equal importance to those who are affected.

**Mr. Frawley:** Do you think that the honourable member for Archerfield appreciates the problems of country people?

**Mr. LESTER:** Actually, the honourable member for Archerfield is listening attentively to what I am saying. I appreciate that, and I shall be quite fair to him while he continues to do it.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member will address the Chair.

**Mr. Jensen** interjected.

**Mr. Frawley** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member for Bundaberg and the honourable member for Murrumbidgee will refrain from persistent interjections. I will deal with them if they do not.

**Mr. LESTER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was trying seriously to make a meaningful contribution to the debate. I am very pleased that I shall now be able to proceed without interruption.

Floods occur from time to time in country areas, and on many occasions it has been necessary to take pregnant women across flooded rivers by boat to get them to hospital. The aid of organisations such as this will also be welcome when bushfires occur.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** They tell me you're very active in Belyando.

**Mr. Moore:** He's a baker!

**Mr. LESTER:** I am very concerned about this matter, but honourable members are trying to put me off. I intend to keep going.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! If the honourable member does not intend to keep going, I suggest he resumes his seat and allows some other honourable member to speak.

**Mr. LESTER:** I take issue with the honourable member for Nudgee on the concern that he expressed about enormous problems being created by vesting power in one man. The situation will not arise if the correct person is appointed. I concede that problems could arise in certain circumstances, but I do not think that the situation is quite as serious as he tried to make out. I have often wondered how many lives have been lost through the lack of an effective organisation. As is the case in the Army, it is very necessary that the lines of approach should be well defined and that methods should be laid down for meeting disasters of the type that might occur.

I reiterate that the proposed organisation will be of great assistance to people in country areas. I commend all those who are contributing in any way towards the saving of lives, and I also commend the Bill to the House.

**Mr. PORTER (Toowong) (5.29 p.m.):** Obviously the Bill has the full and enthusiastic support of the House. The number of honourable members rushing to support it indicates the keenness with which it has been greeted. There is not a great deal that one can say other than in support of it, but I shall be critical of a couple of its provisions.

In these days, of course, when organisations are set up by legislation, often with very impressive-sounding titles, it is common practice to use the first letter in each word to spell out a name from that conglomeration of letters. So, Mr. Speaker, we have a State Emergency Service, which is SES. I accept that; SES is not a bad title to refer to. But the State Counter-Disaster Organization becomes SCDO. The Minister might enlighten the House as to whether that will be known as "Scudoo" or something of that nature. I am a little puzzled as to what it is intended to do with that.

It is important for everyone to realise, as I am sure all honourable members do, that this is a new organisation. Nothing in any other Act is derogated by the setting up of this organisation. All bodies that are provided for will have power to act in the event of literally any natural disaster—fire, explosion, earthquake, flood, cyclone, tornado and so on. Even the result of enemy action or hostilities is covered. As the member for Pine Rivers pointed out, the Bill does not cater for such natural disasters as Mr. Whitlam.

The Opposition's fears that this organisation could perhaps exceed the normal bounds of authority might be dispelled by the fact that there is a limitation on its operations. Nothing in the Bill provides that the organisation set up under it can take measures that amount to, or make preparations for, combat against an enemy, the putting down of a riot or civil disturbance or the bringing to an end of a strike or a lockout. I hope that later we will introduce other legislation that at least covers that last occurrence.

We all recognise the need for legislation that deals with potentially serious situations such as the 1974 floods. The important thing to learn from these disasters is not just that we need some sort of formal machinery to enable all the available forces and services to be integrated and to be effective but also that ordinary people show quite extraordinary qualities. I would imagine that for all of us the great lesson to be learned from the 1974 floods was the way in which people exhibited courage, resilience and comradeship. We saw the desire of people to help one another without any thought of being thanked and without any thought of pecuniary reward.

We must not imagine that legislation that formalises into a useful pattern of organisation these characteristics exhibited by a community under pressure can, by the very fact that they are turned into a legislative piece of organisation, replace what people themselves do and exhibit out of their own good will and humanity.

What I am saying is that it is essential for any of these organisations that are set up to be flexible, imaginative and very human. They must not be looked at as being in any shape a quasi-military organisation. It would be a very sad thing if control of them at any level were in the hands of people who had the feeling that they had to make their volunteer workers operate to a rigid pattern or that they had to try to instil some sort of semi-military discipline into their operations. In the setting up of these organisations there must be a good deal of give and take, and I warn the House that no statute at all can make people display the splendid human characteristics of concern, compassion and care, without which these organisational plans, excellent as they may be, will be so many empty words on paper.

My plea is that we do not get carried away with the desire—the proper desire—to have useful methods of organisation. We must remember that the organisation will never be any better than the people who operate it. They are the ones who can work with one another and get the very best out of each other. I am quite sure that if we recognise this, we will be able to meet future disasters which owing to our geographical situation we must expect from time to time, and will be able to prevent severe loss of life and

perhaps unnecessary damage to property that would occur without the organisation that it is envisaged will be set up.

**Mr. McKECHNIE** (Carnarvon) (5.35 p.m.): I rise to support the Bill and to compliment the Minister on bringing it before the House. At the same time, I compliment the Minister's committee on the work it did in helping to prepare the measure.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** Are you on it?

**Mr. McKECHNIE:** No.

It is excellent to see a parliamentary committee working so well. In this way we get a better standard of legislation.

I note with amusement that the honourable member for Archerfield is continuing to interject.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper** interjected.

**Mr. McKECHNIE:** I cannot help wondering how pleased his constituents must be that he spends so much time taking an interest in the Aboriginal questions in Belyando. I am sure that the honourable member representing that electorate is very grateful.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** You are a pleasant young fellow but I don't think you have much between the ears.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member for Carnarvon will address the Chair and the honourable member for Archerfield will refrain from persistent interjections.

**Mr. McKECHNIE:** I am very pleased that this Act binds the Crown. I was involved in a discussion with some of my constituents about the false advertising of the Medibank scheme by the Federal Government. Because the Crown was not bound—

**Opposition Members** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. McKECHNIE:** Because the Crown was not bound by the legislation covering false advertising, we could not take action. I compliment the Minister and his committee on ensuring that the Crown will be bound by this legislation.

The State Counter-Disaster Organization comprises the Co-ordinator-General, the Director-General of Health, the Under Treasurer, the Under Secretary of the Premier's Department, the Commissioner of Police, the Director of Harbours and Marine and the Director of the State Emergency Service. It is apparent that careful consideration has been given in deciding who shall be on this disaster organisation. The various Government departments that should be involved are represented and I am sure that they will play a worth-while part in making it work. The Governor in Council has power to enlarge the organisation and no doubt some citizens who are not in the Public Service, but who are keen to take an active part, will be appointed.

It is worthy of note that the State Emergency Service is to play a part in the education and training of members of the public, including volunteers and members of voluntary groups. It is excellent to note that this organisation will be involved in the planning of ways to cope with disasters. This is a great improvement on the present practice of calling on people for assistance when a disaster occurs.

In choosing a director for this organisation, the Minister must bear in mind that the appointee will be under extreme strain at times. He will have to be a man of compassion. I hope that the Minister chooses a director who knows what it is like to battle to earn a living. The job should not be given to someone who was born with a silver spoon in his mouth. He must be a man who can appreciate the problems of having to do without, which people affected by natural disasters experience. He will then understand their problems better.

At first glance the powers of a disaster district controller to declare a state of emergency appeared rather wide. I see now that this requires the approval of the Minister or the chairman. If declaring a state of disaster involves the Minister, the final criticism, if there be any, will be directed at the Government. Surely that is where any criticism should be directed. The Government should govern and not hand its power over to public servants.

I notice that under clause 25(1), which deals with powers upon the declaration of a state of disaster, the chairman—

“may authorise the expenditure of such sums of money as are determined by the Government of the State to relieve personal distress and assist in counter-disaster measures.”

I hope that that power is exercised in a fit and proper manner. The other day a senator told me of an instance where a Federal department made it known that it would sponsor a co-operative for our Aboriginal friends in North Queensland. Cheque books were handed out. Because the local store-keeper knew that the Federal Government was involved, he accepted the cheques. However, the Federal Government had not put any money into the account. That person is now carrying quite a large debt. I am certain that the Minister will see that that sort of thing does not happen in any department he is administering.

It is good to see that under clause 25(2)(b)(iii) the people involved in trying to deal with the situation in a state of emergency—

“may remove from any place a vehicle that is impeding counter-disaster operations and to facilitate its removal may use such force as is reasonably necessary to break into that vehicle.”

I understand that, if that happens, and even if a vehicle is in no danger and is not in close proximity to the disaster area, the

owner will be compensated by the Crown for any damage done to it. I thank the Minister for assuring us that that will be so.

Local authorities are to be given some responsibility under this Bill. Clause 28(1) provides—

“The Minister may, out of moneys appropriated by Parliament for the purposes of this Act, allocate to a Local Authority or Combined Local Authorities such sums and for such purposes as he determines.”

I wonder whether the Government will provide most of the money for the costs incurred by local authorities. In Australia the tendency is for the Federal Government to have all the powers that matter. We do not hand them to them; they take them. In turn, we take powers from local authorities. However, when it comes to the spending of money, the reverse seems to apply. We inflict cost on local authorities without taking into account their ability to pay. I hope that this will not be one more instance of a local authority being given power but not being provided with sufficient money to exercise its responsibilities. Quite frankly, local authority is at the end of the line. All Governments must begin to help local authorities rather than hinder them by burdening them with increased costs.

People involved in the policing of a state of emergency will receive protection from liability. It is only fit and proper that that should be so. I understand, too, that employment rights will be protected. Sick leave, recreation leave and other benefits will not be taken from employees who are called away to help in a state of disaster. I do not know that the wages situation has been clarified by the Minister. I am not sure whether the employer will still be required to pay his employee's wages. I do not know the appropriate action to be taken in this regard and possibly at a later time the Minister will enlighten us on this matter.

It may be necessary for employees to leave their employment in order to help out during a disaster. Private enterprise is on its knees as a result of all the problems that Canberra has inflicted upon this nation. We must make some provision that employers will not have to meet terrific wages bills while their employees are not on the job.

Various regulations are permitted under the legislation. I hope that the Minister will undertake to refer to his committee as well as to the Public Service any suggested amendments to the regulations so that people with more time than this busy Minister has can investigate them.

It is quite usual for a state of emergency to occur in the coastal regions which benefit from heavy rain. When the cyclone hit Townsville a few years ago, the various Government agencies did a good deal in trying to help the people of Townsville recover. At that time I was living about 80 miles west

of Townsville. My neighbour lost his house. It was completely destroyed. But because he and many others like him were living out in the bush and not in a populated area, which alone receives the attention of the media, their needs were forgotten. This is quite often the case. I lost a few head of cattle and quite a lot of fencing and although graziers in the Gulf Country received help, because they received the publicity to which they were entitled, most graziers in other areas received none. We must get away from the idea of rushing to the rescue of people suffering from a natural disaster simply because they receive a good deal of attention from the media and not worrying so much about people whose problems do not hit the headlines.

A very large drought is classified as a natural disaster and Governments rush in to help people but if, as happened in my electorate a couple of years ago—it was my father's electorate then—a drought is confined to a couple of shires, the people in them are ignored and very seldom receive any assistance. I hope that the attitude of this Government in particular will change in this respect.

Natural disasters are much more expensive when they happen in thickly populated areas. I am rather worried about the rate of growth of many of our large coastal cities and towns and the decreasing population in rural areas. For many good reasons, including cutting the cost of natural disasters, this Government and the Federal Government should do more in trying to decentralise industry so that in the event of a wind storm or flood the amount of damage would be reduced by a large amount. This would be the case unless the disaster occurred in a thickly populated area. Before such areas grow much larger, we should take greater measures to encourage people to go to western towns and other places that are not as prone to the disasters resulting from high winds and cyclones.

While this is very commendable legislation, I think that it should be brought to the attention of the House that it will create a few more jobs for public servants. I am not at all down on public servants—in fact, I think they do a wonderful job—but, in the interests of maintaining their standard of living and that of other Queenslanders, I think that when we create jobs for more public servants in one field, we should consider not replacing those who leave other Government departments. A school-teacher told me that he could remember the depression of the 1930's when, because of the state of the economy, teachers had to accept a decrease in wages. He said that, with the Federal Government doing too much in the social services field and in other grandiose schemes designed to socialise the country, the standard of living will fall unless Governments help to reduce public spending. He can see that, as a public servant, he will lose financially unless this happens.

**Mr. MULLER** (Fassifern) (5.51 p.m.): I have been interested in the comments made by honourable members during the course of this debate. I realise that this could be very difficult legislation to implement. However, I compliment the Minister on his attitude and on what he is attempting to do. Of course, I am inclined to believe that he could well in many instances be fighting with smoke. After all, a disaster is a disaster, and until it happens its dimensions cannot be known. I have heard it said on numerous occasions what should be done, but I know very well in my heart that neither this Minister nor any other Minister could formulate a clear-cut plan that would be applicable to all circumstances. This is State legislation to cope with disasters anywhere within Queensland, and it would be quite impossible to provide all that would be required to cope with any situation that could arise in any area at any time.

Many speakers said at the introductory stage that in the event of a disaster the telephone service should be used more extensively. In many cases, that is the first service to be put out of action by a disaster. Reference has been made to the use of the Army. "What Army?" The Army has almost ceased to exist.

I think that the Government is obliged to bring down legislation to deal with floods, fires, civil disorder, and a host of other disasters. It has in fact a very broad charter. To my mind, the only way in which this could be done, and in which effective policy could be formulated, would be to establish in each locality a group of people with considerable administrative ability, and give them the authority in the event of a disaster to do what they think would be in the best interests of the community. I do not know exactly what the Minister has in mind, but I expect that he will be working broadly on that basis.

If the nature of a problem is known, it can be dealt with. If it is to be solved, it is first necessary to get to its source and ascertain its dimensions. This is where trouble could well be encountered with this legislation. I feel certain that the Minister will be honest enough to admit that after the legislation has been passed, it could well require considerable amendment. This is what I expect will happen. After all, administration of any sort is difficult unless policy and plans are clear-cut. However, I believe the right people to enforce this type of legislation are the police. I think they are the only persons with the authority, the administrative ability and the capacity to do this.

**Mr. Moore:** They're the people they go to, anyway.

**Mr. MULLER:** That's right. I agree entirely with the honourable member. When people are involved in anything unusual, the first thing they think of doing is contacting the police. I believe they are the only ones

with the ability and the authority to direct people provided they are permitted to choose people with administrative ability—

**Mr. Moore:** You couldn't educate the people otherwise.

**Mr. MULLER:** No; that is right. We could not co-ordinate the work of the disaster organisation without the complete and total support of the Police Force. In many instances they have resided in the community for a considerable period and they would have the capacity to choose persons with administrative ability and initiative.

Many things could be said about this Bill, but basically it is a good one and has been introduced with the best of intentions. I believe it is necessary and desirable. Apart from disasters caused by the elements, such as flooding, one emergency we might have to consider is civil disorder. This could reach disastrous proportions and this again is why I emphasise the necessity for the Police Force to participate in this organisation. I think the Bill is basically an excellent one and I commend the Minister on its introduction.

[Sitting suspended from 5.58 to 7.15 p.m.]

**Mr. KATTER** (Flinders) (7.15 p.m.): The title of the Bill includes the words "Counter-Disaster".

**Mr. Hanson** interjected.

**Mr. KATTER:** I understand that the honourable member for Port Curtis used to work behind a counter and that the Bill is named after him. I do not know whether or not that is true.

As to the Bill itself—I was very much involved with the disaster relief committees that worked in the Gulf area during the floods which occurred there the Christmas before last. My electorate covers the Flinders River basin, which covers a quarter of the surface of the State. So when there is run-off in the Flinders River basin, a quarter of the State goes under water, and that is what happened the Christmas before last.

For four weeks the area was almost totally under water. All towns were cut off; all supplies were cut off for four weeks; numerous stations were in a desperate plight. However, people in the area received no official recognition of their desperate situation. During the first three weeks of the floods, when 300 people who had been travelling by rail and road were stranded in Richmond, it was not possible to secure the services of one Federal Minister or even to get in touch with one. There was a desperate need for helicopters and assistance of all types. I personally rang five Federal Ministers that week-end and not one of them was available. I do not know where the Minister for Northern Development was, but certainly he was not in Northern Australia.

**Mr. Casey:** Someone said he was up in Karumba.

**Mr. KATTER:** If he was in Karumba, he must have been fishing. He was not looking at the floods.

In the first four weeks the people in the Gulf area received absolutely no assistance or support. When I hear criticism of the Premier for having an aircraft, it makes me very hot under the collar, because he was the first public official in Queensland to fly into the area and see what was wrong and what could be done about it. In fact, it was the first time in the history of North Queensland that the people had seen a Premier of this State, and the Premier's aircraft enabled them to see him and get in touch with him.

In the fifth week of the floods it rained in Brisbane, and suddenly Brisbane was faced with a problem similar to that which had existed for four weeks in the Gulf country. At that stage all hell broke loose and the panic stations were manned because Brisbane was in trouble.

Eventually two helicopters were made available in the Gulf area by the Federal Government, but there was still a 24-hour waiting list based on life-or-death situations. That meant that a person in desperate straits had a 24-hour wait before a helicopter arrived with assistance. At "Gairlock" Station the family were on the roof of the homestead for three days before anyone knew they were there. If my memory serves me correctly, in Brisbane three squadrons of helicopters were being used to ferry milk from suburb to suburb, whereas in the Gulf country a family sat on the roof of their homestead for three days. Even when the two helicopters working up there were notified, the family still had a 24-hour wait before they were rescued from the roof. So much for the floods in the North-west!

One of the major problems is lack of centralisation of command. The flood-relief work in the area was in the hands of the police inspector in Townsville at one end and the police inspector at Mt. Isa at the other end. The unfortunate residents in the Flinders electorate, between Townsville and Mt. Isa, had no police officer to look after their needs. They were given second-class treatment. I am not casting any blame on either of the police inspectors concerned; the situation that arose was a natural corollary of lack of centralisation of command.

On the one hand the Bill will overcome that problem to some extent in that it provides for the appointment of one director, who will be stationed in Brisbane; on the other hand, however, a serious situation could arise from this very fact. I suggest that serious consideration be given to physically placing the director at the centre of the problem area.

During the floods the State of Queensland had a disaster committee, but no such body

was set up for the North-western part of the State that was flooded. It was impossible to obtain help for the area from the State disaster organisation in Brisbane. As we were over 1,000 miles away, any directions that might be given in Brisbane for flood-relief work in the Flinders electorate would be nothing more than a joke. If that situation were to recur I, together with most others in the area, would feel incensed at being given directions by someone sitting in an office in Brisbane. That is simply not good enough.

**Mr. Hodges:** The whole of the evacuation from Normanton was carried out from central headquarters in Brisbane here.

**Mr. KATTER:** I am not familiar with what occurred in Normanton. I do know what happened in Richmond and Julia Creek, where the local residents were most unhappy at being directed from Mt. Isa or Townsville or, alternatively, from Brisbane.

**Mr. Moore:** What depth of water was there at Julia Creek? Do you know offhand?

**Mr. KATTER:** The town of Julia Creek was not under water; but the railway line on both sides of the town was inundated so that the town was totally isolated. A large number of fettling camps and three or four small towns between Richmond and Julia Creek were under water with only the roofs of the houses showing. A large number of stockmen's camps and miners' camps were similarly under water, and many station homesteads and buildings were washed away.

**Mr. Casey:** Would it be true to say that the Mt. Isa line created the largest dam in Australia?

**Mr. KATTER:** That is very true. Both the Flinders Highway and the Great Northern railway line, as it is called, cross countless streams, nearly all of which run into the Gulf of Carpentaria. Each of those streams had its flow of water impeded by the railway line, which, as the member for Mackay has quite rightly said, created one of the largest dams in the world.

In this age of protection of the environment and the ecology, we saw in that area serious disruption to the ecology. Silting up occurred at each of the waterways passing under the railway line; trees grew, and further silting was caused by the growth of the trees. The result is that what were once flowing streams and creeks are now stagnant dams on the up-river side of the railway line.

**Mr. Casey:** Because the road runs parallel to the railway line the complete resurfacing of the road will not overcome the problem, will it?

**Mr. KATTER:** No. In places the road is on the southern side of the railway line and in others it is on the northern side. Where the road is on the southern side of

the railway line very serious problems arise in its maintenance. The road is in an appalling condition now, and after another five of six "wets" its condition will be even worse. This is something that is not relevant to the Bill but is nevertheless worthy of reflection.

No-one could speak to the Bill without paying tribute to those people who did magnificent work in spite of the fact that they did not have the framework within which to operate what is envisaged by the Bill. They were forced to muddle on in localised disaster committees. I pay sincere tribute to Mr. Norm Downey and Mr. Perc Thompson, of Julia Creek, who worked tirelessly around the clock trying to help local people.

**Mr. Jensen:** What about daddy?

**Mr. KATTER:** I think the honourable member is referring to the work of the honourable member for Kennedy, which was superlative. As the shadow Minister for Northern Development he was in the flood area in the second week after the floods. The Minister for Northern Development arrived about four weeks later—that is, six weeks after the floods began. We appreciated his putting in an appearance in the Gulf country but we thought his timing was a little out.

**Mr. Byrne:** They have troubles in Canberra.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I ask the honourable member to return to the Bill. We are dealing with the second reading.

**Mr. KATTER:** I am sorry that I was side-tracked by the blue jokes of the honourable member for Archerfield.

I strongly commend the Bill, which provides an organised framework by which we can combat future disasters. We on this side have to put up with many disasters. We are doing our best to counter them and we shall continue to do so in the future.

**Mr. LAMONT** (South Brisbane) (7.27 p.m.): I rise to support the Bill and to commend the Minister, his department and his parliamentary committee on the work done on this very important legislation. I shall address myself primarily to matters raised by members of the Opposition who have described as dangerous certain powers and regulations contained in the Bill.

I speak with some experience in these matters. I have been in many areas throughout the world where disasters and emergencies have occurred, some of them natural, some man-made. I was in Aden in 1965 when the troubles hit there. I was in Calcutta when the great refugee problem arose in West Bengal. I was in Hong Kong for many disasters (both natural and man-made) such as Communist riots, typhoons, floods and very serious fires that devastated large squatter areas. I was in Townsville during the 1972

Christmas cyclone. I was in Brisbane during the 1974 floods and I was also present in Australia for the 1972 and 1974 Federal elections, which of course, were national disasters as well.

**Opposition Members** interjected.

**Mr. LAMONT:** I think Opposition members are suggesting that trouble follows me. If that is so, I am certain that they will follow what I have to say.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. LAMONT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for checking one more natural disaster.

Typhoons, cyclones, floods and man-made disasters require very powerful regulations to permit those in authority to make split-second decisions backed by legislation. Men in these positions have to make vital decisions which must be carried out with dispatch without having to worry about whether those decisions will be subject to long hours of scrutiny in courts and so on. The Bill protects those people who will be in a position of authority and must make such decisions on the spot. The powers given these people must be considerable.

I have always believed that people's civil liberties should not be interfered with but in society there must be some exceptions. Times of natural disaster and national emergency are such occasions. These people require protection from liability when decisions they have made in good faith have been carried out in good faith. This Bill contains a provision to protect them from liability.

It is unfortunate that in society today we have certain problems. To a large extent I blame the socialists' interference with people's liberties, the socialists' propping up of people's livelihood and the taking away of personal initiative by their very system. I blame much of that for the attitude which predominates in our society, where the number of good Samaritans—those solid citizens who want to contribute to the community—seems to be in decline. There seem to be too many subsidised surfs, too many people looking for hand-outs, too many people not wanting to contribute, too many people not wanting to get involved in their community, too many people not interested in producing for the welfare of their fellow man, too many people sitting back and saying, "It's somebody else's job. I'm on the fat of the land. This is the promised land of Whitlam." I am afraid that is something that has gained in impetus since the socialists have proven to so many people that they are prepared to have that kind of Australia.

Consequently, a Bill such as this has to allow for regulations to permit a person in authority to requisition materials if necessary. I would have hoped that in such a society as we have in Australia when equipment was needed—tow trucks, boats or whatever it might be—people would contribute and



say, "Take this. Help out my fellow man." But unfortunately we need regulations in the Bill to counteract the socialist-induced dog-in-the-manger attitude of "This is my boat. This is my hose. This is my tow truck. You can't have them." There has to be an intrusion into that attitude. The Bill contains provision for a person in authority—a policeman, Civil Defence Organisation officer or somebody else—to requisition the property of others to counter a disaster in the community.

**Mr. Jensen** interjected.

**Mr. LAMONT:** The honourable member is not doing very well. I will acknowledge him when he has an interjection worth listening to.

The Bill contains provisions that will allow people in authority to help people who will not save themselves. In emergencies some people become panic-stricken. Some become distraught. They do not necessarily make the right decisions based on reason for their own benefit. I have seen instances of that myself. I can recall in Hong Kong during the terrible floods of 1966 swimming out into raging torrents with a makeshift life-belt around me—we imported the surf life-saving techniques into the Orient. I can recall swimming out into raging torrents in an area that was a squatter settlement and finding huts where aged people were clinging on to their last belongings and refusing to leave—quite wrongly, because their lives were in danger.

It is easy to understand why people who have seen most of their possessions swept away by floods will say, "I won't leave these possessions." Somebody must be given the power to say, "Look, it is in your own interests. We will save you first and do our best for you; but you have to get out." I can remember swimming out there only to see elderly people refusing to leave their huts. We had to take them forcibly. It is powers of that sort that are provided in this Bill—powers to allow those in authority to help people for their own good. Those powers are aimed at protecting people who are not acting rationally but who are distraught by reason of the circumstances surrounding them.

I can remember one occasion when a woman refused to allow her three-month-old baby to be taken through the floods to safety. We had to put the baby into a jar and, with a rope attached to us, swim to safety. Once she saw that the baby was safe, she readily agreed to leave the hut. There are times when someone has to have the authority to intrude on people's rights of choice for their own good. That is the sort of thing that this Bill provides for.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** Mr. Lamont—

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I will not warn the honourable member for Archerfield any more. I will deal with him under Standing Order 123A.

**Mr. LAMONT:** I was going to deal with him myself, Mr. Speaker, but thank you for your timely interception.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I will deal with the honourable member for South Brisbane, too, if he does not address his remarks to the chair. I will take care of the affairs of the House.

**Mr. LAMONT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Provisions in the Bill allow for the breaking and entering of properties, if necessary, for the good of people or to save their property if they are not acting rationally. But that is not an unnecessary intrusion or a time to be concerned with civil liberties. The powers are qualified. The Bill states that a decision of that sort must be based on a belief held on reasonable grounds of the necessity to save human life or to preserve property. We would not want to tie up the people having to make those decisions. We would not want to tie them up in their split-second decisions with over-qualification by regulations. It is for the relief of suffering, the relief of those who are in distress, the relief of those who cannot make up their own minds on a rational basis and the relief of those who cannot stand aside objectively and say, "This is what has to be done" that we must have these provisions which are terribly necessary and which Opposition members have today called dangerous.

I am curious that Opposition members have become so interested in freedom and I am curious why they are suddenly so interested in liberties because they would be the last things a socialist would care about. Usually he puts the State and authority well ahead of the interests of the individual. On this particular occasion, when the Minister has so rightly departed from normal democratic principles in the interests of the relief of suffering and the preservation of life, we suddenly hear this hypocritical statement, "Oh, it's dangerous. It will interfere with civil liberties."

A further clause in the Bill provides that officers involved in counter-disaster activities can have power over traffic control. I do not see that that is dangerous. Obviously we would not want it to happen in normal situations but in those situations covered by the Bill certain roads have to be closed and certain vehicles that are in the way have to be towed out of the way if their owners are not present to drive them away.

Let us take the example of flames engulfing a street. Very often vehicles are loaded down with petrol—even if it is only in the fuel tank itself. I am sure that Opposition members are at least cognizant of that fact. Those vehicles would have to be towed away because they could be exploded by the flames in the street. In India I have seen a whole street of cars explode in such situations.

The people we put in such positions of authority must be responsible people, and they will be given these extraordinary powers

to deal with an emergency, not because we think for one moment that they will abuse someone else's civil liberties but because, as is outlined in the Bill, they will act decisively and objectively in the interests of preserving life and property and in the relief of suffering. Surely that is a very honourable, a very sensible and a very necessary provision to put into such a Bill. So I dismiss the objections from the hypocritical Opposition members who have presented arguments about intrusion into civil liberties. The aim of these people is the preservation of life and property and if we can't trust people put in authority in emergency situations I don't know who we can trust.

Where property is required to be sacrificed for such purposes as the preservation of life, compensation is provided for in the Bill. A clause in the Bill provides that when property is requisitioned either to save property or to assist in the saving of life compensation is payable to the person who owned the property requisitioned.

Other provisions in the Bill create new offences, and I commend the Minister and his department for including them. Others protect against liability. Therefore there must be new provisions under the laws of evidence. The Bill provides for those also. So it is a very far-sighted Bill. It is one that does not leave a stone unturned. Of course one cannot expect any legislation to cover every contingency that an emergency can produce.

On reading the Bill I am convinced that it is good. I have had a lot of experience with natural disasters and man-made disasters in overseas countries and at home. I am convinced that the Bill is a very well thought out thoroughgoing Bill which may in some cases have some extraordinary clauses that we would not have in a normal situation but which are totally necessary in a situation such as we are discussing and which are sufficiently qualified to ensure that no-one will override unnecessarily anybody else's freedom to own property or freedom of choice.

I see Opposition members are at last nodding. It would appear that they are finally convinced and are agreeing with me. The honourable member for Bundaberg is so convinced that he wants me to cease speaking. I will do so after commending the Minister on this very well thought out, well drafted and extraordinarily well-presented legislation.

**Mr. WARNER** (Toowoomba South) (7.40 p.m.): I commend the Minister on bringing down this Bill, and I congratulate him on placing a great deal more power in the hands of the local authority. There has to be someone in charge, and if he is not a member of the local authority the same situation will arise that occurred in Toowoomba when 6 ins of rain fell in a few minutes and there was 6 ft of water across a gully. From the reports of that incident,

people panicked and thought that the whole of Toowoomba was going under water. In that instance, the panic was caused because there was no local man with authority to say what was to happen.

In most cases the police who are normally in charge do not take over; they do not think that the situation justifies it. The local controller must, I believe, be in charge of the police, or the police must be in charge of the local controller. I do not think that two people can be in authority in one city. I should therefore like to see authority given completely to the police, and then to the controller.

It is also very important that the controller should have control in some way of television, Press and radio. In most cases of which I have knowledge, false information was given out. I should like to see unity of purpose among television, Press and radio in the information given out to the public.

I therefore commend the Bill to the House, and congratulate the Minister on its introduction.

**Mr. MILLER** (Ithaca) (7.43 p.m.): When one looks at the map of Queensland with the tracks of cyclones superimposed on it for the period 1935 to 1970, one realises the necessity for this legislation. I should like to say, however, that the people of Queensland have been very fortunate indeed, because it appears that the great majority of cyclones that have been traced across the coast did very little damage as they missed most of the coastal towns and cities. Each could have done untold damage. The Minister must therefore be commended on the introduction of this legislation, which will attempt to co-ordinate emergency services needed to cope with future disasters such as those experienced in the last few years.

Part of my electorate, with the electorates of other members, suffered during the last cyclone to strike Brisbane. I had the misfortune to see people suffering greatly through the loss of their homes and property. I saw many people come forward to help because I, like many others, called for assistance over the radio. In those days there was no co-ordinated service, and those who were involved in rendering assistance realised immediately the necessity for this type of legislation. Although it has taken some years to come to fruition, I believe that the legislation now under discussion is worth while, and certainly workable. I certainly hope it will suffice to co-ordinate the many services that we found were available to people in need during the recent flooding that took place in Brisbane.

I wonder if this new Counter-Disaster Organization will consider it necessary to watch the flooding of local creeks. From an over-all point of view, such flooding would not create a serious situation at all—it would affect only a few people living along the

creeks—but I would like to see this organisation place officers in every suburb in which creeks have their headwaters to watch and monitor them so that they in turn could inform the proper authorities of the dangers facing the people. Very often people living along Ithaca Creek, Enoggera Creek and other creeks are not aware of the dangers they are likely to face at any moment, and I would like to think that this organisation would also co-operate in regard to the minor flooding we see so often in Brisbane. I realise that the organisation will be set up to cope mainly with major flood disasters, but, of course, if a person lives on a creek it is a disaster to him if his house is flooded out every two or three years and he does not have the opportunity to remove his furniture in time. The organisation could play a worth-while part in such cases.

I am a little concerned as to whether this organisation, with the police in charge, will be quite as effective as the disaster organisations in New South Wales and the Northern Territory. Those organisations are controlled by civilians in their own right, and everything I have read about the New South Wales and Northern Territory organisations is complementary. I will be watching with interest the results of this Bill to see whether or not we should be looking at complete control of the organisation by individuals outside the Police Force.

I notice the Bill imposes limitations on the organisation as to how and where it can act. Limitations are imposed in regard to an area where there is actual combat against an enemy, the putting down of a riot or other civil disturbance and the bringing to an end of a strike or a lockout. I am a little concerned about the provision covering the putting down of a riot or other civil disturbance. That is perhaps an emergency. I wonder if we will ever experience situations we witnessed in America and Great Britain in recent years, when refuse collectors went on strike for a long period—this occurred in America in the past six months—and serious health problems arose. Surely that, too, is a disaster. The refuse should be shifted. Perhaps we could have some agreement between the union concerned—in fact, all unions—and the disaster organisation so that the organisation could move in if such a crippling blow were ever struck in Brisbane or any other city in Queensland. Having viewed on TV the streets of America and England covered with rubbish which could not be shifted, one can imagine what a disastrous situation it must have been. I do not believe for one moment that we should interfere with strikes or try to prohibit them, but when a strike threatens the health of a community it is no longer a confrontation between employer and employee, but a disaster, and I believe it should be considered in that light. Like the honourable member for South Brisbane, I am 100 per cent in agreement with the provision allowing

officers belonging to the organisation to enter properties that have been locked up. We were forced to do that during the last flood in Brisbane. Fortunately nobody objected to our breaking in. But a situation might well have arisen in which people could have taken action if they thought they had lost something valuable. People from all over Brisbane were working in the Ithaca district, and in some instances they were forced to break into houses to clean out refuse and food that was rotting while the owners were either in the South or overseas. Although some members of the Opposition may be concerned about the powers that are being given to the police and members of the Counter-Disaster Organization, I hope that they will agree that it is very necessary for someone to break and enter homes—if I may use that expression—so that rotting foodstuffs may be removed.

I am a little concerned about the pilfering that took place during the last flooding in Brisbane.

**Mr. Jensen:** Does this have anything to do with the principles of the Bill?

**Mr. MILLER:** I think it has a great deal to do with the principles of the Bill. One clause does mention breaking and entering. I do not intend to mention the number of the clause but if the honourable member cares to look at the Bill he will find the one to which I am referring. He is well aware of the fact that I can refer to a particular clause only during the Committee stage.

During the flooding in Brisbane there was a great deal of trouble with pilfering. I hope that in future, because of the establishment of this organisation, the Police Force will be able to employ more men in the role that I believe they should be playing—that of law officers able to contain pilfering. If they can do that, the lot of the people will be improved.

I commend the Minister for introducing the Bill, and I hope that no flaws are found in it. If they are, it will be because more flooding has occurred in Queensland.

**Mr. M. D. HOOPER** (Townsville West) (7.52 p.m.): Coming from an area that has been either close to, or the centre of, many natural disasters in the past, I join the honourable member for Archerfield in commending the Minister for introducing the legislation.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** Eh?

**Mr. M. D. HOOPER:** I am sure I heard the honourable member speak in support of it.

The Bill tidies up many grey areas. In the past, it has been accepted that the inspector of police in charge of a district would naturally assume authority, and people looked to him to delegate duties in times of an emergency. Local authorities also assumed responsibility and, rightly, played their part.

But the legislation now before the House spells out the duties that each responsible person has to carry out.

I share some of the sentiments expressed by the honourable member for Nudgee, who said that he was a little bit concerned that perhaps the powers invested in the inspector of police in a district could be too wide and that advantage might be taken of some of these powers to order people from their homes. Quite frankly, I believe that that is just not on. I know from personal experience that people will not move from their homes. The Minister himself will recall that when he came to Townsville some weeks after cyclone "Althea", pensioners and disadvantaged people who were in really destitute circumstances, with their houses blown down, refused to move into temporary accommodation. So no matter how much authority a person has, he will not be able to get people to move from their homes.

**Mr. Jensen:** He will drag them out.

**Mr. M. D. HOOPER:** I do not think that is right. People will refuse to vacate their homes during a cyclone because they feel they have a chance of saving them. The home is their only worldly possession. In some cases—I have seen this myself—they will climb onto the roof in the middle of a cyclone and nail the roof down or climb outside on ladders and put up battens over their windows. They will even collect sheets of iron lying in the streets and do all emergency repairs necessary to maintain their property. When disasters occur in the daytime, that is one reason why damage is not as extensive as it was in Darwin. People and their neighbours look after their own property. They do not wait for some local authority or Government instrumentality to step in and do the work for them.

I think that, after there has been a chance to assess the results achieved by the legislation, some amendments will be necessary.

Certain people became quite emotional about the storm surges that occurred during cyclone "Althea". I will admit that there was a surge of approximately 9 ft. with a rise from low tide of about 13 ft. However, that alone caused very little damage to property. Records kept in Townsville over the past 100 years indicate that no damage has occurred either in the city or elsewhere in North Queensland as the result of storm surges.

**Mr. Casey:** The 1918 cyclone in Mackay put 6 ft. of water over the main city area.

**Mr. M. D. HOOPER:** I do not know what happened in Mackay. I am speaking of the area further north. The honourable member comes from Central Queensland!

The emphasis that is placed on storm surges is out of all proportion to the damage caused by them.

All the academics, engineers and town planners claim that Townsville should be moved inland from the coast. How the hell could we have any ports if all the towns were situated inland? Following cyclone "Althea" Townsville was visited by several teams of experts from Brisbane and Canberra, who told us what in theory should happen if Townsville were struck by another cyclone or a storm surge. Suggestions were also put forward as to the way in which the city should be evacuated. Approximately 18 months ago they drew up coloured plans showing the possible heights of storm surges, of up to 15 ft., and the areas to which the people should be taken for their safety. These plans were intended for display in the schools both in the city and on the adjacent highlands. Someone even suggested that the people of Townsville should be moved to Charters Towers to escape cyclone or storm damage. Imagine what it would be like trying to shift 35,000 to 40,000 people 80 miles to Charters Towers in an emergency. The suggestion is too silly for words.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** Is there any truth in the suggestion that Alderman Innes Reid tried to put the skids under you?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! If I have to warn the honourable member for Archerfield again, I will do so under Standing Order 123A. He has been given his final warning.

**Mr. M. D. HOOPER:** A good deal of the planning associated with the Bill has been done by experts remote from the disaster-prone areas. I am sure that the future will show that some amendments to it are necessary. Disasters do not follow a set pattern; each one brings its own new set of circumstances. The situation must be played by ear, and the people on the spot are the ones who are called upon to make the decisions.

To revert to the evacuation of towns and cities—some of the southern experts claimed that if people are removed from their homes their lives would be saved. We in Townsville dispute that claim, and put it to these experts that the loss of life is not very heavy if people remain in their homes. We suggested that more personal injury is caused by flying glass and debris when people are outside their homes. The high death-rate in the Darwin cyclone lends support to our contention. The people of Townsville consider that they would be safer in their homes.

If the city were struck by a storm surge the damage would be minimised greatly by the fact that over 75 per cent of the houses in Townsville are erected on high stumps. There would be nothing to prevent the occupants of a low-set home from jumping the fence and seeking refuge in a neighbour's high-set home. After all, that is what neighbours are for; they look after each other no matter what their class, creed or political thoughts may be.

The Health Departments and Engineers Departments of local authorities play a vital role during cyclones in that they are called upon to maintain essential services. There is no greater threat to life in a devastated city than sickness arising from sewage effluent, refuse, dead animals and even dead humans lying in the streets. These departments work hand in hand with the police, but most of the work is done by John Citizen. The blue-collar worker works alongside the white-collar man, and between them they get the city back on its feet. If that had been allowed to happen in Darwin, we would not be seeing the pitiful situation that exists there now. A person in Darwin who attempts to rebuild his own home can be fined up to \$1,000. We certainly do not want similar bureaucratic control in Queensland, with people being told that they can't rebuild their own homes.

A worth-while clause of the legislation provides for funding, in a more generous way, of the costs of the organisation which bears the brunt of such operations. Formerly the Civil Defence Organisation had to make do on donations from the community and local authorities and whatever it could get from the Government. The legislation provides for funding of those activities and, as other honourable members have said, for compensation to be paid to a property owner if his property has to be broken into to preserve life and limb.

All in all, the legislation is a good step in the right direction. I commend it to honourable members and give it my complete support.

**Hon. A. M. HODGES** (Gympie—Minister for Police) (8.1 p.m.), in reply: I thank honourable members for their acceptance of the measure. They raised one or two points to which I shall reply. The honourable member for Nudgee said that, in a state of emergency, we should call Parliament together. The first thing to do in such circumstances is to take all necessary action to save lives, not to disrupt them or hamper operations in any way. The calling of Parliament together would only protract proceedings. It would achieve nothing more than could be achieved by a well-oiled organisation such as that envisaged under this legislation.

This measure is designed to save lives, not to disrupt them. Disaster, unfortunately, requires immediate action. If we had to call Parliament together, people would not get immediate action. Procrastination could mean the loss of many lives.

The honourable member for Nudgee also said that too much power was being given to the Co-ordinator-General. The measure does not put too much power in his hands. He is confined by the framework of the measure. He has no more power than Parliament, or the Minister in charge of the legislation, whoever he may be, allows him to have. There will be a group that he can

call together, which will be backed by the full resources of government. Government officials will be available to assist him and to ensure that the whole procedure functions exceptionally well. These men are trained in counter-disaster measures. They will protect the welfare of the community and go about their business in an orderly fashion to save lives, which they have been trained to do.

The honourable member for Mackay referred to Commonwealth support which, I am sure he realises, is defined in clause 25. The combined Commonwealth-State Cyclone Survey Group met last November and resolved that the Commonwealth would help to supplement the existing State plans. This group comprises the Natural Disaster Organisation, the State Disaster Relief Organisation, the Police Force, the State Emergency Service, and local district control officers and groups. The Commonwealth, through the Natural Disaster Organisation, has reaffirmed that it will reinforce the State organisation, not supersede it or take it over. I assure the honourable member that districts will be designed to conform not so much with areas, which he referred to, but with the needs. The problems he referred to in the Mackay area have been investigated. I am quite sure that, as a result, they have been resolved. I do not think he need worry further about them.

All in all, the Bill has received commendation from honourable members, which I very much appreciate. The Commonwealth Government is extremely pleased with the steps we are taking in the reorganisation of the State emergency services. Indeed, it has commended the State and has recommended that the other States look at the pattern we have developed. It feels that we have set a trend that can be followed by them. I believe that South Australia is determined to pattern its whole reorganisation on what we in Queensland are achieving through this legislation.

Much has been said about Darwin and what had and had not been done there. Early next month I will be going to Darwin to communicate with the authorities there. We are to discuss with them what we are doing here. They have been requested to ascertain from us the details of the organisation laid down in this legislation with a view to their modelling the reorganisation in Darwin on the basis of the measures we have adopted in Queensland.

I thank honourable members for their contributions and for the many suggestions put forward. I can assure them that, when this Bill is passed, Queensland will have the legislative authority necessary to counter disasters—authority that we have never had before. With the finance that is to be made available to us, we will be able to

do a far better job than we were able to do in the past. Once again I commend the Bill to the House.

Motion (Mr. Hodges) agreed to.

#### COMMITTEE

(The Chairman of Committees, Mr. W. D. Hewitt, Chatsworth, in the chair)

Clauses 1 to 24, both inclusive, as read, agreed to.

Clause 25—Powers upon declaration of state of disaster—

**Mr. CASEY** (Mackay) (8.7 p.m.): In his reply to the second-reading debate, the Minister referred to comments I had made about clause 25 specifically. They related to the problem of the Commonwealth's moving in. I would like further assurances from him about that. What he said in fact was that under this agreement that has been reached with the Commonwealth through the various State disaster-relief organisations, we will receive all the assistance and support from the Commonwealth. As I mentioned at the second-reading stage, the Commonwealth is really the only authority in Australia that can mobilise the forces and equipment required to assist in times of major disaster. However, the concern in the local districts that are being established, each of which has a district controller, is that the Commonwealth will provide the resources and send someone in who will take over and supersede any control from the local group. Local groups want some sort of assurance that all their work, their efforts, and all the energy and planning which they have to put into compiling their own disaster plans in their own areas will not be wasted. The Minister has accepted that the local people best know their own areas and problems and are best qualified to set up their own disaster plan. I want that assurance from the Minister.

I accept the point he has made about the central control group; but at the district control level we do not want to have some Army lieutenant-colonel dropped in with superseding authorities and powers granted to him by Commonwealth legislation.

The Commonwealth Government, of course, has complementary legislation. There is still a grey area as to whether it could or would take over. At some time there could be intent on the part of a Commonwealth Department to do that. Therefore, I ask the Minister for further assurances on that.

While I am talking about outside control and outside forces, I draw the Minister's attention to the excellent planning set-up and programme of district areas that has been instituted in New Zealand for some time. New Zealand has problems with earthquakes, which can occur at any time. It has a wonderful disaster plan. A friend of mine procured all of the planning booklets, pamphlets and instructions and I have

studied them. If the director, when he is appointed, does not have access to that material, I would greatly appreciate an opportunity to discuss the matter with him and provide him with the material I have. It contains some very fine information. It would help him because the different powers and the over-all plan in that country have worked very effectively. A disaster operation has to be mounted more rapidly in New Zealand because it has earthquakes, where in Queensland we have cyclones and flooding.

**Hon. A. M. HODGES** (Gympie—Minister for Police) (8.11 p.m.): I can assure the honourable member for Mackay that the Commonwealth has no intention of coming in and taking over. It will reinforce whatever we are doing. It has no intention of superseding whatever we are doing. We have an assurance from the Commonwealth organisation that it will be there to help us under our direction and trained personnel.

**Mr. BYRNE** (Belmont) (8.12 p.m.): This is understandably probably the most crucial clause in the Bill in that it confers powers, upon the declaration of a state of disaster. Subclause (2) covers the concepts of requisition, evacuation, the saving of people's lives and the breaking in that is necessary there, traffic order and control and the gaining of clear access.

Subclause (4) provides—

“A person who suffers loss or damage to his property by reason of the exercise of the powers conferred by subsection (2) (a) (i) shall be entitled to claim in the manner prescribed compensation for such loss or damage.”

Subclause (2) (a) (i) provides—

“may require the owner or the person for the time being in charge of any resources to surrender them and place them under the control and direction of any authorized person involved in counter-disaster operations.”

Subclause (4) provides that that person may be compensated. However, subclause (2) (b) (iii) provides—

“may remove from any place a vehicle that is impeding counter-disaster operations and to facilitate its removal may use such force as is reasonably necessary or break into that vehicle.”

Compensation is provided for any loss a person may suffer in surrendering his resources and places “them under the control and direction of any authorized person” but there appears to be an oversight in that a person could have a vehicle parked in a perfectly legal position but, because of the way the disaster develops, it becomes necessary for that vehicle to be broken into, thus causing damage, or perhaps removed by a larger

vehicle such as a bulldozer, and the owner of the vehicle is not eligible for compensation. To that end I move—

“That subclause (4) of clause 25 be amended so as to read—

‘A person who suffers loss or damage to his property by reason of the exercise of the powers conferred by subsection (2) (a) (i) and subsection (2) (b) (iii) shall be entitled to claim in the manner prescribed compensation for such loss or damage.’”

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! I remind the Committee that whilst it is not obligatory to submit amendments in writing, it is the accepted practice and it certainly makes the procedure much easier if they are. Nevertheless, the honourable member has moved an amendment. I understand it to be—

“On page 9, line 49, after the words ‘subsection (2) (a) (i)’ insert the words—  
‘and subsection (2) (b) (iii)’.”

**Hon. A. M. HODGES** (Gympie—Minister for Police) (8.14 p.m.): I am prepared to accept the amendment.

Amendment (Mr. Byrne) agreed to.

Clause 25, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 26—Duties as to counter-disaster measures—

**Mr. AKERS** (Pine Rivers) (8.16 p.m.): I have a brief question to ask. I should like the Minister to detail a little further the type of work that will be required by a local authority, and the extent of costs that he feels will be involved in the preparation of counter-disaster plans as set out in subclause (1) (a), (b) and (c).

**Hon. A. M. HODGES** (Gympie—Minister for Police) (8.17 p.m.): There will be very little cost involved. The organisation will endeavour to provide certain funds to allow local authorities to carry out the work that is necessary. The State organisation will accept full responsibility, but certain responsibilities have to be accepted by local authorities. We will endeavour to assist where we can. Where local authorities have equipment, it will be possible to provide assistance to them to the extent of \$20,000 on the basis of 50 per cent from the Commonwealth, 25 per cent from the State and 25 per cent from the local authority. It is in such areas that we are prepared to help those who are prepared to help themselves.

Clause 26, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 27 to 38, both inclusive, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, with an amendment.

## INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

### INITIATION IN COMMITTEE

(The Chairman of Committees, Mr. W. D. Hewitt, Chatsworth, in the chair)

**Hon. F. A. CAMPBELL** (Aspley—Minister for Industrial Development, Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs) (8.19 p.m.): I move—

“That a Bill be introduced to amend the Industrial Development Act 1963-1973 in certain particulars.”

This is a relatively straightforward Bill. It provides basically for two matters. Firstly, as honourable members will recall, it was announced in the Government’s policy speech for the State election held in December 1974 that, with a view to promoting the further decentralisation of industry, it was proposed to increase the financial assistance that may be provided to pioneer industry in provincial centres in terms of the Industrial Development Act 1963-1973.

In short, the Act presently provides that, in respect of industry in the metropolitan area, financial assistance may be granted up to 66½ per cent of the security that is available. A corresponding figure of 75 per cent applies to decentralised projects. It is now proposed to extend these arrangements to provide that, in the case of pioneer decentralised industry, financial assistance by way of guarantee may be granted amounting to 90 per cent of the value of the land and buildings required for the particular project concerned. It will be observed that the 90 per cent relates specifically to land and buildings whereas the 75 per cent encompasses all available security which, of course, would include plant and equipment as well as land and buildings. The new measure will not in any way inhibit the right of a decentralised manufacturer to apply for financial assistance to purchase plant and equipment. In such cases, however, the maximum assistance that may be provided will as hitherto remain at 75 per cent of the security available.

As honourable members are aware, the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development erects factory buildings on Crown industrial estates for rental to pioneer industry. This incentive has proved most popular with industry, and, indeed, I am pleased to say that since the inception of the scheme only four years ago the department has constructed or has under construction 37 buildings of which no less than 32 are in decentralised areas throughout the State. Approval has also been given for the erection of a further three buildings, all of which are in provincial centres. Others are under negotiation. It will be appreciated that in the light of the current economic situation there is an increasing demand from industry for this type of facility. On the other hand, the department has to live within a budgetary appropriation, and as such there is naturally a limit to what we can accomplish in this field.

This is one of the reasons which prompted the Government to consider amending the Act to make it easier for manufacturing industry to raise funds for the construction of factory premises through normal commercial channels. By increasing the limit of the guarantee that may be given by the Minister it is hoped to ease the problem for manufacturers, and in this way lessen to some extent the demand being made upon the department for the provision of rental factory buildings. I would add that there would be instances in which a manufacturer would prefer to arrange his own finance and to construct factory premises to meet the specific needs of his particular project. The department can assist in this regard by providing fully-serviced sites on the Crown industrial estates that have been established throughout the State. I am sure members will be interested to learn that at the present time the department has 4 599 hectares of land under its control, of which 3 222 hectares are situated in provincial centres.

The second matter covered by the Bill may be described as a machinery amendment. It clarifies the position in relation to the powers of the Minister to give a guarantee. It has always been accepted by the department that the Minister could provide a guarantee covering the whole or part of a loan sought by a manufacturer from a third party. Some doubt has been raised, however, as to whether it is competent for the Minister to give a guarantee covering less than the full amount of the loan sought. It is most desirable that the Minister have this power, and the amendment proposed puts the matter beyond doubt.

For example, an industrialist may seek to borrow \$250,000 from his bankers. The bank, for its part, may agree to provide \$150,000 without seeking the support of a Government guarantee. So far as the remaining \$100,000 is concerned, the bank may not be prepared to accept the risk commercially without the support of a Government guarantee. Clearly, the Minister should have the power to provide a guarantee in these circumstances if he considers the project viable and worthy of support. As I have already indicated, the Bill seeks to clarify this point.

In concluding, I would again state that the Bill is a simple piece of legislation that gives effect to a promise contained in the Government's policy speech for the last State election, and it clarifies what may be described as a legal ambiguity. I commend the Bill to the Committee.

**Mr. YEWDAL** (Rockhampton North) (8.25 p.m.): At the outset I wish to refer briefly to the Minister's comment on the Government's 1974 policy speech. In part the speech said—

"My Government will step up its 'Buy Queensland Made' campaign to encourage more production of locally made goods to foster new industries and to promote more

jobs for Queensland. To further encourage decentralised industries my Government will guarantee loan borrowings of up to 90 per cent of the cost of establishing premises in country areas."

The decentralisation policy of the Government may have some validity in the industrial area, but I believe that it leaves much to be desired in a number of other directions. In Queensland at present, overloaded Government departments in Brisbane, continuing to function under a general Queen Street domination, leave much to be desired. Let me take a couple of examples, Mr. Hewitt. I suggest that the congestion and overloading in the Main Roads Department leaves a great deal to be desired, and I know that country people are becoming fed up with it.

**Mr. Casey:** Particularly in the registration branch.

**Mr. YEWDAL:** Yes. I do not want to elaborate to any extent, but that is probably a very pertinent point. Another is to be found in the State Government Insurance Office, where one finds repeatedly that compensation claims which have to be reopened invariably are returned to Brisbane. Delays of two and three weeks occur when one tries to get some satisfaction for workers who wish to re-open claims for compensation. That is the brief reference I wish to make to the decentralisation policy of the coalition government.

I have taken the trouble to do a little research into the Act now being amended. It was initiated by the then Deputy Premier (Hon. A. W. Munro) who held the Industrial Development portfolio at the time. The Industrial Development Act of 1963 replaced the Labour and Industry Act of 1946, and its main objectives were—

- (1) The development of secondary industries within the State;
- (2) Employment generally; and
- (3) The employment of juveniles.

In 1946 the Minister for Labour and Industry was constituted a corporation under the name of the Minister for Industrial Assistance. That corporation was continued under the Act of 1963, but it was to be constituted by the Minister for Industrial Development, and its corporate name was changed to Minister for Industrial Development of Queensland.

The situation at that time was that the Minister could not grant financial assistance for industry against the recommendation of the Industries Assistance Board; on the other hand, he was not bound to make grants which the board recommended. In fact, the Governor in Council had the final say as to whether assistance would be forthcoming and under what terms. I digress slightly, Mr. Hewitt, to comment that I wonder whether it is valid to state that the Governor in Council actually had the final say, because



I do not think that is the way the present Government operates. It seems to be more procedure than fact.

In 1964 a very minor amendment altered the title and provided for a Deputy Chairman of the Industries Assistance Board. In 1973 further amendments provided for the raising of capital funds to cover factory construction by the sale of debentures.

Having briefly traced the history of the Act, one could readily say that the original legislation was initiated during Labor's regime in this assembly. In 1946 the Labor Government of the day had the foresight to move in the right direction in the field of industrial development in Queensland.

As to the provision of industrial estates in this State—a substantial industrial estate is situated on the northern boundaries of my electorate of Rockhampton North. I have endeavoured to keep tabs on what is happening on the estate, and I can say truthfully that I have been disappointed at its rather slow growth. It would seem to me that many of the manufacturing companies in Queensland do not regard establishing points of production outside the metropolitan area as being in their best interests. I believe there are many reasons for this, not the least being the lack of encouragement given by the Government to industries to decentralise, coupled with the lack of inducement to them to establish themselves outside the metropolitan area.

**Mr. Moore:** And the freight component, too; don't forget that.

**Mr. YEWDALE:** Let the honourable member listen for a moment. The present system of freight charges that operates along the Queensland coast has induced companies to remain in South-east Queensland. The problems of traffic congestion, traffic accidents and pollution associated with the use of heavy transport vehicles are an indictment of the Government's so-called decentralisation policy. In fact it can be said to apply only to the developing mining areas, and its implementation depends on the whim of the mining companies. The point I make is that there has been a reasonable amount of decentralisation throughout Queensland, but it has been centred in the main on the mining areas. No-one would knock the development of those areas, but other parts of the State are just as much in need of development.

In many provincial towns and cities the needs of the community are catered for by innumerable agents who handle unlimited quantities of essential consumer goods. For as long as our present commercial structure functions to a large degree on the operations of agents, there will be many vacant blocks in industrial estates throughout Queensland.

Finally, I believe that while industry plays a vital part in the community, and warrants Government assistance, it is difficult to justify support to industrial enterprises when

throughout the State there is a drastic shortage of housing and accommodation. If the Minister and his department were to place the emphasis on assistance to industries associated with home construction, the community would benefit to a far greater extent than at present. Industries and people would be induced to move to the provincial cities and towns, and the resultant decentralisation would give a tremendous boost to the State of Queensland.

The Opposition supports the Bill, but I reserve my right to comment further on it at the second reading and during the Committee stage when the clauses may be discussed.

**Hon. F. A. CAMPBELL** (Aspley—Minister for Industrial Development, Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs) (8.34 p.m.), in reply: At the outset, the honourable member for Rockhampton North, by implication, denigrated the efforts of the Department of Commercial and Industrial Development in assisting Queensland manufacturers by promoting the "Buy Queensland Made" campaign. He offered no encouragement whatever to Queensland manufacturers. No-one can assess the value of any promotional campaign, and I am bound to say that the initiative of my department is widely recognised in other States. It uses a wide variety of tools in the promotion of Queensland industry and in encouraging Queenslanders to buy Queensland-made goods. The department's efforts in creating employment opportunities for Queenslanders is commented on in most favourable terms by the other States. It is no help whatever to local communities to have their efforts denigrated in the method adopted by the honourable member. The honourable member intimated that he felt that the department's policy on decentralisation leaves a lot to be desired.

**Mr. Yewdale** interjected.

**Mr. CAMPBELL:** I repeat that the various policies which the Queensland Government mounts to assist and promote decentralisation are more successful than those of any other Government in Australia.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper** interjected.

**Mr. CAMPBELL:** I hate to think of what sort of Ministry the honourable member could head.

The honourable member made a suggestion that is trotted out on every possible occasion, namely, that the Queensland Government should take the lead by decentralising its departments. That involves administrative problems which do not come under my jurisdiction. However, the honourable member has given me the opportunity to comment on the fanfare of publicity that emanated from Canberra yesterday when it was announced, as a matter of high policy, that in the interests of decentralisation Federal Government departments would be established away from Canberra, Melbourne or Sydney. The cities of Geelong, Albury-Wodonga and

Orange were referred to. If that is the concept of decentralisation held by the Federal Labor Government in Canberra, the honourable member should hang his head in shame.

The decentralisation brought about by the establishment of industrial estates throughout Queensland is unparalleled in other States. Honourable members are aware that we have fully serviced, and in many instances well-leased, industrial estates extending from Southport to Cairns and as far west as Mt. Isa. We have over 24 fully serviced and fully operative estates, and another dozen or more locations available to meet forthcoming demands with other land in the course of acquisition. Five years ago the former honourable member for Albert, the honourable member's late lamented colleague—

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** Not five years ago. He was not here then.

**Mr. CAMPBELL:** This was before he became a member. The honourable member is like a teddy bear in the fork of a tree.

Less than five years ago, Mr. D'Arcy, the one-time member for Albert, in the company of the former Leader of the Opposition, went to Southport and gave the Molendinar estate a great send-up in the "Gold Coast Bulletin". Little did he know that 10 leases were either bespoken or in the course of being processed. About 2½ years later, as the honourable member for Albert, he wrote a letter to me begging and pleading with my officers and me to acquire land elsewhere because he could see that the Molendinar estate was filling up. He was even late in asking us to acquire further land because it had been purchased already.

The honourable member questioned the role of the Governor in Council. One of these days he may realise that the Governor in Council gives legal effect to departmental decisions—in this case a decision of the Industries Assistance Board.

**Mr. K. J. Hooper:** You will concede that he is a rubber stamp?

**Mr. CAMPBELL:** That is the honourable member's expression, not mine.

The honourable member made a claim that the establishment of the Secondary Industries Department as a minor adjunct of the Department of Labor by the former Labor Government provided strong initiative for encouraging industrial development in Queensland. The honourable member would have to look pretty hard to find any achievement in the 18 or 20 years that that office operated before the establishment of the Department of Industrial Development. There was a Lands Development industrial estate at Hamilton. The Labor Government had passed over to it the Rocklea Industrial Estate, which was already established.

Because the Labor Government did not set out to encourage industry very little industry was attracted to this State by it.

The honourable member said that he is disappointed with the development of Parkhurst. We in D.I.D. are disappointed with the development of Parkhurst, which is in marked contrast to the development that has taken place at Bundaberg. We have had to acquire extra land because the first extension of the estate in Bundaberg has been fully taken up. In most other provincial cities there has been far greater development than there has been at Parkhurst.

The department and the Government provide the incentive through the establishment of industrial estates. We promote them without discrimination and we look to local organisations to play their part in promoting the local development. I wonder what the honourable member for Rockhampton has done to encourage industry to that city.

**Mr. Yewdale:** Ask Peter Warren.

**Mr. CAMPBELL:** If the honourable member has done a lot, there is not much to show for it.

**Mr. Yewdale:** That's comparable with the Government's efforts.

**Mr. CAMPBELL:** It is typical of honourable members opposite to knock those who set out to develop projects. What the honourable member for Rockhampton—

**Mr. Yewdale:** You're getting nasty.

**Mr. CAMPBELL:** I am not getting nasty. I think people know that I am essentially a fair person. What the honourable member for Rockhampton North has done is denigrate the tremendous efforts of the—

**Mr. Yewdale:** I am constructively criticising.

**Mr. CAMPBELL:** By implication—

**Mr. Yewdale:** That is your interpretation.

**Mr. CAMPBELL:** The honourable member has implied that the Rockhampton Regional Promotion Bureau has fallen down on the job. I do not think it does the honourable member credit—and I do not think the board will appreciate it—to make those derogatory comments.

**Mr. YEWDALE:** I rise to a point of order. I take exception to the comments of the Minister. I did not make any reference to the Rockhampton Regional Promotion Bureau failing in its job. I ask that he withdraw that statement.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! I ask the Minister to withdraw it.

**Mr. CAMPBELL:** I withdraw it, but I cannot help feeling that when the chairman, members and manager of the Rockhampton Promotion Bureau read "Hansard" they will be very disappointed at the comments of the honourable member for Rockhampton North.

Motion (Mr. Campbell) agreed to.  
Resolution reported.

FIRST READING

Bill presented and, on motion of Mr. Campbell, read a first time.

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS ACT  
AMENDMENT BILL

SECOND READING

**Hon. N. E. LEE** (Yeronga—Minister for Works and Housing) (8.45 p.m.): I move—

“That the Bill be now read a second time.”

In my introductory speech I outlined fairly extensively the amendments contained in the Bill. I have since read the speech of the honourable member for Archerfield. I feel that he is totally in agreement with the Bill. Therefore I have no further remarks to make at this stage.

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER** (Archerfield) (8.46 p.m.): As intimated in my introductory speech, little argument can be found with the expressed intentions of the Minister in bringing down this amending Bill.

The amendment to the principal Act brought down in 1973 did introduce the principle of recognition of the various disciplines in the engineering faculty at the University of Queensland. As engineering science in this technological age has branched into many fields of endeavour, I suppose it is only proper and correct that this course was followed by the administration. One has only to look at the alumina refinery at Gladstone and note the significant numbers of chemical engineers employed at that institution. By way of passing, my only complaint there is that there are not enough Queensland graduates in the company, as I do believe there is a very wonderful course and staff at the university in this field of engineering.

In this legislation the Minister has introduced the principle of board variation so that other tertiary colleges in Queensland can now gain due recognition. The previous Opposition committee sponsored this idea in 1973, and I do believe that the Minister, in keeping with his brief spasms of generosity—and I must say that they are very brief—should have made reference to the Opposition submission.

The main point advanced by the Minister, however, is in the matter of standards, and we on the Opposition benches always welcome a raising of the standards in most professions, as long as it is performed in the interests of common sense.

In the trades, for instance, migrant electrical tradesmen have to present themselves to the Electrical Workers and Contractors Board for recognition and, in a lot of cases, stiff examination. Why not engineers? The ultimate in these matters is not to have a system of closed books, like some branches

of the A.M.A., but to satisfy the public requirement and to operate for the public good. In the engineering world in the past there has been criticism of the corporate membership of the Institution of Civil Engineers of London and the relaxed conditions of that institution.

Dependence on engineering skill is very necessary for public health and safety, and our standards must be solid, strict and impeccably high. As I said in my introductory speech, since the creation of the faculty of engineering in Queensland in 1911, our standards have always been high.

**Mr. Frawley** interjected.

**Mr. K. J. HOOPER:** The only degree the honourable member for Murrumba should be given is the third degree.

We should never budge. One has only to see the sophisticated engineering of the 1970's. If engineers are to measure up, they will have to be good because so much depends on them. Faulty workmanship can never be an excuse. Faulty engineering supervision, in many instances, is the root cause, and on the engineer falls the responsibility for success or failure.

The idea of satisfying the board by examination is a fair and fast way, as long as—and I add this—the terms, conditions and calendar of the course of the examination are made available to the applicant. He should not first be disadvantaged or held out by any ruthless exercise on behalf of the Board of Professional Engineers. I hope the Minister's attention is directed towards assisting rather than rejecting. If a man from overseas has the qualifications, and has taken certain courses of study, he should have the conditions clearly explained to him. The amendment should not be there just to hold someone out. I sincerely hope that this was not the intention of the Board of Professional Engineers, which no doubt approached the Minister on this matter.

Bringing the Professional Engineers Act up to date with the Local Government Act is desirable. Just by way of passing, let me note an anomaly with regard to local authorities. In many country areas the town clerk, who is usually a person qualified only by the local government clerk's examination, is receiving a greater salary than the professional engineer who has a university degree and has spent many years of study obtaining it. I do believe that this matter should be looked at and corrected in due course.

No argument can be found with the clause dealing with false entries on declaration, and the Opposition therefore supports the Bill.

**Mr. CASEY** (Mackay) (8.51 p.m.): There are just a few points that I should like to discuss concerning the rearrangement of registration of engineers in Queensland. I believe it is a good measure because this particular point is being clarified, and allowance is being made for the registration of those who are taking the higher degree of

learning, with a change from a diploma to a bachelor's degree, at some of the appropriate institutes in Queensland. I believe that some courses in engineering are still not available at some institutes of tertiary education in this State.

The main point that I should like to make is that it is not a bit of good the Queensland Government bringing down further measures relating to the registration of engineers in Queensland if it does not provide the back-up by way of employment opportunities for them. As the Government has only one aircraft, it certainly will not need an engineer in the aeronautical field; nor will it need a naval architect to look after the police boats.

**Mr. Campbell:** We have no navy, either.

**Mr. CASEY:** That is right. If you keep sailing along as you were when bringing down the previous Bill, you will be doing all right.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member will not be sailing along too well unless he addresses his remarks to the Chair.

**Mr. CASEY:** I had better put a bit more wind in the sails, Mr. Speaker.

It is not a bit of good providing this form of re-registration if back-up employment opportunities are not provided. The Government employs consultants from all over the world to carry out studies of this, that and the other thing in Queensland, whilst graduates from our own universities are running around chasing work in the consultancy field. They are finding it extremely difficult to get the type of work for which they have acquired the necessary skills.

To see the truth of what I am saying, it is not necessary to go any farther than the city of Brisbane. The Government engaged consultants from overseas—Wilbur Smith and Associates was, I think, the name—to come to Queensland and tell us the type of roads that should be constructed in Brisbane. As a result of some of the recommendations of those consultants, we now have the greatest shemozzle that one could see anywhere. One has only to attempt to come into the city from the direction of your electorate, Mr. Speaker, to appreciate that what I am saying is true. I feel that you, too, must be disturbed at the traffic congestion that has resulted from the way in which these roads have been designed following the recommendations of the consultants.

Virtually all heavy traffic for the whole of Brisbane, moving north and south and to and from the main port and factory areas, is being channelled along one route, and that is also the route that people are using in their attempts to travel to and from work. It does not need a very good consultant to see that what is being done is not the correct solution to the problem. The present plan is

certainly not functional, and it is certainly not working properly. I believe that this is of concern to all Brisbane members.

In another debate earlier this evening reference was made to the Mt. Isa railway line. We all know that Ford, Bacon and Davis, an American firm, was engaged by the Government to design the reconstruction of that line. The old-time engineers employed by the Queensland Government, some of whom, in terms of qualifications, could not hold a candle to those who are the subject of the Bill, ensured that in the sections in the Gilliat channels and other areas west of Julia Creek there were plenty of structures to allow water to clear. Another area that comes to mind is just south of Rockhampton, where the same thing applies. As a result of the recommendations of overseas consultants employed by the Government, large railway embankments have been built and, as the honourable member for Flinders admitted earlier this evening, along the Mt. Isa line near Julia Creek there is now the longest dam wall in Australia. When flood waters headed down the Flinders River in 1974, the water backed up for about 50 miles in that area. I think the honourable member for Flinders would agree that, unlike our own engineers who did the original work and who designed the first railway line built in that area, the consultants just did not know what they were doing.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! There is far too much noise in the Chamber.

**Mr. CASEY:** This work is adequate proof that we have had the necessary expertise for a long time in Queensland—right back to 1912, I think the Minister said in his introductory speech, when engineering was made a degree course at the University of Queensland. Since then quite satisfactory, well-qualified and capable men have been graduating in our own State and yet this Government has seen fit to continue to employ consultants from overseas and from outside organisations who come and tell us what we should and should not do here in Queensland. I believe we have plenty of professional groups in Queensland with the necessary expertise to do these jobs.

I recently spent some time with the professor in charge of the engineering section at the Queensland University talking about engineers who have already qualified and who have been registered in Queensland under the categories that we see in this Bill. What wonderful work they are doing. Because overseas consultants are being employed, many of our prospective engineers currently taking courses at Queensland universities and institutes of advanced education are having to do a second degree course. They are not able to gain employment in certain fields in Queensland. They are staying on at university and doing a second course—some in economics, some in commerce,

some in pure science and some in various arts courses—in order to gain added qualifications so that they can obtain employment in some other field. And this in their own State, which is supposedly providing opportunities for them! And this is a State that is crying out for development. Who would deny that there is a need for expert road engineers in Queensland? Who would deny that we have some of the worst roads in the Commonwealth? We have a strong need to create employment in this field. I have raised this matter in the House on quite a number of occasions. We have a need even in the field of research—research conducted in these very institutes we are looking at here this evening. I have often commented on the need for a wider research programme into wet roads in the tropical areas of Queensland where the vagaries of the weather cause far greater damage than that experienced in any other State in the Commonwealth. We saw recently where an additional \$47,000 has now been allocated by the Commonwealth Government to assist with research into the wet-road problem in Queensland, but I will guarantee that that money is not being allocated to the James Cook University in North Queensland—which is the right and proper authority to carry out research into road problems in the tropics. It is the only university in Australia in a tropical area. In fact, it is one of the few universities in a tropical zone anywhere in the world. It has men who are well equipped to carry out supervision of this sort of work provided they have the finance to employ some of their own professional graduates—the ones we want to register here in Queensland—to continue with this work. I believe this Government has a responsibility to apply pressure to the Australian Road Research Board, with which it is affiliated, in order to get that bureau to spend additional moneys in Queensland on research into our road problems. Every year we see our roads breaking up after the wet weather.

**Mr. Moore:** What has this got to do with the Bill?

**Mr. CASEY:** As you would appreciate, Mr. Speaker, it has a lot to do with the Bill. It is not a bit of good registering Queenslanders in Queensland after they have qualified at Queensland universities if we are not going to give them the opportunity to use the knowledge and expertise they have gained in the areas that they know best. The Capricornia Institute of Advanced Education in Rockhampton would be an excellent institution to carry out research into the problems of black-soil roads. In the hinterland of Rockhampton we have problems with some of the worst black-soil roads anywhere in Australia. This is another area of research that is crying out for additional funds, and it is an area on which we should employ our own qualified men.

I sincerely hope that, in addition to the progressive amendment that the Minister has now introduced to provide for better and proper registration of Queensland engineers, he will apply pressure to ensure that the Queensland Government plays its rightful role by employing persons with these qualifications.

**Hon. N. E. LEE** (Yeronga—Minister for Works and Housing) (9.1 p.m.), in reply: I thank honourable members for their contributions to the debate, particularly the honourable member for Archerfield, who said that the Bill is a good one. I certainly believe it is, and I assure him that the Government is endeavouring to assist local engineers, not rejecting them.

I wish to reply to some of the comments made by the honourable member for Mackay, who, like me, is a former contractor.

**Mr. Moore:** You were successful and he was unsuccessful; that's the difference.

**Mr. LEE:** The honourable member for Windsor says that; it may be correct.

The honourable member for Mackay spoke at length about the Queensland Government's not using local engineers. I concede that the Government used the services of Ford, Bacon and Davis on the Mt. Isa railway project and other railway projects, and that in the Brisbane metropolitan area it used the services of Wilbur Smith. The honourable member said that Wilbur Smith designed the roads. That is not true. The Government asked him to make a study and a survey of the whole road system, and it used his findings. Engineers in the Main Roads Department and local consulting engineers then designed the roads. They were the people employed to do the hard yakka—and the Government has continued to use local labour.

**Mr. Casey:** Wilbur Smith made the recommendations.

**Mr. LEE:** That is correct; but the Government made up its mind as to which engineering consultants it would use to design the roads. It has used them at all times and, in accordance with its policy, it will continue to do so. Unlike the Labor Governments of many years ago, the National-Liberal Government has endeavoured wherever possible to encourage a free-enterprise system. As Minister for Works and Housing, I have let out an enormous amount of work to engineering consultants and architects throughout the State, and in Brisbane in particular.

**Mr. Hanson:** And to your mates, too.

**Mr. LEE:** I do not work along those lines, as the honourable member does in Gladstone. I do not free-load on my mates.

The honourable member for Mackay spoke about freeways. He said that we did not have freeways, or that we should not have freeways—I am not sure which.

**Mr. Casey:** I did not say that. I said that Wilbur Smith designed the freeways.

**Mr. LEE:** Again the honourable member is incorrect. Take the South-east Freeway. It used to take me 36 minutes to go from Parliament House to my home. It now takes me less than six minutes to go home on the freeway. There must be something wrong with the honourable member's arithmetic if that does not convince him that the freeway effects a considerable saving in man-hours from which the whole of the State benefits.

I assert emphatically that the Government does lean towards towards local engineers and consultants throughout the State, and I assure the honourable member that the Government intends, after the passing of the Bill, to lean even further in favour of local engineers and make sure that engineering consultants who cannot meet the requirements for registration will not practise in Queensland. That is what the Bill is about.

Motion (Mr. Lee) agreed to.

#### COMMITTEE

(Mr. Miller, Ithaca, in the chair)

Clauses 1 to 4, both inclusive, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

The House adjourned at 9.7 p.m.

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