

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 1975

Electronic reproduction of original hardcopy

WEDNESDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 1975

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

ASSENT TO BILLS

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

Aborigines Act and Other Acts Amendment Bill;

Gladstone Power Station Operation Agreement Bill;

Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act Amendment Bill;

Colonel Daniel Edward Evans (William Parry Memorial Bursary) Bill;

Construction Safety Act Amendment Bill;

Collections Act Amendment Bill;

Acts Repeal Bill;

Valuation of Land Act Amendment Bill.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Members: Before proceeding with the business of the House, I should like to extend our congratulations and best wishes to the two distinguished gentlemen who are on the dais with me this morning. On my right is the Honourable Gordon Dowding, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, and on my left is the Honourable Vincent MacLean, Speaker of the House, Nova Scotia. To you, gentlemen, we extend a very warm welcome; it is a pleasure to have you on the dais with us this morning.

Also we have in the gallery this morning Mrs. Helen Suzman, a member of the South African Parliament. We extend to her, too, a very warm welcome.

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. K. J. HOOPER (Archerfield) (11.6 a.m.), by leave: Yesterday the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads mischievously made a personal explanation designed to cover his embarrassment at being named in a respectable publication, "Nation Review", as having been the link between secret police information and the novice member for Belmont. The Minister called upon me to say whether or not I had gone running to "Nation Review". I denied this by way of a point of order. To clear my own reputation I wish to point out that Brisbane journalists, unlike some National Party front-benchers in this House, have no difficulty in staying awake to listen to important speeches in this Chamber.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE**1. WATER POLLUTION IN BRISBANE RIVER**

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

(1) Is he aware of the Littoral Society's survey which showed that the level of bacteria was 100,000 to each 100 millilitres at the abattoir outlet in the Lytton Reach, 10,000 at the tannery outfall in Bulimba Creek and 1,000 near a Breakfast Creek drain and that all were far in excess of the World Health Organisation recommended maximum level for recreational waters of 200 to each 100 millilitres?

(2) Are samples taken of fish from the Brisbane River and other areas suffering from pollution to check their mercury content and the existence of other examples of problems caused by pollution including kerosene taint?

(3) Is he aware that the Littoral Society called for a detailed biological research programme by the Government on water pollution in the Brisbane River and that the society criticised the lack of staff and money available to the Water Quality Council?

(4) Has his department any plans for increased staff, additional funds and the completion of such a biological research programme?

Answers:—

(1) I am advised that there was a newspaper report of a survey carried out by the Littoral Society. I am not aware of the details of the survey.

(2) Samples of fish are taken from the Brisbane River and other areas and analysed for heavy metals and pesticides. No tests are done for kerosene taint. I understand the Fish Board carries out tests for kerosene taint in fish marketed through the board.

(3) I am advised that there were newspaper reports of the matters referred to in this question.

(4) Provision is being made in this year's Estimates for increased staff and additional funds for the Water Quality Section of the Department of Local Government. Staffing is amongst the matters included in the Annual Report of the Water Quality Council which I will be tabling in the near future. With regard to the biological programme referred to by the honourable member, this is outlined in the annual report and includes tests on fish and shell fish and an assessment of benthic organisms. There are no plans for a more detailed biological research programme in the Brisbane River at present but the matter will be kept under review.

2. WATER POLLUTION TESTS OF QUEENSLAND COASTAL STREAMS

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

(1) Has the Queensland Chemical Laboratories conducted tests on fish, crabs, prawns, birds, etc., to ascertain the levels of pesticides and other forms of pollution in seafood and wildlife in Queensland rivers and bays?

(2) If so, how many samples have been tested in the past three years and what were the results?

(3) What types of fish were tested and in what location were they caught?

Answers:—

(1) The Government Chemical Laboratory has carried out numerous tests to determine levels of pollution caused by pesticide and metal residues on fish and other aquatic fauna. No tests have been made on birds.

(2) (a) For metals—1972-73, 29 edible fish, prawns, oysters, 80 shark, ray; 1973-74, 38 edible fish, prawns, oysters, 35 shark, ray; and 1974-75, 46 edible fish, prawns, oysters, 18 shark, ray. All bream, whiting flathead, oysters, mussels, prawns and similar edible fish showed less than 0.5 p.p.m. of mercury generally being of the order less than 0.10 p.p.m. Other metals showed low values except zinc 6 p.p.m. and copper 1 p.p.m. mean values. For the permitted values in food, these are 40 and 30 p.p.m. respectively. (b) Pesticides—1972-73, 83 samples; 1973-74, 73 samples; and 1974-75, 89 samples. In general, low values were found for pesticides ranging in value from a total of 2 p.p.m. to no detectable amount, the mean values being 0.10 p.p.m. with a large number having no detectable value present.

(3) The types of fish tested were bream, tailor, whiting, flathead, and unnamed freshwater varieties. They were caught in the following locations: Brisbane River and Moreton Bay, Upper Brisbane River, Dawson River, Dalby, Barcaldine, St. George, Cairns, Kurumba, Maryborough, Bundaberg, Victoria Point, and Pine Rivers.

3. BRISBANE SUBURBAN CENTRES FOR MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION

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

(1) In how many suburbs in Brisbane is there an office of the Main Roads Department to collect motor registration fees?

(2) Are there any plans to further decentralise the operations of the department to provide a local service for residents in far-flung suburbs?

Answers:—

(1) None.

(2) The setting up of suburban paying offices is part of the decentralisation at present being considered following a report by management consultants. This also applies to country areas. I am pleased to add that there has been a major programme embarked upon to modernise the registration processes. The new computer is now being installed which will allow video displays for speedier inquiries and the storage of information on fast access discs to reduce handling of files and paper. The two-part renewal notice is already in function. There will no doubt be some occasional problems and isolated delays during such a large changeover operation, but the public can be assured that a major reorganisation is in progress of which decentralisation is a high priority. Given another few months, there will be major changes in operation to give a better service to the public.

4. TERMINATING BUILDING SOCIETY LOANS

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

(1) Are some terminating building societies now informing prospective home owners that loans previously approved cannot now be granted?

(2) Is this being caused by a delay in the transmission of Commonwealth funds to the societies?

(3) What is the reason for this delay, how long will it continue and what steps are being taken to expedite the transfer of these moneys?

Answers:—

(1) I have no doubt that some co-operative housing societies have had to inform prospective members in this manner. On 27 August 1975 I advised the honourable member for Wynnum in some detail of the reduction in funds available to societies. This arises from the cut-back of 29 per cent in the housing agreement allocation to Queensland for 1975-76.

(2 and 3) More recently there has been a delay pending the determination by the Commonwealth Minister of the actual amount to be made available to these societies from the total reduced allocation of \$31,000,000. The minimum proportion to societies is 20 per cent and the maximum is 30 per cent. In 1974-75 Queensland had provided 28.5 per cent to societies, and I sought the same proportion this year. I am pleased that I can now say that yesterday I received a telegram from the Commonwealth Minister confirming the 28.5 per cent. The Housing Commission immediately commenced advising all societies by telephone that

they may now proceed on the basis of the figures provisionally advised to them on 28 August 1975.

5. SALE OF PART OF HICKEY PARK, STAFFORD

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to the Brisbane City Council's plan to sell over eight acres of Hickey Park, Stafford, for \$100,000?

(2) Is he aware that the vast majority of local residents oppose this proposal?

(3) In view of the local alderman's disinterest, is there any method by which the department or members of this House can prevent this massive sell-out of irreplaceable parkland?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2 and 3) I understand that the land has been offered to the Autistic Children's Association of Queensland for the purpose of establishing thereon an Autistic Children's Centre. Before the centre may be established, however, I am advised that it will be necessary for the site which occupies an area of approximately 3.4 hectares (8.5 acres) to be subdivided from the larger area of Hickey Park. As the subject land is included within an existing open space zone under the Brisbane Town Plan, it will be necessary for the proposal to subdivide the land to be advertised for objections with subsequent rights of appeal to the Local Government Court. In the event of the subdivision of the land being finally approved I am advised that it would be necessary under the Town Plan for the City of Brisbane for the prior consent of the council to be obtained in respect of the establishment of the Autistic Children's Centre. Under the City of Brisbane Town Planning Act 1964-1975, an application for such consent would require to be advertised for objections, and objectors will have a right of appeal to the Local Government Court should the council decide to grant the application in the face of objections.

6. BILL-POSTING

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

(1) In view of his commendable initiatives aimed at curbing pollution in all its forms, has his attention been drawn to bill-posting vandals who pollute the environment with their handiwork?

(2) Will he consider introducing measures to stamp out the practice of indiscriminate bill-posting?

(3) Will he consider making commercial undertakings, political organisations and other groups absolutely liable for such acts of vandalism carried out on their behalf or for their benefit?

Answers:—

(1) I am aware of the problems associated with untidy bill-posting.

(2) Local authorities have power under the Local Government Act 1936-1975 to make by-laws to control the placing of advertising signs on lands and buildings adjacent to roads, and the majority of local authorities have made such by-laws. The Brisbane City Council has made similar ordinances under the City of Brisbane Act 1924-1974. Bill-posting falls within the scope of these by-laws and ordinances. In these circumstances, it appears that there is no necessity to introduce special legislation to deal with the question raised by the honourable member.

(3) In terms of the by-laws or ordinances mentioned, a person who puts up an advertising sign without obtaining the permission of the local authority commits a breach of the by-laws or ordinances in question and is subject to a penalty. The difficulty, of course, is to apprehend offenders in the act, so that prosecutions can be launched. It appears that the honourable member seeks the introduction of a provision whereby a person or organisation named in an unauthorised advertising sign would be held liable for a breach unless he could prove that he did not post the advertising sign concerned. The introduction of this type of provision is not generally favoured, but I am prepared to consider the suggestion.

7. REVENUE FROM ROAD PERMIT FEES

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

How much revenue was derived from road permit fees in 1972-73, 1973-74 and 1974-75?

Answer:—

Collections under the Transport Act are recorded in Treasury in bulk, and a dissection into road permit fees and other items is not readily available. However, figures relative to 1972-73 and 1973-74 are available from the Auditor-General's report for those years, and figures for 1974-75 will be published in the latest edition of that document in the near future.

8. REVENUE FROM DEATH DUTIES

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

How much revenue was derived from State death duties in 1972-73, 1973-74 and 1974-75?

Answer:—

The figures for the years 1972-73 and 1973-74 are available to the honourable member in the Budget papers and Auditor-General's reports for 1972-73 and 1973-74 and the figure for 1974-75 will be published in the documents for that year in the very near future.

9. RECYCLING OF PAPER

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

(1) In view of the tremendous amount of paper used in Australia and the need to preserve our forests, can paper be recycled?

(2) Are there any known industries or processes which can utilise waste paper and old newspapers?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes. In fact Australian Paper Manufacturers Ltd. at Petrie recycles some 50 000 tonnes of paper per year. Total recycling in Australia is of the order of 450 000 tonnes per annum, representing approximately 40 per cent of domestic production. With the exception of clean printers' offcuts, all recycled waste paper in Australia is converted into paper board. I understand that in certain overseas countries processors are also producing a type of wallboard from such waste.

10. RIDING OF MOTOR-CYCLES ON CROWN LAND, TOWNSVILLE

Mr. Aikens, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service—

As the Townsville City Council is endeavouring to minimise the noise and nuisance caused by the riding of motor-bikes in council parks and reserves, will it receive any help from the Government where these motor-bikes are ridden, to the danger and exacerbation of nearby residents, on areas of Crown land in Townsville?

Answer:—

There is provision in the Land Act to take action against any person who occupies, erects a structure, depastures stock, cultivates or encloses Crown reserves but there is no provision to deal with a person who traverses Crown reserves. However, the Land Act does provide that trustees of Crown reserves may make by-laws for the protection of the land and property under their control from trespass, injury or misuse; to regulate the use and enjoyment of the land; to impose penalties not exceeding \$100 for any breach of such by-laws and generally

for carrying out the objects and purposes of the trust. My department would be prepared to co-operate with the Townsville City Council in the matter of making by-laws under the Land Act regulating the use and enjoyment of any land under the trusteeship of the council. I might mention that the Local Government Act contains full power for local authorities to make by-laws under such Act for promoting and maintaining peace, comfort and health; and for the general good rule and government of the area and its inhabitants.

11. A.C.D.S. PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY, TOWNSVILLE

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to the distressing circumstances of young couples who, in their eagerness to build their own homes, seek to do so through the services of the A.C.D.S. Permanent Building Society of Sturt Street, Townsville?

(2) If so, may money paid as a deposit by potential home builders be sent by the society to Brisbane, which results in frustrating delays when a refund is sought?

(3) May building firms working in conjunction with the society withhold substantial sums from the home buyer for plans allegedly never seen by the home buyer, in addition to architects fees charged by the society, which the builder allegedly knew nothing about?

(4) Is the home buyer charged exorbitant solicitors fees, despite the assurance given by the society that they would be only one quarter of the fees demanded by the solicitors?

(5) Are derogatory and derisory remarks made by the society about members of this Parliament, in order to dissuade home buyers from seeking from those members the assistance and advice to which they are democratically entitled?

(6) If he has knowledge of these serious allegations, will he have an immediate and, if necessary, public inquiry instituted into the activities of this society?

Answers:—

(1) My officers do not know a society called A.C.D.S. Permanent Building Society. I think the honourable member may be referring to the Australian Co-operative Development Society Limited and the Australian Permanent Building Society and Bowkett.

(2 to 6) However, as the honourable member has furnished me with written specific details, and I know that he is always seeking to protect the interests

of his constituents, I will arrange for this matter to be investigated as a matter of urgency and will write to him as soon as these investigations have been completed.

12. POLICE STRENGTH, BUNDEBERG

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

(1) Did he see the report in the Bundaberg "News Mail" of 11 September in which a Queensland Police Union spokesman said that a police officer or citizen would have to be killed before action was taken to maintain the proper policing of cities the size of Bundaberg and that he was appalled that the Police Department allowed cities the size of Bundaberg to be controlled at night by three policemen?

(2) As this night staff has to look after the beach resorts of Elliott Heads, Bargara, Burnett Heads and Moore Park and all other areas in the Shires of Woon-garra and Gooburrum, in addition to the city area of Bundaberg, will he do something to increase the strength of the force?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) I have not seen the Press report. However, I am obtaining a copy of it and will be in a position to answer the honourable member's question later.

13. COMMONWEALTH PRIMARY INDUSTRY RESEARCH

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

(1) Will the Commonwealth Government's reduction of research and stabilisation funds for primary industry, to help pay for the cost of Medibank, by the amount of \$308.2 million in 1975-76 as announced in the last Commonwealth Budget, affect research programmes which would have been of benefit to Queensland primary industries and the marketing stability of any of our primary products?

(2) Does the Commonwealth provide any funds for research into primary industry projects in Queensland and, if so, is any of this provided for work on our State experimental stations?

Answers:—

(1) The reduction in Commonwealth Government funds of \$308,200,000 quoted by the honourable member for Warwick includes adjustments in assistance to various industries other than the agricultural and pastoral ones. The major cutback will affect the marketing activities of the Australian Wool Corporation to the extent of \$185,000,000. There will

be no effect on research programmes for 1975-76 supported by the Commonwealth Government which have already been approved; nor is the marketing stability of our primary products likely to be affected.

(2) Commonwealth funds for primary industries research in Queensland are approximately \$500,000 for 1975-76 apart from contributions to various industry trust funds. Of this amount, approximately \$90,000 is allocated for work on research stations.

14. HIGH SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL SITES, ALBERT ELECTORATE; HOLLYWELL-PARADISE POINT AREA

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

(1) When will he be able to visit the electorate of Albert to inspect high schools and school sites?

(2) Has the investigation of suitable land in the Hollywell-Paradise Point area for both a primary school and a high school been completed?

(3) Is he aware that subsequent to an inspection of the Hollywell-Paradise Point-Coombah areas some months ago by Mr. Briody and myself, while he was regional director, Mr. Briody made some recommendations to his department?

(4) Is he aware that the land recommended by Mr. Briody is large enough to develop both a primary and a high school, is level land, is close to a 35-acre sports ground under the control of the Gold Coast City Council, which is being developed as a major sports complex and is in a central position with an excellent road pattern?

(5) Is he aware of the number of students attending the Southport State High School and the need for immediate planning for another high school in the northern area of the Gold Coast to relieve this situation?

Answers:—

(1) As I advised the honourable member in my letter of 27 August 1975, I have received many requests to visit electorates. I will endeavour to visit the areas as soon as possible and I will let the honourable member know when a visit to his electorate can be organised.

(2) No. But negotiations are proceeding.

(3) Yes. Mr. Briody's recommendations are currently being considered.

(4) Yes. However, my department holds land for a future primary school fronting Pine Ridge Road and this, together with the existing Biggera Waters State School,

has been assessed as adequate to cater for future primary school population in the area.

(5) Yes. Planning is already in hand.

15. PARKLAND IN HOUSING COMMISSION DEVELOPMENT AT RIVERVIEW

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

(1) What percentage of land, in comparison with the total area subdivided, has been made available by the Queensland Housing Commission as parkland in all of the Queensland Housing Commission developments in the suburb of Riverview?

(2) If any land has been made available for this purpose, where is it situated?

Answers:—

(1) The commission, as owner, has designed the subdivision of 32.7 hectares and has provided for 4.5 hectares or 13.8 per cent of such land to be set aside as reserves for park and/or recreation under the control of the Ipswich City Council as trustee. The commission purchased a further 8.5 hectares which had been privately subdivided to council requirements. Such areas contain no parks. The commission also purchased 15.6 hectares with an existing subdivisional design approved by the council, which had not sought land for parks.

(2) Pickering Street; Price Street; Bannerman Street; Conway Street; Sean Street; Riverview Road; and Moggill Ferry Road.

16. IPSWICH SOUTHERN BYPASS HIGHWAY

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

(1) Has the planning of the southern bypass highway to the south of Ipswich been completed and, if not, when is it likely that it will be?

(2) When will construction of the bypass commence?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) I advise the honourable member that I have had considerable discussions with my parliamentary colleague, the Minister for Health (the honourable member for Ipswich) and also with the honourable member for Ipswich West (Mr. Hales), who have continually brought to my attention the necessity to provide funds for the planning of the Ipswich bypass. Because of their representations it is pleasing that I am able to say that the alignment has been generally finalised and design has commenced. Provision for some property acquisition has been made in the current

year's programme. Because of the cut-back in funds from my counterpart in Canberra, it will not be possible to provide for the commencement of construction this year. However, if I am more successful in my representations to this gentleman on another occasion, I may be able to give the honourable member a more satisfactory answer.

17. AEROSOL PROPELLANTS

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

(1) Is he aware of a full-page advertisement in the "Australian Financial Review" of 10 September pointing out that not all aerosol products now sold in this country contain fluorocarbon propellants, which are suspected to be damaging to the upper atmosphere ozone layer around the earth?

(2) In view of the importance of this matter and as the particular advertisers in this instance have made a public commitment to use other kinds of propellants in lieu of fluorocarbons, will he consider an early tightening-up of the regulations governing the use of fluorocarbons in aerosols, including a requirement for the contents to be declared on the label?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) This particular subject is at present being considered by the Environmental Health Committee of the National Health and Medical Research Council and any recommendations from the council will be closely examined by Queensland. It would be unwise to prohibit the present substances used until an absolute assurance regarding the safety and efficacy of any substitute is forthcoming.

18. CONTROL OF FERAL PIGS IN SUGAR-CANE AREAS

Mr. Row, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service—

Will he immediately take steps to include the sugar-growing areas of the State in the "1080" Regional Campaign for the control of feral pigs, as these animals are causing unprecedented damage to sugar-cane crops this year?

Answer:—

Representatives of the Co-Ordinating Board and the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations are working in liaison into research findings on feral-pig control and how these findings may apply in cane areas. Because of the basic ecological difference of the cane regions compared to the grazing and grain areas where Co-Ordinating Board trials were conducted, it is considered necessary that further trials are required

in the cane regions prior to initiating regional campaigns. These trials will be conducted by the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations and selected cane pest and disease control boards. As cane regions have higher population densities, the safety factors of any baiting campaign will need close consideration.

19. LIMITED-ACCESS ROAD TO BRISBANE AIRPORT

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

As daily interstate jet airline flight arrivals and departures usually coincide with peak traffic conditions in Brisbane, what plans are being considered for some direct and limited-access route to service Brisbane airport from the city?

Answer:—

Firstly, I commend the honourable member on bringing to the House such a sensible question. This is something that must concern everybody in Queensland. In the short term the present access has been declared an export road so that improvements can be carried out at the Nudgee Road Railway crossing and at the intersection with Hamilton Road. In the longer term the Commonwealth has first to decide what airport strategy it will adopt before further planning can proceed. The State can plan to connect to the future northern freeway or other arterials, but it must first know the Commonwealth's intentions.

20. IRVINEBANK STATE TREATMENT PLANT

Mr. Deeral, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Mines and Energy—

(1) When will the repairs to the Irvinebank State Treatment Plant be completed?

(2) May ore be stockpiled on the flat area adjacent to but away from the hoppers, as small ore producers will not be able to transport ore during the wet season and the battery will then be able to operate immediately the plant has been repaired?

(3) May staff holidays be altered so that the plant could be operated during January?

Answers:—

(1) Repairs are expected to occupy three to four months.

(2) The department cannot accept responsibility for stockpiles of ore during the repairs. The tin miners should find alternative storage places. It is intended that, when treatment of ore is resumed at the works, it will be on a single-shift basis. This may result in delays in treatment of ore. The cost of operating the works has

escalated considerably and it is proposed that the treatment charges be increased substantially to reduce losses.

(3) Staff holidays will be arranged so that resumption of operations can be effected within the estimated time.

21 and 22. CLAIMS AGAINST NOMINAL DEFENDANT

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

In regard to the 1974-75 report of the Nominal Defendant concerning claims in respect of unclassified vehicles, what types of vehicles or circumstances are covered by this very high figure of 396 claims, especially as there were also 169 claims in respect of unidentified vehicles and 114 claims in respect of uninsured vehicles?

Answer:—

"Unclassified vehicles" relate to vehicles whose classification into "uninsured vehicle" or "unidentified vehicle" is not known or not advised at the time notice of a claim is received by the Nominal Defendant (Queensland). All unclassified vehicles in respect of which claims are pursued are eventually resolved into either "unidentified vehicles" or "uninsured vehicles".

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

(1) In regard to the 1974-75 report of the Nominal Defendant, of the 1,085 claims under action at that time, how many are carry-overs from each of the earlier years?

(2) How many are claims in respect of (a) unidentified, (b) uninsured and (c) unclassified vehicles?

Answers:—

(1) The 1085 claims under action at the 30 June 1975 were lodged during the fourteen years from 1961-62 to 1974-75 as follows:—1, 3, Nil, 2, 2, 5, 9, 16, 51, 97, 73, 146, 223, 457.

(2) The subdivision of these claims into unidentified vehicles and uninsured vehicles is not tabulated. I see no practical value in carrying out the substantial amount of work necessary to obtain the subdivision as sought. Claims under action would no longer be unclassified.

23. APPROACHES TO COMMONWEALTH FOR AID FOR TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT

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

For each of the years 1970-71, 1971-72, 1972-73, 1973-74 and 1974-75, how much money was (a) requested and (b) received

by the State Government from the Commonwealth Government specially for (i) railway projects and (ii) other transport development?

Answer:—

Apart from requests for funds for main roads where the present Commonwealth Government's response has been most unsatisfactory, the only moneys received from the Commonwealth for transport purposes in recent years have been for urban public transport, and the funds received to 30 June 1975 amount to \$2,126,029.

24. UNDERGROUND ELECTRICITY SUPPLY LINES FOR FUTURE SUBDIVISIONS

Mr. Casey, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service—

(1) Is he aware that the South Australian Land Commission earlier this year adopted a policy that, for all of its future subdivisions, the electricity supply would be placed underground, thus eliminating the visual pollution of unsightly poles?

(2) As a highly important secondary reason for doing likewise in Queensland, particularly in northern coastal areas, is the frequency of disruption and danger from the damage caused by cyclones to overhead power lines, will the Land Administration Commission adopt a similar policy, particularly as many local authorities are now including provision for underground supply in their by-laws?

Answers:—

(1) No.

(2) In northern coastal areas where frequent cyclonic storms occur, it would be advantageous to provide underground electricity. My department, in regard to its Crown estate development projects, is generally prepared to provide all services that would normally be required of a subdivider operating in the private sector. A number of local authorities in Queensland have recently included the requirement for the provision of underground electricity in their subdivisional policies. My department is presently developing some 38 allotments in the first stage of an estate at Rose Bay, Bowen, and is providing underground electricity there. Consideration is also being given to the provision of this service in the balance of a large Crown development project at Kirwan, Townsville, and a further small project within the Brisbane City Council area. In determining whether underground electricity is to be provided in Crown estate development projects, the Land Administration Commission has due regard to local authority requirements, cost of development

in relation to available finance, economics of the particular project, likely effect on individual allotment prices, and the priority rating of that particular service in relation to other necessary services. The position therefore is that each case is dealt with on its merits.

25. AID TO ALCOHOLICS

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

(1) As the two main treatment centres for alcoholics, the Wacol Rehabilitation Clinic and the Royal Brisbane Hospital Alcoholism Clinic, are situated at a great distance from a big percentage of the population, does his department assist with the fares of country persons who voluntarily seek admission to the centres and, if so, under what conditions?

(2) Are persons admitted to these centres for treatment of alcoholism eligible for social security benefits?

(3) Will other State Government departments, such as the Children's Services Department, provide assistance to the family whilst the bread-winner is receiving treatment for alcoholism or to the bread-winner where the mother of the family finds it necessary for such treatment?

(4) What encouragement is given by the State hospital service to alcoholics to seek treatment for their problem?

(5) What are his department's plans to establish alcoholism clinics in country centres?

Answers:—

(1) Yes, under the following conditions:—Persons who require medical treatment that cannot be provided at the public hospitals in their area, may be supplied with travel passes to enable them to seek medical treatment at the nearest centre where it can be provided on the recommendation of the medical superintendent of the local public hospital. Eligibility for the issue of travel passes is on the following basis:—Persons in receipt of maximum social security pensions—no means test other than to determine the person is receiving a maximum social security pension; and persons in proven poor financial circumstances—after a means test is completed on this department's form. Generally rail travel passes are provided. Where rail services do not exist or where the medical superintendent certifies that a person's medical condition would not permit him to travel by rail, bus travel passes are provided. In cases of emergency or where the medical superintendent certifies that a person could not travel by any other means because of his medical condition, air travel passes are provided. Persons who attend a medical practitioner in private practice in

their area may receive assistance with travel passes, provided their medical adviser refers the matter to the medical superintendent for recommendation of the issue of travel passes and provided they conform to one of the three categories of eligibility as stated above.

(2) Yes.

(3) The answer is essentially no, but the Children's Services Department may be able to provide assistance to families whilst the bread-winner is in hospital in extreme or very exceptional circumstances.

(4) The medical staffs of the State hospitals are, I think, increasingly aware of the importance of seeking out and recognising alcoholism in patients in or attending the hospitals for other reasons, and of referring them for assessment and treatment in regard to their alcoholism.

(5) In the face of the present shortage of suitably qualified and trained personnel and the ever present limitations of finance, it is not possible to establish specialised facilities for the treatment of alcoholism in country centres at the present time. A survey is to be undertaken of regional centres to determine priorities in this regard so that such services may be provided in the most needy areas where personnel and finance permit.

26. FINANCING OF AMBULANCE SERVICES BY MEDIBANK

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

(1) Is he aware of an agenda item listed for the State Conference of the Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade, on 6 October which suggests that ambulance services should be financed through Medibank?

(2) As this can lead only to a decline in a vital service, with ambulance vehicles tending to become a taxi service rather than an emergency service, how does he react to this proposal?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) My attention has been drawn to the agenda item referred to in the question. The Hospitals and Health Services Commission of the Commonwealth Government has circulated widely a discussion paper entitled "Health Transport Policies for the 1970s and 1980s" which had been prepared by the Health Transport Working Party of the commission, and comments have been sought from a wide spectrum of Government authorities, public and private organisations and individuals. It is in connection with this document that the item referred to in the question was placed on the agenda of the State Conference of the Queensland

Ambulance Transport Brigade at Toowoomba on 6 October 1975. Any recommendation of the State conference on any of the matters in the agenda will be forwarded to State Council of the Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade which after its own deliberations will in turn make such recommendations to me as Minister for Health, as it deems fit. In the meantime, the document is being examined by officers of my department, as it refers also to methods of transport other than by ambulance.

27. COMMONWEALTH FUNDS FOR MAIN ROADS

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

What amount has been allocated to the State by the Commonwealth Government for main roads in 1975-76 and how much was requested by his department?

Answer:—

The National Roads, Road Grants and Transport (Planning and Research) Acts provided at least \$75 million for expenditure in 1975-76. The Commonwealth Budget provided an extra \$13.2 million bringing the total to \$88.2 million. The State has requested an extra \$22.26 million to cover cost escalation, estimated to be at least 30 per cent on the base allocation for 1975-76. Only \$13.2 million or 18 per cent extra was provided in the recent Budget. Of that \$13.2 million, \$4.5 million has to go to national highways and \$1.61 million to beef roads, so it can be seen only \$7.1 million extra is available for other important Queensland roads.

28. WARCAM MINERALS PTY. LTD.

Mr. Frawley, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Mines and Energy—

(1) Further to my question of 3 September, have any applications for mining leases or authorities to prospect been made by Warcam Minerals Pty. Ltd. over land in any other part of Queensland?

(2) Do the owners of properties in respect of which Warcam has made application for mining leases have to be notified in writing by Warcam or is this done by his department?

(3) Will these people be given an opportunity to voice their objections before any leases are granted?

(4) Is he aware that to date no contact has been made by Warcam with any of the property owners concerned?

Answers:—

(1) Yes. In addition to the mining lease applications mentioned in my answers of 3 September the following applications were lodged: No. 1196, Brisbane, in the Burpengary Creek area, Nos. 1199, 1200 and 1201, Brisbane, on parts of South Pine River and adjacent lands. Also No. 731A, Ipswich, was lodged on 3 July 1975, and abandoned on 25 August 1975. No authority to prospect other than that mentioned in my previous answers has been applied for by this company.

(2) This must be done by the lease applicant.

(3) Yes. The applications will have to be advertised in the Press and a time for objections notified. Objections may be pursued in the Warden's Court.

(4) I am not so aware. Proof of the giving of notice by the lease applicant to the owner or occupier of the land must be given to the warden before his recommendation is made.

29. PROCESSING OF HOUSING COMMISSION APPLICATIONS

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

(1) What is the average lapse of time between the lodgment of an application for a loan to build a house through the Housing Commission and the completion date of the house?

(2) How does this time lapse compare with applications directed through (a) housing co-operatives and (b) building societies?

Answers:—

(1) An average time from application to completion is not readily available. In any case it would be misleading because of wide variations in individual cases caused by the circumstances in each case. The commission provides a complete technical service as well as finance. It must inspect the land for security and design purposes, and reach agreement in discussion with the borrowers on their ideas for design and plans and specifications. The documents then have to be prepared (or examined where privately prepared), public tenders obtained, and the borrower assisted with acceptance and contract documents. The commission then provides contract supervision and also inspection of construction. The greatly increased cost of other housing money has put great demand both on the commission's technical and professional staff and on finance. The availability of both resources also affects the time required. There is wide variation in completion times nominated by contractors in their tenders.

(2) Broadly speaking, co-operative housing societies and building societies are finance organisations only. They do not offer the same complete technical service as the commission. Frequently an approach to a society comes after the borrower has had plans and specifications prepared, made arrangements with a builder, or even entered into a contract. Consequently much of the lead-up professional work has been done before a society becomes involved in the transaction. There would be no appreciable difference between the commission and societies in respect of the time required from the signing of the building contract.

30. BUNDABERG POLICE STATION STRENGTH

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

What was the strength of the Bundaberg Police Station as at 30 June in the years 1965, 1970, 1972, 1974 and 1975?

Answer:—

Year	Established Strength	
	Police Staff	Civilian Staff
1965	41	..
1970	51	3
1972	51	3
1974	51	5
1975	*49	6

* Bundaberg Police District was reduced by 5 police divisions during 1974-75.

31. S.G.I.O. THIRD-PARTY MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to the fact that most car insurance in the compulsory third-party field is being vacated by the private insurance companies and accepted by the S.G.I.O.?

(2) As this process creates an extension of the monopoly in some areas of insurance exercised for years in this State by the S.G.I.O., will he delineate the exact reasons which have led to this departure from the traditional car insurance method in Queensland?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) This question should be directed to my colleague the Honourable the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, who administers the Motor Vehicle Insurance Act.

32. CONFIDENTIALITY OF MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION

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

(1) Are the records of vehicle registration held by the Main Roads Department in Brisbane confidential or may they be viewed by members of the public on request?

(2) Is it possible for a car-trading firm to ascertain if a particular vehicle purchased new, say, 3 or 4 years ago, is still retained by that purchaser and having obtained such information use it in a commercial manner by offering to buy the vehicle when the owner has made no attempt to offer it for sale?

Answers:—

(1) The motor vehicle records of the Main Roads Department are not made available to the public for viewing, but any person may obtain an extract from the records on payment of \$1.00 search fee. Except in the case of police, legal or insurance inquiries, the information supplied is limited to the make and body type of the vehicle and the owner's name and address.

(2) Length of time of registered ownership is not normally given and this type of approach is more likely to be based on information retained by dealers for future promotions.

33. CITY SAVINGS PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY, REDCLIFFE

Mr. K. J. Hooper, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

(1) Has the City Savings Permanent Building Society, Redcliffe, a society registered under the Building Societies Act, made loans to members and accepted loans transferred from the Great Australian Permanent Building Society of a total value of \$3 million, of which approximately \$2.5 million was advanced to Nursing Centres of Australia and companies such as Coachwood, Cadiz, Stratford Homes, Southwest Holdings, located at the residence of D. P. O'Shea, and Gotha Pty. Ltd., located at the residence of Neville Keith Meredith?

(2) Were the company loans insured against loss with the Housing Loans Insurance Corporation or M.G.I.C.A.?

Answers:—

(1) Yes. The Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs has been advised that at 31 July 1975 City Savings Permanent Building Society had made loans to members and accepted loans transferred from Great Australian Permanent Building Society to the extent of \$3.286 million.

The loans transferred in respect of Mount Gravatt Nursing Centre, Jindalee Nursing Centre, Annerley Nursing Home, Coachwood, Cadiz, Stratford Homes, Southwest Holdings and Gotha Pty. Ltd. amounted to \$1,785,300. Inquiries reveal that some of these loans have been paid out.

(2) No. The loans were not insured as the advances were less than 75 per cent of the valuation of the security.

34 and 35. GREAT AUSTRALIAN PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY

Mr. K. J. Hooper, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

(1) Is he aware that, as a result of the auditors for the Great Australian Permanent Building Society having substantially qualified their annual report, the directors hurriedly organised a plan to have them replaced?

(2) Did the nominee, Mr. J. J. O'Shea, of O'Shea & Co., a firm associated with Desmond Paul O'Shea whose membership of the Institute of Chartered Accountants has been suspended for three years because of a breach of professional ethics, withdraw the nomination?

(3) As the latter nomination was not received in sufficient time before the annual meeting, was the meeting adjourned at considerable expense to allow the directors to arrange the replacement of the auditors who had sufficient professional courage to report on some of the skulduggery of the directors?

(4) In view of the action of the board of the Great Australian Permanent Building Society to replace the auditors who substantially qualified their annual report, will he take urgent action to amend the Act along the lines of the Companies Act, so that auditors do not have to come up for re-election every year and thus are not exposed to the threat of replacement if they find it necessary to make an adverse report to members?

Answers:—

(1) While I am aware that the previous auditors have not been reappointed, I am not aware that the directors organised a plan to replace them.

(2) It is a fact that Mr. J. J. O'Shea withdrew his nomination.

(3) The chairman has advised the Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs that Mr. J. J. O'Shea's nomination as auditor was received within the specified time. It is true that the annual general meeting was adjourned, but I have been assured that the expense involved will not be considerable.

(4) The honourable member's suggestion has been noted and will receive consideration.

Mr. K. J. Hooper, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

(1) With reference to part (2) of his answer to my question on 11 September, wherein I sought the names of the directors of the Great Australian Permanent Building Society, is it a fact that Mr. Neville Keith Meredith is a member of the board of the society?

(2) Did he mislead the House or did his officers provide him with incorrect information?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) On Thursday, 11 September 1975, I informed the House of the names of the directors of the Great Australian Permanent Building Society as they were shown on the records of the Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs. However, I have been advised that the appropriate form stating that Neville Keith Meredith was appointed a member of the board of the Great Australian Permanent Building Society on 28 August 1975 was lodged with the Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs this morning.

36. APPLICATION OF COMMONWEALTH FUNDS TO AID BEEF INDUSTRY ON RAIL FREIGHTS

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

As the Minister assisting the Commonwealth Treasurer, Mr. Stewart, has expressed concern at the plight of the beef industry, could he be reminded that money made available from Canberra to assist with rail freights would be appreciated and helpful?

Answer:—

The State Government has made several approaches to the Commonwealth for assistance to the beef industry, the most recent being on 9 September. We await a reply.

37. CONSTRUCTION OF STATE SCHOOL SWIMMING POOLS

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

(1) In relation to the cost of building swimming pools for State schools lacking this essential amenity, is inflation making it impossible for parents and citizens' associations to have pools constructed?

(2) Will he examine the existing Department of Works specifications required before approval is given for construction of pools at State schools with a view to

updating them, in view of the modern and less labour-intensive methods now in common use in pool construction?

Answers:—

(1) Having regard to construction cost escalations inspired by the Whitlam Government policies, there is no doubt that parents and citizens' associations desires to construct swimming pools are being greatly impeded by the effects of the monetary inflation which is rampant in this country.

(2) Having regard to the fact that the Department of Works is responsible for the maintenance and replacement of school swimming pools, careful consideration would require to be given to any change in the standard of construction. However, any method of construction that provides a durable pool to acceptable standards will be considered, as this Government is always anxious to assist parents and citizens' associations in all possible ways.

38. PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE OF TEACHERS RECRUITED FROM OVERSEAS

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

(1) Is he aware of the concern amongst parents, teachers, students and members of the Queensland Teachers' Union that many of the teachers who have been brought from overseas countries, such as Canada and the United States of America, have had no previous practical teaching experience?

(2) Is he aware of the claim that many overseas teachers have come to Queensland simply to obtain the necessary practical teaching experience which will assist them in obtaining teaching positions when they return to their countries?

(3) Were all these imported teachers investigated by his department as to their previous practical teaching experience and, if so, (a) how many had the necessary experience and (b) how many had no previous practical teaching experience?

Answers:—

(1) If such concern exists, there are no real grounds for it. Every teacher recruited from overseas, without exception, has completed a recognised teacher-training course including practical teaching. This is a requirement of my department and also of the Board of Teacher Education, which controls the compulsory registration of teachers. In this, they are the equivalent of locally trained teachers.

(2) I am not aware of such a claim.

(3) All teachers recruited from overseas have been interviewed and carefully selected and all have successfully completed practice teaching courses.

39. SCHOOL LEAVING AGE

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

(1) As the New South Wales Minister for Education has announced that he intends to review the compulsory leaving age for school-children, has any such review been undertaken in Queensland?

(2) Has he any intention of lowering or raising the school-leaving age at this time?

(3) Under what circumstances are students under the age of 15 years at present permitted to leave school?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) No specific review of the school-leaving age has been undertaken by my department. However, all aspects of the Education Act and regulations are frequently re-examined and this matter will no doubt be considered during the next such re-examination. I do not foresee any changes in the school-leaving age in the immediate future.

(3) The Education Act and regulations make provision for exemption from attendance at school to be granted under certain circumstances. Such circumstances could be illness or psychological disturbance. It is not possible to be more specific as each case is decided on its merits.

40. ACQUISITION OF SITES FOR RELIEF SCHOOLS

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

(1) What sites has the Department of Education acquired in the last three years to provide relief schools in areas where enrolments have exceeded 1,000 and what are the real property descriptions of the sites?

(2) Is he aware that the Housing Commission intends to construct a further 400 houses in the Loganlea district and what sites and plans does his department have to provide the required school facilities to match this housing development?

(3) When will relief schools be built in the districts of (a) Caloundra, (b) Mackay North, (c) Kepnock (Bundaberg), (d) Beenleigh and (e) Broadbeach?

Answers:—

(1) This information is not readily available but the honourable member may be assured that acquisition of sites to relieve areas of dense population is continually receiving attention. At this stage real property descriptions cannot be supplied.

(2) I am aware that substantial residential development is to take place in the Loganlea district and sites for additional schools are currently under investigation. My department has tentatively planned to provide a new primary school in 1977, another within the next four years and a third at a later date.

(3) Present plans envisage establishment of new primary schools as follows:—(a) Caloundra, 1977; (b) Mackay North, 1977. These plans are necessarily tentative and will be influenced by future developments in the areas. No definite planning provision has yet been made for the establishment of new primary schools at Kepnock, Beenleigh, or Broadbeach.

41. BANNING OF CHILDREN FROM FRONT SEAT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

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

(1) Is he planning an amendment to the Traffic Act to ban children under 12 years of age from travelling in the front seat of a motor vehicle?

(2) If so, how is it proposed that this law will be policed and what will be the position where vehicles contain no rear seats, e.g., utilities, vans, etc.?

(3) If not, has such a proposal been investigated as to its feasibility in Queensland?

Answers:—

(1) No.

(2 and 3) See answer to (1).

42. LITHOGRAPHIC PRINTING EQUIPMENT IN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Mr. Marginson for **Mr. Jones**, pursuant to notice, asked the Premier—

(1) What is the type and size in each instance of lithographic printing equipment installed by all Government departments, i.e., printing machinery, multilith, Gestilith, A.B. desk or small off-set equipment and also larger equipment, e.g., Harris Roland, etc.?

(2) Will he also list (a) the type and size of lithographic cameras and lithographic plate-making equipment, (b) the size of printing guillotine machines and (c) the type and size of any ancillary printing equipment, e.g., stitching and drilling machines used in the finishing section of printing?

(3) What is the classification of employees in each instance operating this type of equipment in relevant Government departments?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) A fully detailed list of the various types and sizes of the machines and equipment throughout the Public Service is not readily available, and the time and expense of collating the information sought is not warranted. However, I would point out that the prior approval of the Department of the Public Service Board is required prior to equipment of the nature referred to being purchased.

(3) The operators of the equipment in departments are generally either male or female general assistants and are employed under the relevant awards.

43. SALE OF FLAMMABLE NIGHTWEAR FOR CHILDREN

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

(1) How many firms have been convicted under section 93 of the Factories and Shops Act in relation to the sale of flammable nightwear for use by children?

(2) Has his attention been drawn to the article in the "Sunday Sun" of 23 May in which a reporter stated that not one of the five stores he visited stocked a range of nightwear which was labelled completely?

(3) What further action does his department intend to take to ensure that the sale of hazardous and dangerous clothing is discontinued?

Answers:—

(1) Nil. All States by agreement promulgated regulations to apply from 1 January 1974, but allowed 12 months' grace for the clearance of stocks existing as at that date.

(2) I read a statement on this matter which appeared in the "Sunday Sun" of 25 May 1975.

(3) Since 1 January 1975 periodic inspections of retail stores on a snap inspection basis have been made from time to time by inspectors of factories and shops. The latest stores visited were certain large chain stores and the items of children's nightwear inspected were branded in accordance with the Factories and Shops Act (both general labelling and labelling in connection with flammability) with certain exceptions. The exceptions were certain children's nightwear manufactured in Britain and China. The U.K. garment contained the requirements of flammability labelling but did not specify the fibres contained in the garment. The Chinese garment carried no markings at all. I have said publicly, and I again stress, that the sole weakness in the effectiveness of this

legislation up to now has been the reluctance of the Commonwealth Government to amend its import regulations to coincide with the requirements of all States on this matter, and which are in conformity with the criteria laid down by the Standards Association of Australia, despite representations made to the Minister for Customs by my New South Wales colleague on behalf of all States on 17 July 1973. After more than two years, the Commonwealth eventually issued corresponding regulations on 26 August 1975. As is obvious, absence of co-operation by the Commonwealth Government for two years enabled children's flammable nightwear to be imported and the onus placed—at their own expense—on the Australian wholesaler and retailer to conform to State regulation requirements. This is a shocking indictment of Commonwealth Government inaction and total lack of concern for the safety of Australian children.

44. IODINE CONTENT IN MILK

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

(1) Is he aware that the Australian Consumers Association in its national magazine "Choice" has suggested that a daily intake of iodine above 1,000 micrograms should be avoided and that a sample of milk which the association tested in Queensland returned a reading of 1,150 micrograms per litre?

(2) As it has been reported that dairy industry authorities in New South Wales have issued warnings to over 4,000 dairy farmers concerning the iodine content in milk, what action has his department or any other department taken to ensure that there is no danger to the health of Queenslanders and to protect the livelihood of those who make their living in the dairy industry?

Answers:—

(1) Milk supplies throughout Queensland, both raw and pasteurised, are extensively examined for chemical and bacteriological quality by my department. Analyses for iodine levels form part of the monitoring programme for residue contamination to detect careless use by producers and processors of approved chemicals. No instances of levels in excess of 1,000 micrograms per litre have been detected in departmental analyses.

(2) I have no knowledge of instances where levels in Queensland have caused medical problems among consumers. The subject of maximum levels is presently under consideration by the National Health and Medical Research Council and further action will be related to its recommendations.

45. CONTROL OF SURF BOARDS

Mr. Marginson for **Mr. Yewdale**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Community and Welfare Services and Minister for Sport—

(1) Does he have any plans to legislate against the use of leg ropes by surf-board riders?

(2) Is he planning to require the registration of surf boards?

(3) Will he inquire into the feasibility of requiring surf-board riders to take out third-party insurance?

Answers:—

(1) No.

(2) No.

(3) This is a matter for the individual concerned.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

SCHOOL MANAGERS OF FURNITURE AND FABRIC

Mr. BYRNE (Belmont) (12.1 p.m.): I rise in this debate to speak on the matter of educational institutions and their place in the community. For the last decade and more there have been vast educational improvements within Queensland. However, there has also been a changing emphasis within those educational institutions. One of the trends reflects an intention and a desire on behalf of organisations, groups and individuals within the community to play a much larger role in the use of educational institutions.

Further, almost weekly—certainly monthly—we read how various educational institutions (State primary schools, State high schools and others) are the subject of vandalism and arson. It is unfortunate indeed that it is not practical for the Government to be able to maintain an insurance policy over its buildings, because the destruction of these buildings is a basic loss that must be borne by the Government—a basic loss that must be borne by the taxpayer.

That prompts me to advocate the importance of trying to tie these elements together in an attempt to move towards overcoming the problem of vandalism and the problem of having school buildings destroyed, perhaps in the middle of a school year, causing great turmoil and confusion in the educational procedures of the school so affected.

In addition, as people become more community minded it is important that they have the use of the available Government utilities and public halls. Daily we see that those people seek grants and subsidies from the Government to enable them to construct public buildings. That results in strained resources. The amount of capital available from Governments to be spread across the provision of these public services is not as great as might be desired.

Tied in with this is the situation that there is an increased element of criminal delinquency and vandalism within the community. Because of the very rapid changes in our community, the increases in population and the cost of surveillance, it is difficult to provide suitable police protection and increase respect for policemen within the community.

So far I have raised three areas for consideration—vandalism within schools and the disruption it causes, the interest of community groups and their desire to have public facilities available to them, and the capacity of the services of the Police Force to be more widespread through the community so that the policeman can adopt the role of community officer.

A proposal that I submit as one that may be workable is for what I term a manager of furniture and fabric. The appointment of such a person to our high schools—and later, if it proved successful, to primary schools—would achieve an enormous decrease in the burden that presently rests on the shoulders of headmasters and also upon people volunteering from parents and citizens' committees. The base of this concept is that presently school headmasters find themselves very heavily burdened in trying to sort out the uses of school buildings both inside school hours and outside them, because groups in increasing numbers are desirous of using those facilities.

Further to that, as our high schools grow in size and service, there is increasing need for maintenance; there is increasing need for turnover of amenities and facilities; and this places further burdens upon the headmaster, whose basic concern in the community should be the education of the students rather than the furniture and fabric of the buildings.

Indeed, the proposal to appoint a manager of furniture and fabric would perhaps create some problems of demarcation in responsibilities between the headmaster and the manager. However, in view of the combined advantages of the possibility of this being a service for the community (as I will further elaborate) and of its bringing about the safer running of schools, I believe that these difficulties could be overcome.

It would not be difficult for a manager of furniture and fabric to be resident on the school site in a house provided for that purpose. Thereby he would also be in effect a caretaker for the school. Surely this would be one means at least of hindering some of the vandalism—and some of the loss that occurs through fire and other damage at schools. In other words, this manager of furniture and fabric would become responsible for the co-ordination of the school and community use of the buildings.

Indeed, related to the need for the spread of the Police Force within the community, that person could be a police officer. This proposal would take him very much closer to the people. It would enable people in the community and children in the school

to have a far greater respect for the policeman in the community. Perhaps we would see a lowering of the level of juvenile crime, which is increasing daily and is partly expressed in the destruction of school buildings.

Many advantages rest in this concept. It enables the fullest community use of public buildings. It avoids the need for extra capital expenditure on other public buildings for community groups, for they would be able to use the same buildings. Of course, the use of the buildings would be determined by the manager of furniture and fabric and co-ordinated by him so that they are not used only from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. for three terms or two semesters a year. Instead they would give a year-round, 18-hour a day service to the community for educational purposes not only for our children but also for the adult community and general community interests.

Further to that, just as parents and citizens' associations assist in maintenance and in improvements required in schools, so also could community groups who desire to use these buildings, endeavour to improve their internal and external appearance. In other words, they may wish to carpet floors, provide curtains and improve the gardens around the schools so that they would look less like sterile buildings and institutions and be more homely and habitable. They might work to make them attractive just as they work on their own homes and gardens.

The possible uses for these public buildings are multifarious and include use by sporting groups, library groups, literary societies, adult education (in a much broader sense than at present), youth groups, women's committees, Lions clubs, Rotary and Jaycees (in developing areas where they are unable to find venues), garden clubs, theatrical and film groups and various hobby clubs. Many groups within our community today do not have the capacity to furnish themselves with the buildings and venues needed to develop community interests. It is therefore doubly beneficial to add to the endeavour to overcome some of the vandalism that exists, the encouragement of community participation within the schools and also within the local areas.

Mr. Bird: That is what I am encouraging at present.

Mr. BYRNE: I appreciate that, but I point out that the encouragement at present being given would be very much increased if there were a greater understanding that the use of school buildings was not a matter for determination solely by the school authorities. I think that school buildings should be regarded as community institutions to be used from 9 a.m. till 3 p.m. for five days of the week for perhaps two-thirds of the year for school purposes, and for other community uses for the rest of the time. At present we seem to have our priorities wrong in the modern

sense of development. The concept that I put forward is that of school buildings becoming community-oriented places rather than schools only.

(Time expired.)

POLICE DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION

Mr. MELLOY (Nudgee) (12.11 p.m.): I wish to deal with certain matters relating to the existence of law and order in Queensland at the present time. Queenslanders are dismayed at the failure of the Government to lay a charge in the watch-house king-hit case. From reports the police, after at least two investigations, cannot discover a suspect, and the Crown Law Office is unable to frame a charge.

This offence against Raymond Scott Rankmore occurred in the city watch-house on 16 January 1974, some 20 months ago. On 8 August of this year, the Full Court of Queensland declared that Raymond Scott Rankmore had been king-hit. Mr. Justice Wanstall described it as a cowardly king-hit by an officious policeman. Mr. Justice Williams said—

"The unlawful assault on the applicant at the watch-house, as so found by the magistrate on an abundance of evidence, deserves not only mention but censure."

He continued—

"One may confidently expect that in relation to such conduct the Commissioner of Police has already fully investigated the matter and, hopefully, detected the offender, adequately dealt with him, or had him dealt with."

The high judicial hopes of the Full Court of Queensland have been dispelled by the Police Department and the Crown Law Office. We are now asked to believe that the entire resources of law and order are unable to even unearth a suspect in the middle of the Police Department's own watch-house. If the Police Department cannot solve an open-and-shut crime committed under the noses of their own policemen, I ask what chance have they of solving major murders, house-breakings, and T.A.B. hold-ups in the streets? It is a gigantic hush-up, and the Minister for Police and the Acting Minister for Justice know it.

If, on 16 January 1974, the assaulted defendant—

Mr. HODGES: I rise to a point of order. I should like the honourable member to withdraw the statement that he has just made. There is no such thing as a hush-up. The matter has been investigated completely.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Miller): Order! The Minister has taken exception to a statement made by the honourable member for Nudgee.

Mr. MELLOY: I am casting no reflection on the Minister himself, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I was describing the activities of the department.

Mr. HODGES: The honourable member said that I knew that it was a hush-up. I want him to withdraw that statement.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I ask the honourable member to accept the Minister's statement.

Mr. MELLOY: In deference to your ruling, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I withdraw the statement.

A policeman, in full sight of his fellow policeman, biffs Scott Rankmore and we are told, 20 months later, and after the disgust expressed by two Supreme Court judges and two or more inquiries, that insufficient evidence exists for a prosecution. It is little wonder that law-abiding Queenslanders demand an open judicial inquiry into the Queensland Police Force, and that decent policemen and barristers seek the same inquiry.

The two Scotland Yard investigators who are in our midst today probing graft and corruption must be bewildered. They were told first to inquire into graft and corruption on a broad scale: then it was simply the Southport S.P. case; and now, according to the latest gossip, their search for evidence is going back 10 years. No wonder they are returning to London to compile their report! If they stayed here much longer, with the changing attitudes of the present Minister for Police, they would find themselves researching the activities of Ben Hall and Captain Starlight.

Everyone in Queensland knows the Government is stalling. Everyone knows it is afraid of an open inquiry, and playing for time to cover up and avoid embarrassment. To use a term, the Government and its Police Minister are trying to "cool it". I challenge the Minister now to appoint a Supreme Court judge to conduct the inquiry, and announce when it will begin. I challenge him to cease hiding behind the excuse of legal appeals and other fabricated diversions. I challenge him to say when this Scotland Yard inquiry will be completed, what ground it has finally covered, when we can expect the report from London and how much of its contents will be made public. The Police Union wants the dismissal of the Minister for Police. Criminal Investigation Branch detectives are appalled at the Police Commissioner. Policemen are subject to scrutiny from spies within their own ranks. The police administration, at ministerial and commissioner level, is disowned by the people they pretend to administer. There is case after case of alleged bribes, tarnished evidence, invalid warrants, brutality, and now unlawful breathalyser prosecutions.

While the Government delays, the evidence mounts. We have just had, as I mentioned earlier, the see-saw or tug-of-war between

the Police Department and the Crown Law Office over the watch-house king-hit episode. The result was "no contest". In the boxing game all bets would be off. In the Queensland Police Force, where the whitewash is expected in advance, there were no bets on. I ask the Minister to explain to this House how it is conceivable that it is impossible to lay a charge for the offence endorsed by the Full Court—an offence committed when policemen were present. How can the same people charge others when they have found the evidence in this instance to be deficient?

In the face of riots at Boggo Road on Monday, the Minister for Community and Welfare Services declared that if gaol inmates wanted better food, they should commit their next crime in the South. Perhaps they felt that it was safer, in the present circumstances surrounding the Police Force, to take a chance in Queensland, enjoy the best restaurants and endure the faint risk of apprehension. There are unanswered cases from one end of Queensland to the other. We have a Police Minister who has given an untold number of differing versions in the space of a few months. The inquiry that was announced has now vanished into the limbo. No-one wants a witch-hunt; no-one wants convenient scapegoats. We want the truth; we want action. Queenslanders generally want the answers to their fears.

EFFECT ON RURAL AREAS OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT POLICIES

Mr. TURNER (Warrego) (12.19 p.m.): In rising to speak in the debate on matters of public interest, I would like to direct the attention of this Chamber to what I consider to be the desperate plight of rural areas in Queensland today. Our beef and wool industries are in a crisis situation, a virtual depression, and this has adversely affected businesses and employment in these areas. The R.E.D. scheme implemented by the Federal Labor Party had a lot of flaws, but it did give employment to a lot of people and I am sorry to see that the Federal Government is phasing it out. This, too, will also have an adverse effect.

Education is a further problem for those in rural areas. From the front page article of this morning's "Courier-Mail" we learn that one of the top private boarding schools in Brisbane will be closing at the end of the year. One of the major reasons given for its closure is that the rural economic decline has been felt greatly at the school. About half the boarders are from country areas. Not all of the children come from grazing properties and the like; many workers' children have no opportunity to get an education other than at boarding school.

We cannot blame the Federal Government for everything that happens, but it must shoulder its share of responsibility for some of the events following the 1972 Federal election. The Federal Government removed the fuel subsidy in country areas;

it cut back on the education allowance; it abandoned the free-milk scheme; it removed the superphosphate bounty; it cut back on air services; it removed tax deductions for depreciation of plant improvements; it revalued the dollar. All of these things have an adverse effect. The recent Federal Budget imposed savage increases in postal and telephone charges; it increased taxes both direct and indirect; it took a great rip-off from the rural industries, with resultant loss of job opportunities. In addition there have been cut-backs in money allocated for roads, housing and various works. The cut in aid to rural and primary industries from \$780,000,000 last year to \$472,000,000 this year affects and afflicts everyone in my area.

Three years ago we lived in a rich, stable, prosperous nation with a high standard of living. We enjoyed full employment, low interest rates and low inflation. That was all brought about by stable, sound, secure, sensible Liberal-Country Party Government over 23 years. In contrast, let us look at what has happened under the socialistic policies of the Australian Labor Party in the last three years.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. TURNER: I haven't the time for interjections. If members of the Opposition care to listen, they will probably learn just what I think of the Australian Labor Party and its policies and philosophies.

Let us consider inflation and unemployment. The figures I shall quote first are not my own but those given in a recent Press statement by the Minister for Industrial Development, Labor Relations and Consumer Affairs. The number of unemployed in August 1973 was 7,998, whereas in August this year the number was 39,070, approximately five times more in two years. The next figures I refer to came from Senator J. McClelland. The "Sunday Telegraph" of 14 September—just a few days ago—reported that Senator J. McClelland, the Federal Minister for Labor, anticipated that if things continued in the same vein we will have 1,000,000 unemployed in Australia and an inflation rate of 35 per cent. He said that if things do not improve there will definitely be 400,000 Australians out of work by Christmas. That is the record of the Australian Labor Party!

As to defence—we have been told by the Federal A.L.P. that we will have no threat to Australia in the next 15 years. That statement was attributed to the A.L.P. recently. I say that we have probably never been under greater threat in peacetime than we are at the present moment. We have to consider the recent situation in South-East Asia, the war in Timor and the independence of Papua New Guinea. We do not know which way that nation may go. We are doing nothing to prepare for what might

happen in Papua New Guinea. Japan and Russia are taking a great interest in Papua New Guinea.

Just recently the Federal Government has given too little too late as an incentive for oil exploration. Anyone on the street could have forecast years ago that by not exploring for oil in this country we were leaving our neck on the chopping block, because by the 1980's we will be almost totally reliant on the Arab countries, and we could have our source of oil and petrol cut off at a moment's notice. But what did the Australian Labor Party Government do? Did it search for oil? No. It let all that machinery and expertise leave the country. Now it says it wants us to search for oil. I question the motives of a Government that has practically wiped out exploration for oil.

Mr. Aikens: The only oil they are interested in is the oil they get on the racecourse.

Mr. TURNER: You can say that again!

The A.L.P. is pledged to work for the socialisation of all industry, production, distribution and exchange. Recently Senator Wheeldon was reported as saying that the Labor Party will not be able to achieve what he terms true social justice in Australia until it has complete control of all industry, production, distribution and exchange. Socialisation has always been a plank in the Labor Party's platform. In spite of the fact that at one time it lost an election on its policy of nationalisation of banks, it is now attempting to nationalise the insurance industry as it has done with health services by creating Medibank. All of us know what the Labor Party has done to Queensland.

The Federal Labor Government has attacked the Queensland Premier for Bible-bashing. Such criticism has come from the greatest industry-bashing Government that has been in power in the Federal sphere. Contrary to the Prime Minister's recent claim that our rural industries have "never had it so good", nearly all of them have never had it so bad. On top of this Mr. Connor has launched an attack against the mining companies.

I do not subscribe to the theory that the nation's present economic crisis is due to the Labor Party's mismanagement or to the fact that it has been either misguided or misinformed. I contend it is the direct result of a deliberate attempt by the socialists to undermine the society in which we live. The threat to this nation of Communism and socialism should be a matter of grave concern to every sane-thinking person in Australia.

I remind honourable members of the recent attempt by Dr. Cass to institute a Press council to control the media and the newspapers. I venture to suggest that some people would give him top marks for being the first to think of this. I am afraid, however, that he is entitled only to second-top marks. He has come second to another

doctor, one who preceded him a long time ago and who was also a Minister for the media—Dr. Goebbels.

Change has been advocated by extremists in the ranks of the Australian Labor Party, the Women's Electoral Lobby and the women's liberationists. They call for less censorship, more pornography, more permissiveness, licensed incest, marriage between homosexuals, and so on. If they are successful in their endeavours, the result will be the total breakdown of our society and our way of life. Again I would question the motives of any political party that pushes that line of thought.

The socialists as well as some foul-mouthed atheists in our society urge that we disown our heritage by cutting our ties with England, that we tear down our flag and abolish our national anthem. I ask: why should we do those things? I have no argument against the claim that Australia should have its own national song played at sporting events and at the Olympic Games. But why do away with the national anthem? Perhaps this is being urged because the national anthem contains reference to God, to the Queen and to our history and heritage. We as a nation would no more show our independence and maturity by tearing down our flag, abolishing our national anthem and disowning our heritage than would a young adult show his independence and maturity by changing his name, tearing up his birth certificate and disowning his parents. I conclude by saying that we are fighting a battle to preserve our Christian, democratic way of life.

(Time expired.)

QUEENSLAND COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEAL

Mr. AIKENS (Townsville South) (12.29 p.m.): There is an old saying that constant dripping wears away the stone, and I intend to continue in this debate the dripping that I have been doing for some time. I appeal to the new members in this Chamber—not to their heads (if there is anything in them) but to their hearts, their conscience and their sense of decency—to take note of what I say.

Quite recently a 19-year-old man went into the home of a frail old lady aged 68 years living in North Queensland. She could have been the mother of any one of us or someone who was otherwise very dear and near to us. Upon entering her home he bashed and battered her until she was covered from head to foot with bruises and weals; he then put a pillow over her face and, while trying to smother her, raped her.

He was brought before the Northern Supreme Court presided over by Mr. Justice Kneipp and sentenced to a miserable six years in gaol. The Crown, through the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General (Mr. Knox), appealed to the Court of Criminal Appeal, which was presided over by the Chief Justice,

Sir Mostyn Hanger. I protest on behalf of all the decent people of North Queensland—and the majority of North Queenslanders are decent—against the implied gratuitous insult that was offered to them by Mr. Justice Hanger and his two fellow judges. In dismissing the appeal by the Attorney-General, they said, "We think that the sentence is a bit light, but in view of the fact that the trial judge, Mr. Justice Kneipp, knows the conditions in the area, we do not propose to interfere with the sentence he imposed."

Mr. Frawley: The offender should have been hanged.

Mr. AIKENS: Hanging was too good for him, but I shall not digress on that point.

Sir Mostyn Hanger said, in effect, that he and the other two members of the judiciary who constituted the Court of Criminal Appeal thought that the people of North Queensland regarded rape—particularly an atrocious case of rape such as that—much more lightly than would people in, say Central Queensland or South Queensland. That was a monstrous state of affairs. As I said, the old lady could have been the mother of any one of us or someone very near and dear to us.

When a case goes to the Court of Criminal Appeal, three judges are appointed to hear it. Supreme Court judges take their turn as members on the Court of Criminal Appeal, and there are a few little perks and perquisites attached to it. Of the three judges who are appointed—whether or not the Chief Justice is one is immaterial—precedent and custom require only one to look into the facts of the case and examine all of the evidence, the documents, the transcripts, and so on. That judge then makes a recommendation, describing in his own words what happened, and usually the other two judges concur with his recommendation. Very rarely is there disagreement among them; they either decide unanimously to uphold an appeal or to dismiss it. Having three judges on the Court of Criminal Appeal is simply a lot of nonsense, malarkey or flim-flam that has been inherited from Great Britain. It is about time Queenslanders and Australians decided to have a judicial system of their own.

Mr. Jensen: Are you supporting the Whitlam Government?

Mr. AIKENS: The honourable member should not introduce the Whitlam Government. This question relates to the Criminal Code, the Queensland courts, the Queensland legal system and the Queensland judiciary. The honourable member should not try to pass the buck to the Whitlam Government. The responsibility lies right here on the shoulders of every member of this Parliament.

In the days of the British Empire, which, of course, has now disintegrated, one of the greatest causes of discontent among the people who have now become nations was the British legal system. They realised that

under that system, which is still in use in Queensland, there is no justice; there is only law. That law is determined by the lawyers, who arrange the court procedures, lay down precedents and customs and, of course, arrange all the verdicts and everything else. So there is one law for the rich and another for the poor; no-one can deny that. The person who can afford to employ the best barrister has the best chance of winning his case. The poor fellow, the battler who cannot afford the best barrister and who perhaps has to take legal advice from the Crown—I am not being critical of the young fellows employed by the Crown—has not a bolter's chance of winning. He simply cannot afford to employ a smooth-tongued, plausible, glib liar.

Other countries have decided to break away from the British judicial system. New members of this Assembly should interest themselves in this matter if they really care about doing a job for their constituents. It is all very well for a do-gooder to say that criminals—very often rapists—are not really criminals but sick people who should go not to gaol but to hospital, to be treated by soft-voiced doctors and soft-handed nurses. We know there are a lot of do-gooders in the community and that they have an enormous influence on members of Parliament. We know, too, that those do-gooders forget all about the sickness of a criminal when a member of their own family has been attacked, violated and perhaps murdered. So let us, for goodness' sake, stand up for what we think is right for the people who sent us into this Parliament; let us try to have the Criminal Code amended.

I have suggested, as a start, that the Court of Criminal Appeal be constituted of only one lawyer—he could be a barrister or a judge; I do not care what he is—and two prominent, reputable laymen who will be interested only in the facts of the case and interested only in the truth, and that those three men between them reach the Court of Criminal Appeal's verdict by a majority decision. While we leave it to the barristers, while we leave it to the judges on the Bench (they were barristers, of course), they will indulge in mutual back-scratching and say—"Well, I was on the Court of Criminal Appeal and I upheld your action and your verdict, so now that you are on the Court of Criminal Appeal this week you pay me a quid pro quo. You scratch my back as I scratched yours." That is the sort of thing that goes on and it cannot be denied. Whether they do it wittingly or unwittingly, it is a fact that the decisions of the court of Criminal Appeal are merely manifestations of mutual back-scratching.

Other countries that threw out the judicial system as practised by Great Britain and this country have replaced it by chasing the barristers out of the court altogether.

There is no such thing as legal representation in those countries overseas that were once members of the British Empire. There is no such thing as legal representation on the floor of the court in countries like West Germany. They have six, seven or nine men on the Bench, some of whom are versed in law. Most of them are not, being there only in the interests of justice and truth. No barrister on the floor of the court cross-examines a witness. No barrister calls a witness. The court itself calls all the witnesses and the court itself examines all the witnesses. Members of the court are free to examine all the witnesses, and it is not their intention in examining those witnesses to introduce little technicalities, flimsy points of law and special pleadings, such as we had the other day in the breathalyser decision. Anyone who wants to see flimsy legal technicalities in all their putridity should look at that ruling. The members in the courts I speak of are interested only in finding what is the truth, who is guilty and how much punishment should be imposed. What a wonderful position that is when contrasted with what has happened in our own Court of Criminal Appeal.

I can remember the case—I think Stable was on this case—where a young 19-year-old lout named Donahue bashed and raped an unfortunate frail old lady, 68 years of age. Stable was one of those who threw out the appeal by the Minister for Justice. Stable is the same judge who was on the Court of Criminal Appeal which ruled that if an old man—or for that matter, a young man—has a criminal record or a Magistrates Court record, any group of thugs can bash and rob him with impunity. That was a monstrous decision. It still stands.

It was the same Stable who, with Mack and Wanstall, when called upon to determine whether a sentence of five years' gaol for manslaughter by motor-car—not dangerous driving causing death—was sufficient, did not go into the facts of the case. By what we call British justice, a judge, before he imposes a sentence, is supposed to consider three things—firstly, the maximum penalty allowed by law, secondly, the prevalence of the crime and, thirdly, the circumstances of the case. Here was a case in Townsville where a drunken driver ran over two young boys and killed them. He would not have stopped except that he dragged the bicycle underneath his vehicle.

(Time expired.)

OVER-SUPPLY OF TEACHERS

Mr. WRIGHT (Rockhampton) (12.40 p.m.): For some time there has been growing concern among parents and teachers and also, I believe, students at this Government's policy of bringing teachers from overseas countries to meet staff shortages in Queensland schools. At first this move was generally welcomed because we did have a serious crisis in that we had huge pupil populations and very few

teachers to meet the demand. While we realise that something had to be done, as the teaching shortage was critical and the State was unable at that time to meet the demand for teachers locally, I believe that the Government's policy has now rebounded.

In the past three years, according to statistics given to me in the House by the Minister, we have imported 1,512 teachers from countries such as the U.S.A. and Canada. He advised me that 1,265 of those teachers are still employed. I suggest that very shortly—in three or four months' time—we will have an over-supply of teachers.

The honourable member for Bulimba endeavoured to get this information from the Minister by way of a question in this House. He referred to a special document that included a statement from the Mt. Gravatt-Griffith University Co-ordinating Committee. Honourable members will remember that at that time the Minister denied that such a statement had been made. However, I came back to this issue. Previously I had given the Minister a copy of the statement because I felt that he might have been misled. He still endeavoured to defuse the issue.

But from reading between the lines it is fairly obvious that we will have a serious over-supply especially for those teacher graduates who have specialised in such subjects as English, history, biology, economics and social science. We will not have to wait till 1978 or 1979; it will happen in 1976 and these graduates will not be able to get jobs. Only a few years ago it was said that before long the same over-supply of teachers as in Canada and the U.S.A. would exist in Queensland. I believe that the State Government, and especially the Department of Education, has not planned for this expected situation. I contend that there is very clear evidence that the crisis will soon be upon us.

Again in answer to a question, the Minister admitted that we will have an excess of teachers. I suggested in this Chamber that we start employing more teachers in in-service training courses. At least the Minister said he would give some consideration to that suggestion. Let us consider the cost and the waste of money and talent in the situation that will arise.

Criticism was levelled also at this Government's policy of appointing certain of these imported teachers to prime areas. A couple of instances have been given to me where Queensland teachers have been transferred from provincial cities and replaced by imported teachers; but from some of the evidence given to me by the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities, it would seem that this criticism may be unfair. However, it is still believed in the minds of the public. There is this feeling against imported teachers, the more so now that evidence is available that most of the imported teachers had never had practical teaching experience.

This morning I asked the Minister question No. 38 on the Business Paper as to how many of these teachers had had practical classroom

experience. His educational advisers and he knew that I meant experience in front of a class for a period—that they had accepted classroom responsibilities. But what did the Minister say? He said that they had undertaken practical teaching courses. Every teacher-trainee undertakes a practical teaching course.

In America, many of these practical teaching courses have nothing to do with classrooms; sometimes they are conducted in a social-welfare environment and the teachers are involved there in communicating ideas. Admittedly this is teaching but it is not the classroom situation I was referring to. There is real concern among parents and students that these teachers are not really trained and are not really capable of meeting Queensland's education needs.

Mr. Lindsay: That is a sweeping statement.

Mr. WRIGHT: It may be, but I intend to make a few further comments on this matter.

It is quite obvious from what the Minister has said that these teachers have not had practical teaching training. We know that in Queensland this differs greatly from the situation in the U.S.A.

Mr. Lindsay: We do not need the North American culture they bring with them either. We get enough of that on television.

Mr. WRIGHT: Let us be a little careful. I think we have gained from some of the interchanges of ideas, techniques and approaches to education. As the honourable member for Murrumba is well aware, I was at Caboolture recently, where I saw at first hand the benefits that certain students there had gained from an American teacher and a Canadian teacher who introduced a special programme in consumer protection. I know that this is happening in some Queensland schools as the result of the interest taken by Queensland teachers.

Credit must be given to these Canadian and American teachers for the initiative that they have shown in coming halfway round the world to gain practical experience, but in many instances I question their motives. I have been told by Queensland Teachers' Union delegates that many overseas teachers come to this country only to gain practical experience to enable them to obtain positions when they return to Canada and the United States. When they left those countries, they could not gain employment there. I readily admit that we have gained in other ways from their coming to Queensland. The teacher shortage has been overcome, and there has been a new approach to teaching.

Mr. Doumany: You don't believe in free trade?

Mr. WRIGHT: Of course I believe in free trade. That is the sort of interjection that one just cannot understand.

Mr. Lindsay: What about bringing in some teachers from Asia? What worries me is that we seem to be concentrating on North America.

Mr. WRIGHT: There is probably merit in the suggestion to include Asian teachers as a means of interchanging ideas, but that would create an even greater over-supply. That is what concerns me. I think that something should be done about it because it will confront us next year, not in 1978. I do not think that the Government, especially the Education Department, is sufficiently cognizant of it. The Minister is being misled by his own departmental officers. I asked questions about the staffing of the Camp Hill school, and the answers given to me do not accord with the facts. Other information that has been given to the Minister, such as the practical teaching experience of overseas teachers, is not correct either.

The Minister should take another look at his role. I accept that he is trying to do a darn good job, and he is trying to bring a new approach to education—I give him a few bouquets—but he would do well to shake off the advisers who are covering up and whitewashing the present teacher employment situation in this State. I believe that they will continue to cover up because their policies are wrong. They are the ones who have done the planning in the last two years, not the Minister. It is not the Minister who is at fault here; it is the planning of the department over the years since 1972.

The Minister should order an in-depth inquiry to find out exactly what is going on and to ascertain the number of teachers who will be unemployed. Will the State be able to employ the English and social science teachers who will be graduating very shortly? Will there be unemployed primary school teachers? If so, let some action be taken now. Let there be an increase in the number of in-service training courses, and let something be done about encouraging surplus teachers to specialise. Let us encourage some to specialise in helping the handicapped. Let us encourage others to specialise in recreation needs, because this is the coming thing. Certainly a new approach is needed. Let us look at the idea of matriculation high schools. Let us experiment a little. Let us try to get teachers to specialise in catering for the brilliant student. For centuries he has been overlooked.

Let us use surplus teachers to the very best advantage. I do not believe that this is being done, and I think that many graduates from the colleges of advanced education and the universities should be very, very worried about their employment prospects. The Minister has a responsibility to do something about this situation immediately. I suggest that he forget about what he is being told by his department and find out for himself the number of teachers who will be graduating and the staffing needs in

various areas. He should then decide what he can do about implementing a policy that will use the available teachers. What is needed is virtually a new policy of usage, because it would be a shocking indictment of the Government to have in this State professionally trained teachers for whom there is no employment.

MAINTENANCE OF BALANCE BETWEEN CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCES

Mr. ROW (Hinchinbrook) (12.49 p.m.): I enter the debate today to raise a matter that has considerably disturbed me in recent times. I refer to the increasing role of the so-called ecologists and conservationists who tend to become pressure groups in the community. I think honourable members will agree that it has never been my policy to oppose properly controlled and directed conservation, or consideration of environmental matters. In fact, I have always supported legislation directed to the establishment of national parks, recreation reserves and other areas that are of great importance for the future of this State, but I must take issue with certain elements which are emerging in our community and making things difficult for people who are trying to preserve a balance between development, both social and commercial, and the quality of life which we appreciate so much in this free and democratic country.

I was rather disturbed to hear a news item a few days ago in my area in which the president of a group of conservationists based, I understand, in the Townsville area publicly criticised a plan for the reforestation of a certain area of North Queensland. Admittedly the area referred to in the news item is in my electorate, and I may appear to be somewhat parochial in my representations on this matter, but this is not the case. The general aspects of this sort of criticism apply to the development of the whole of this State. This group suggested that before any proposed reforestation proceeded the project should be thoroughly investigated from an ecological point of view. I believe that this kind of misinformed and ill-advised statement is misleading to people who do not fully understand the implications of these things, especially to people who do not realise the long and tedious representations made by many members who preceded me in this House and, in fact, by many members of the Federal Parliament representing this State, all of whom have been endeavouring for so many years to protect the interests of the forest products industry in this State, especially in the North.

I am proud to say that the largest veneer factory in Australia is situated in my electorate. It would be one of the largest in the Southern Hemisphere, no doubt, and I regret to say that the activities of people with a political philosophy similar to that of some of these pressure groups have reduced the

viability of this industry and brought about retrenchments and unemployment because they have allowed unfair competition through imports of various products of doubtful quality and doubtful value generally. I feel that the influence exerted by these groups should be brought to public notice.

I have spent the whole of my life in one of the most beautiful rural areas in the tropical North and nobody can impress upon me the need to appreciate our environment. Having reared seven very healthy, virile and intelligent young Australians in that environment, I know its true value. I appreciate also the need for commercial and social development of that area, with due regard to its ecology. One of the greatest problems we face at this time in the development of this State is that our natural resources are diminishing. We are moving into marginal areas to develop agricultural land and this development calls for far greater expertise in management and investment.

Unless we step up the reforestation programme to the point where the restitution of our resources at least equals the demand, it is a natural consequence that the forest industry will diminish. I raise this point with the hope that I can bring to public notice my concern about the pressures and acts of ill-informed groups of people who, for some reason or other, have a grudge, and wish to take it out on the community, and they promulgate their efforts in any manner that will bring them to the notice of the public. Unfortunately, in doing so, they frequently interfere in matters that are very important to the public in general.

One way to overcome the problem is to have people better informed and better advised about the need for rational thinking. Not only in the instance to which I have referred, but on other occasions in recent times, I have seen a great deal of influence being exerted on the administrators of our laws by those with irrational thoughts on ecological matters. I have seen instances where normal commercial development, which is a natural thing involving the investment of private and Government capital in essential industries, has been jeopardised by pressure and a certain kind of academic approach to ecological matters, which is unnecessarily and excessively intensive in these times.

I hope that appropriate legislation can be introduced covering land development and the control of resources. I hope that the administration of such legislation will be completely effective. On this occasion I appeal to the media to be reasonable in their approach to conservation and ecology. The adoption of a reasonable and proper approach to all matters of conservation and ecology can result only in a proper balance, with peace, happiness and prosperity for the people of this State.

The House adjourned at 1 p.m.