

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 1975

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

PAPERS

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

Report of the Department of Sport for the year 1974-75.

The following paper was laid on the table:—

Regulation under the Mining Act 1968-1974.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

1. RESIDENTIAL COSTS, QUEENSLAND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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

(1) Is he aware of the concern expressed by students at the Queensland Agricultural College over the 28 per cent rise in the residential fee, which is regarded by them as excessive?

(2) What steps have been taken in relation to the request by the students' union for an independent inquiry into the residential costs of the college?

(3) If a committee has been appointed, when will its findings be made public?

(4) As the students indicate that a survey of 28 colleges of advanced education has shown that the agricultural college residential fee is the highest, has any investigation been undertaken to ascertain why food costs at an agricultural college located in one of the most productive areas of the State are higher than in comparable institutions without this advantage?

(5) Has an efficiency study been conducted into the food costs of the college dining hall and, if so, with what results?

(6) If no study has been made, what are the reasons?

Answers:—

(1) I am aware of a submission recently presented to the Council of the Queensland Agricultural College by the Students' Union and I have taken up the matter with the chairman of the college council and the local member the Honourable the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, to whom the students also made representations.

(2) The Council of the Queensland Agricultural College, which under the Education Act 1964-1974 is responsible for

the development, control and management of the affairs and activities of the college, gave full consideration to the submission from the Q.A.C. Union and resolved to appoint a committee to investigate ways and means whereby economies might be effected.

(3) I understand that an interim report of the committee will be presented to the Queensland Agricultural College Council at its meeting on 17 October. It is not possible to state at this time when the final report will be presented to council.

(4 to 6) In presenting figures arising from its survey of 28 out of some 80 colleges in Australia, the Q.A.C. Union is careful to point out that direct comparison of fees without taking into account services provided could be very misleading. The Q.A.C. residential fee is certainly not the highest charged in a tertiary residential college even within the State of Queensland itself. From time to time over the years, food costs have been the subject of careful examination in order to ensure that fees be kept as low as practicable. The honourable member may be assured that the committee investigating this matter will make a very careful and detailed investigation of this major part of residential college costs. For my part, I have every confidence in the Queensland Agricultural College Council as the body responsible for managing an institution which has built up an outstanding reputation particularly in the field of agricultural education.

2. BEEF EXPORTS TO JAPAN

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

(1) Is he aware of the statement by the Queensland Farmers and Graziers' Association president, Mr. T. J. Allen, that the collapse of beef exports to Japan was caused by the flagrant profiteering of Japanese beef importers?

(2) Is it true, as stated by Mr. Allen, that imported Australian beef produced at 45 to 50c per lb. was retailed in Japan at from \$3 to \$5 per lb., thus pricing it out of the reach of all but the wealthy?

(3) What action was taken by the Minister during his visit to Japan to overcome this problem?

Answers:—

(1) Yes.

(2) Significant mark-ups do occur in Japan on meat both locally produced and imported. Although this would have been a contributing factor to the drop in Japanese demand, general economic factors were the main cause. The major reason for the loss of the Japanese market to Australian exporters was political action on the part of the Japanese Government, which imposed an embargo on

imports to protect its domestic beef industry, which could not compete with the cheaper imports.

(3) On my recent visit to Japan I made strong representations to Japanese Government officials to have the embargo lifted and I pointed out to them the damage their actions were causing to Queensland beef producers. This action and other similar action by the Premier have had a significant influence on the lifting of the import embargo in June 1975.

3. THREAT BY DR. DENNIS ALTMAN
AGAINST MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

Dr. Scott-Young, pursuant to notice, asked the Premier—

With reference to a report in "The Townsville Daily Bulletin" of 20 September concerning an address to the James Cook University students by a self-proclaimed homosexual lecturer and propagandist for sexual licence, Dr. Dennis Altman of the Sydney University, who said that he would seek medical deregistration of a Townsville doctor because of his answers to a "gay" questionnaire submitted to him as a member of Parliament, as I am obviously that member, is the statement an attempt to intimidate a member to the extent that a clear breach of parliamentary privilege has been committed?

Answer:—

It is not within my authority to rule on a matter of privilege. If the honourable member feels he has been aggrieved in his Parliamentary capacity by the scurrilous and deplorable statements reported to have been made at the James Cook University, then, of course, he has the redress of raising the whole matter in the House as a question of privilege in the usual manner.

4. PISTOL LICENCES

Dr. Scott-Young, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Police—

(1) What are the reasons on which a police officer can refuse a pistol licence to a member of a registered pistol club?

(2) Is there a limit to the number of licensed pistols which a member of a pistol club can own?

Answers:—

(1) Section 4 (3) of the Firearms Acts gives an absolute discretion to the Inspector of Police at the Criminal Investigation Branch, Brisbane, to issue or refuse to issue a licence to an applicant for a licence for a concealable firearm. Section 4 (7A) of that Act provides that any applicant aggrieved by a refusal of the Inspector of Police, Criminal Investigation Branch, Brisbane, to issue a licence may appeal

from such refusal to the Minister, whose decision shall be final and binding without appeal.

(2) No.

5. DETERMINATION OF SUGAR-CANE MILL
PEAKS

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

As wet weather conditions in the sugar-growing areas, particularly those north of Mackay, have caused considerable delay in the preparation of land and the ploughing of newly assigned areas, will the Central Sugar Cane Prices Board make a final determination of new peaks in 1976, or will it delay such determination in the best interests of all Queensland sugar growers?

Answer:—

The matter of mill peaks for the 1976 season will be set down for hearing by the Central Sugar Cane Prices Board in early February next year. At this hearing the board will hear applications from all mills and mill suppliers' committees in Queensland and there will be ample opportunity for growers through their representative bodies to make submissions to the board. Following the hearings, the central board will make recommendations to me regarding mill peaks for the 1976 season for consideration by the Governor in Council. It would be improper for me to make any predictions on this subject.

6. PILOT STUDY OF ANTI-LITTER COURSES

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

(1) Has a pilot study been undertaken in certain schools in the Brisbane North Region of the Department of Education to determine anti-litter courses for inclusion in social studies, natural science and health syllabuses as part of the "Keep Australia Beautiful" programme?

(2) Has the study been completed and an evaluation made and, if so, what are the results and recommendations?

(3) If the study has not been completed, when will it be and what efforts are being made to speed it up?

Answers:—

(1) A pilot programme was to have been undertaken in Brisbane North Region during 1975. The programme was to have formed part of the programme in environmental studies. In all, 600 children from a number of schools were to have been involved. Preliminary in-service education of the teachers to be involved was carried out at the Wavell Education Centre.

(2) The programme was not commenced, because the printed materials to be used by Queensland children did not arrive by the promised delivery date. When the materials did come to hand, it was found that there were insufficient copies.

(3) Materials were subsequently ordered from the Western Australian Department of Education, which is now printing its own. These materials are in the hands of the Primary Science Syllabus Committee at present. The materials will not be placed in schools until the end of this year. A full year's work is involved and officers of the Education Department believe the programme should be commenced from the beginning of 1976.

7. FLASHING LIGHT WARNINGS ON PRIVATE ROAD CROSSINGS

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

(1) Is there any law, either under main roads or local government legislation, to compel the Railway Department, sugar companies or other private industries to install flashing lights on road crossings for trains or private trams?

(2) If not, is there any provision whereby such legislation can be amended by regulations or would the Acts have to be amended for the introduction of the legislation?

(3) Will he consider amending the Acts to prevent further loss of life or serious injuries at road and railway crossings?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) In terms of the provisions of the Local Government Act a local authority is empowered to make by-laws dealing with the conduct of light sugar cane tramways in, along, upon, across, under or over a road or bridge under its control, and many local authorities have done so. It is common for such by-laws to contain a provision that, when required by the particular local authority, the owner of the tramway shall erect and maintain in good order and condition at his sole expense wherever the tramway crosses the carriage-way of a road "flashing lights" in accordance with the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices for the time being in force pursuant to the Traffic Act. So far as main roads are concerned, where new crossings are made, the Main Roads Department negotiates for suitable safety measures before granting sugar companies and private industry a permit. The Railways and Main Roads Departments pay into a joint fund for flashing lights and boom gates at railway level crossings. These are improved on a priority basis at the rate of 3 or 4 per year. The Main Roads Department has also programmed six other

locations this year on the minor traffic engineering and road safety improvements programme. The combination of by-law control on local authority roads and, in the case of main roads, the joint upgrading fund and negotiation with private industry appears to be the best approach. The motorist must also be prepared to take proper care when approaching crossings of the type referred to by the honourable member.

8. ALLEGATIONS OF BASHING BY POLICE

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

(1) Were the three police officers, Constable 1/c A. Sgroi, Constable C. J. W. Stear and Constable P. J. Black, who bashed one of my constituents on 7 September 1973 and who were able to avoid any consequences, among the six policemen involved in the bashing of Mr. R. S. Rankmore at the City Watchhouse?

(2) Is he aware that the three policemen claimed my constituent's injuries were caused by his falling against a pedestal in a cell and that the watchhouse sergeant claimed that he fell down the steps?

Answers:—

(1) No.

(2) I have been advised by the Commissioner of Police that these injuries were sustained when he fell against a pedestal in a cell at the Brisbane City Watchhouse.

9. ACCIDENTS AT RAILWAY CROSSING, THABEBAN STREET, BUNDABERG

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

How many (a) accidents, (b) serious injuries and (c) fatalities have occurred at the railway crossing in Thabeban Street, Bundaberg?

Answer:—

(1) As the honourable member has not requested information for a particular period, I have supplied information for the 12-month period ended 30 June 1975. (a) One. This occurred on 29 May 1975. (b) Nil. (c) Nil. (The last fatal accident was in December 1973.)

10 and 11. SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

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

What steps have been taken by his department with regard to suggestions made by me for the more adequate marking of, and safety requirements for, school buses?

Answer:—

As indicated in the reply given to the honourable member in relation to his question on 6 March, the Traffic Advisory Committee constituted under the Traffic Act is examining this and related matters. As a result of the invitation to the public through the Press to contribute its views, a considerable number of suggestions as to safety requirements for school buses have been received. These are being analysed and when this is completed the committee will consider the whole matter and submit a report accordingly.

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

What steps have been taken by his department with regard to suggestions made by me for the more adequate marking of, and safety requirements for, school buses?

Answer:—

I refer the honourable member to the reply to a similar question addressed to my colleague the Honourable the Minister for Transport.

12. MARYBOROUGH STATE HIGH SCHOOL

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

(1) Is he aware that the original departmental estimate for enrolment for this year at the Maryborough State High School was 600 to 700 and that the present estimated enrolment for the commencement of 1976 is 880?

(2) As a number of students still use classrooms across Kent Street in the old Boys High School buildings because facilities are completely inadequate to handle present and anticipated enrolments, when will the three-storey building at present under construction be completed and what plans have been made to provide adequate facilities on the grounds so that all students may be housed on the one site instead of the unsatisfactory situation at present, which is causing serious problems to students and teachers?

Answers:—

(1) The original departmental estimate for 1975 for the Maryborough State High School of 735 students was some 84 students short of the actual enrolment. One factor which contributed to the shortfall was the high unemployment in the region which caused many students to continue at high school. The departmental prediction for 1976, based on the revised 1975 enrolments, is 850 students.

(2) It is expected that the commercial and homecraft building will be completed in July 1976. Progressive development will continue with a view to housing all students on the one campus.

13. POLYVINYL CHLORIDE CONTAINERS AND VINYL CHLORIDE MONOMER IN FOODS

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

(1) Is he aware of reports that, in the United States of America, restrictions have been placed on certain polyvinyl chloride plastic containers?

(2) Has the National Health and Medical Research Council considered new limits for vinyl chloride monomer in foods and, if so, what recommendations were made?

Answers:—

(1) I am advised that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has proposed a prohibition on the use of rigid and semi-rigid plastic vinyl chloride (P.V.C.) containers in the packaging of foods.

(2) I am informed that this subject is under review by the Public Health Advisory Committee of the National Health and Medical Research Council and will be considered at the October meeting of the council.

14. GLADSTONE AND GATTON POLICE DISTRICTS

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

(1) On what date was Gladstone created a police district under inspector control and what was the police strength immediately prior to that date?

(2) What is the present police strength of the district?

(3) Is it a fact that from present police strength numbers relief has to be given to 14 police stations, which was not previously the case?

(4) Have two officers from the present police strength been justifiably seconded to the inspector's office?

(5) What is the present police strength of the Gatton Police District and what are the numbers in their respective ranks?

Answers:—

(1) Gladstone Police District commenced operating on 1 December 1974 under an inspector of police. The strength of all stations which now constitute the Gladstone Police District was, prior to the formation of the district, 57.

(2) The present police strength of Gladstone Police District is 61.

(3) The necessity for relieving duty was taken into account in assessing staff requirements for this district.

(4) Staff provided for the Gladstone Police District included a clerical component of two police for the inspector's office as at present.

(5) The present police strength of Gatton Police District is 48 made up of:— Inspector, 1; Senior Sergeant, 1; Sergeant 1/c, 1; Sergeant 2/c, 15; and Constables, 30.

15. ACCIDENTS ON PETRIE-DAYBORO ROAD

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

(1) How many motor vehicle accidents which have occurred close to the Sideling Creek Bridge on the Petrie-Dayboro Road have been reported to the police in each of the last three years?

(2) How many of the accidents (a) involved loaded and unloaded gravel trucks and (b) resulted in personal injuries?

Answers:—

(1) 1 July 1972 to 30 June 1973, 4; 1 July 1973 to 1 July 1974, 4; and 1 July 1974 to 23 September 1975, 3.

(2) (a) Three involving gravel trucks. Information as to whether these vehicles were loaded or unloaded is not readily available. (b) 1 July 1972 to 30 June 1973, 2; 1 July 1973 to 1 July 1974, 1; and 1 July 1974 to 23 September 1975, 1.

16. MEANS TEST FOR DENTAL TREATMENT

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

(1) With regard to dental treatment in State dental hospitals and clinics, has the means test been altered as from 1 September and, if so, in what ways?

(2) Has the introduction of Medibank been a factor in the tightening of the means test and, if so, why was this necessary?

(3) What criteria are considered before deciding who is eligible for free or subsidised dental treatment?

Answers:—

(1) No.

(2) See Answer to (1).

(3) Factors which are taken into consideration in determining eligibility for treatment are patient's income and deductions on account of dependants, rent and certain other commitments. Eligibility may be established if the applicant is the holder of a pensioner's medical services entitlement card.

17. FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

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

(1) In view of Papua New Guinea's recent independence and the resultant loss of Australian supervision and control in the area, has consideration been given to the establishment of a quarantine station on an island nearest to Papua New Guinea?

(2) Is he aware of the sale of pigs from Papua New Guinea throughout the Torres Strait?

(3) When and where have outbreaks of foot and mouth disease occurred in Indonesia?

(4) Can foot and mouth disease be transmitted only from animal to animal in the tropics?

(5) Does he share my concern that the Australian pastoral industry is now more vulnerable to foot and mouth disease than at any previous stage in its history?

Answers:—

(1) The Government has every confidence in the Department of Agriculture, Stock and Fisheries in Papua New Guinea to monitor and control animal disease in their country. No consideration has been given to establishing a quarantine station on a Torres Strait island.

(2) This department has a stock inspector based on Thursday Island, and one of his duties is to prevent the illegal movement of animals. He has received no reports of pigs bred in Papua New Guinea being sold to the Torres Strait islands.

(3) A serious outbreak of foot and mouth disease was reported from Bali in 1973-74. A veterinary officer from my department was part of an Australian team which assisted in undertaking a comprehensive vaccination programme to help bring the outbreak under control. Although the disease is endemic in parts of Indonesia, it is not known to occur in West Irian.

(4) It is not true that foot and mouth disease can only be transmitted by animal contact in the tropics.

(5) Modern and rapid transportation systems have made the Australian pastoral industry more vulnerable than was the case many years ago.

18. AIR TRAINING CORPS

Mr. Row, pursuant to notice, asked the Premier—

In view of the possible disbandment of the Air Training Corps by the Commonwealth Government, what will be the fate of Air Force reservists whose function has been to train and administer the A.T.C.?

Answer:—

The future of R.A.A.F. reservists affected by such a decision would be a matter for the Commonwealth Minister for Defence. As I understand it, no official announcement has been made as to the continuance or otherwise of the Air Training Corps, and presumably the matter is under ministerial or Cabinet consideration.

19. SURGICAL AUDITS

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

(1) Does his department propose to introduce surgical audits for private and public hospitals?

(2) Is he aware of the attempted introduction of a surgical audit by St. Vincent's Hospital, Toowoomba?

(3) Will he make relevant information available to the hospital administration and doctors who practise surgery there?

(4) Would the Medical Act have to be amended to protect the rights of patients, doctors and hospitals?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) Some aspects of surgical audits are being investigated, but there is no proposal at this stage to introduce general surgical audits in Queensland public hospitals. I am unaware of any proposals for surgical audits at St. Vincent's Hospital, Toowoomba.

20. BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AID TO PARENTS AND CITIZENS' ASSOCIATIONS

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

(1) In view of the difficulties being faced by many State secondary school parents and citizens' associations in raising funds for the construction of assembly halls and meeting the interest and redemption of buildings constructed, is he prepared or able to raise the present level of Government assistance?

(2) What is the total existing debt on State secondary school assembly halls?

(3) If a parents and citizens' association is unable to service its debt, is additional finance available from the State?

Answers:—

(1) No financial assistance is available from my department to parents and citizens' associations for the construction of assembly halls. The State Government subsidy is administered by my colleague, the Honourable the Minister for Works and Housing.

(2) Parents and citizens' associations are not required to advise my department of the periodic state of loans raised for assembly halls, after initial approval has been given for such loans. Consequently, the information sought is not available.

(3) If an association is experiencing difficulty in servicing a loan, I am authorised to extend the term of the loan by up to two years. Satisfactory evidence must, of course, be provided that the association is experiencing hardship.

21. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN STATE SCHOOLS

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

(1) In view of his previous public statements that a special committee had been set up to prepare a new religious education programme for State schools, what changes are proposed?

(2) Which churches are being involved in this exercise?

(3) As the refusal by the Government to release the Gutekunst Report caused considerable public criticism, is it intended to make the recommendations of the new committee available for general community discussion before implementation?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) The special committee which has been set up as part of new developments in religious education is known as the Religious Education Advisory Committee (R.E.A.C.). This committee includes representatives of the churches, the Department of Education, the Queensland Teachers' Union and the Queensland Council of State School Organizations. Those representing the churches are selected by the Churches Committee on Religious Education. This latter committee is open to the various denominations, and through it the churches' representatives on the R.E.A.C. are able to report developments to the churches. State Cabinet has given approval to the following steps and details of these have been widely disseminated, with letters sent to all schools:—

(a) That the Department of Education second to work in Head Office a teacher who has an interest and expertise in religious education to work in co-operation with the Religious Education Advisory Committee to draw up a curriculum and syllabus materials on religious education which could be used by all denominations;

(b) That the Department of Education develop a suitable in-service training course for members of the clergy, lay personnel and interested teachers, and that such training be made available to these people at no cost to the churches or the persons concerned; and

(c) That pilot schemes be

established in different parts of the State introducing the new scheme and that these be evaluated after a suitable trial period. It should be noted that the Act and regulations concerning religious education in school hours have not been amended, and any new initiatives will conform to the existing Act and regulations. Thus the churches continue to have primary responsibility for religious education in State schools, and will be free to decide for themselves the extent to which they will share in this programme. At this stage, the churches have indicated a very positive response to the direction of the proposed developments, although these are in very early stages. The Rev. Dr. Ian Mavor has been appointed to the Curriculum Branch of my department, having commenced duty on 1 September.

22. RELOCATION OF SECONDARY CORRESPONDENCE SECTION

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

As it has been announced that the block bounded by Grey, Stanley, Russell and Melbourne Streets, South Brisbane will be developed as a cultural centre, and as the building occupied by Secondary Correspondence will be affected, what preparation has been done by his department to relocate this section and where will it be resituated?

Answer:—

There are no firm plans for the transfer of the Secondary Correspondence School. The matter will be considered at the appropriate time in association with the construction of the cultural centre.

23. COMMERCIAL RADIO STATION FOR CENTRAL HIGHLANDS AND COLLINSVILLE

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

(1) As some 30 to 40 country commercial radio stations may be forced to close owing to the lack of advertising brought about by a huge economic decline since 1972, have efforts to get a commercial radio station for the central highlands and Collinsville areas been dealt a blow?

(2) Will country areas be further deprived as a result of this decline which has greatly accelerated since 1972?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) As the honourable member will appreciate, the issue of licences for broadcasting stations is a matter coming

within the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth Government and not the State. Clearly, however, commercial broadcasting stations rely heavily on advertising revenue to maintain profitability. In times of economic adversity, it is understandable that such revenue should fall. This in turn must act as a disincentive to the establishment of further commercial stations at this time. It is logical to assume therefore that efforts to attract a commercial radio station to the central highlands and Collinsville areas of the State will be detrimentally affected by the current economic situation, which can of course be attributed largely to the Commonwealth Government's mismanagement of the nation's economy.

24. GREAT AUSTRALIAN PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY

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

(1) Now that the staff of the registrar's office are investigating the Great Australian Permanent Building Society, will he urgently arrange for statutory declarations to be obtained from all present employees and directors together with persons who were employees and directors of the society as at 30 June, stating their knowledge of the activities of Neville Keith Meredith and Desmond Paul O'Shea in the administration of the society?

(2) Will he urgently arrange for statutory declarations from all persons who were directors of the society as at 30 June, declaring that they personally attended a directors meeting which approved the transfer of an asset of approximately \$2.5 million to the City Savings Permanent Building Society?

(3) Will he also urgently obtain statutory declarations from persons who were directors of the United Savings Permanent Building Society as at 30 June 1974, to the effect that they personally attended a directors' meeting opposing charges of \$89,000 being debited by the Great Australian Permanent Building Society against the United Savings Permanent Building Society?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) There is no authority under the Building Societies Act 1886-1974 to demand statutory declarations as requested by the honourable member for Archerfield. The acting registrar has authorised his officers to inspect and take copies of any books, accounts or records of the Great Australian Permanent Building Society. As the result of inquiries being undertaken, all matters of relevance relating to the activities and records of the society will be properly examined by the officers. In view of the inquiries which are now being undertaken

and of the apparent deep interest taken in this particular society and related organisations by the honourable member, I afford him the opportunity to disclose to me all information of importance which he may have in his possession and which may assist in the conduct of these inquiries.

25. AID TO C.O.N. PTY. LTD.

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

(1) With regard to financial assistance under the terms of the Industrial Development Act, was a guarantee or advance ever given to C.O.N. Pty. Ltd., Brisbane?

(2) If so, what was the amount approved and the date of approval, what amounts have been repaid since that date and what is the present balance outstanding?

Mr. K. J. Hooper interjected.

Mr. CAMPBELL: Are you finished?

Mr. K. J. Hooper interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! If the honourable member for Archerfield does not behave himself, I will have to deal with him under Standing Order 123A.

Answers:—

(1) Yes, by way of guarantee.

(2) \$350,000 effective from 15 May 1972. A sum of \$100,000, together with accrued interest, has been repaid, leaving a balance of \$250,000 outstanding as at 31 August 1975.

26. ABORIGINAL HOSTEL AT 36 TRINITY LANE, WOOLLOONGABBA

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

(1) Was 36 Trinity Lane, Woolloongabba, recently purchased by the Commonwealth Government through the Department of Aboriginal Affairs for a group known as the Tribal Council?

(2) What was the purchase price of 36 Trinity Lane?

(3) Who resides at that address?

(4) Do any of the residents have criminal records and, if so, for what offences?

(5) Do any of the residents draw social security benefits?

(6) Were any of the residents involved in a sit-in protest at Leighton House, the Commonwealth Department of Aboriginal Affairs offices?

(7) Were other sit-in protesters accommodated in the Apia Hostel?

(8) During the sit-in protest were Aborigines transported between Apia House and Leighton House at Commonwealth Government, that is, the citizens' expense?

Answer:—

(1 to 8) I understand that 36 Trinity Lane, Woolloongabba, was acquired for \$36,000 under sponsorship of the Commonwealth Government subsequent to and apparently as a result of the sit-in protest at the Commonwealth Department of Aboriginal Affairs offices, Brisbane, by that department to accommodate persons associated with the Born Free Club and more recently seeking registration as Tribal Council Limited. I further understand that Mr. Don Davidson and Mr. Sam Watson Jnr. are responsible for its management. I regret that no other details sought are known to me. The questions which remain unanswered are matters for my colleague the Honourable the Minister for Police, and I suggest the honourable member refer them to him.

27. POLICE AIRCRAFT AND DRUG SQUAD, NORTH QUEENSLAND

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

(1) Has any firm decision been made relative to stationing the newly acquired police aircraft in North Queensland? If so, where will it be located and, if not, has Cairns been considered?

(2) What steps has the Government taken to ensure that adequate police staff will be allotted to undertake Drug Squad work in Far North Queensland and will any form of help and/or allocation of staff be made to the Cairns Police District?

Answers:—

(1) No, the matter is presently under consideration.

(2) Approval has been given for two additional detective constables to be attached to the C. I. Branch at Cairns from the 1975-76 staff allocation. Vacancies for these positions are being advertised.

28. PISTOL CLUBS AND LICENCES

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

(1) Is he aware that club members of the Northern Zone Queensland Amateur Pistol Shooting Association have recently been refused licences for new target pistols?

(2) Are members being restricted to holding a specific number of pistols and, if so, what is the basis and/or which section of the Firearms Act is being applied?

(3) Are proposed amendments of the Act being anticipated or is an incorrect interpretation being presently given by police officers concerned? If so, will he instruct officers concerned that section 4 (b) of the Act should not be utilised to limit numbers or refuse licences to approved members of pistol clubs already investigated and accepted as responsible to hold licences for target pistols?

Answer:—

I ask the honourable member to repeat the question tomorrow.

29. SPORTING ORGANISATION SUBSIDIES

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

(1) Since the inception of the Government subsidy for sporting organisations, has the Government adopted any defined attitude in regard to making subsidies available to the recipients and, if so, is the attitude based on having a particular subsidy presented to the recipient organisation by the Parliamentary representative of the electorate wherein the organisation is based?

(2) If so, is this procedure being applied to all members of this House and, if not, what is the reason?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) The usual procedure has been followed in forwarding subsidy cheques to local sporting organisations. This consists of sending cheques to the local members concerned, following receipt by me of personal representations from them, on behalf of particular projects being carried out by the recipient bodies.

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

JUDICIAL INQUIRY INTO POLICE FORCE

Mr. MELLOY: I ask the Deputy Premier and Treasurer:

(1) In view of the mounting evidence as published in "The Courier-Mail", and as indicated by the honourable member for Murrumba, to substantiate a probe into the Police Force, can he now say when the judicial inquiry announced on 11 August will begin?

(2) Which Supreme Court judge will preside?

(3) Will he, in conformity with the wishes of the Police Union, the C.I.B. and the Bar Association of Queensland, ensure that the promised inquiry will be extended to include the police administration?

Sir GORDON CHALK: I am sure that the honourable member is aware of the fact that the Government's intention will be made known at the appropriate time.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE BILL

INITIATION

Hon. W. E. KNOX (Nundah—Minister for Justice and Attorney-General): I move—

"That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill relating to the appointment, registration and functions of justices of the peace; to repeal certain provisions of the Justices Act 1886-1975; and for connected purposes."

Motion agreed to.

SMALL CLAIMS TRIBUNALS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

INITIATION

Hon. W. E. KNOX (Nundah—Minister for Justice and Attorney-General): I move—

"That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill to amend the Small Claims Tribunals Act 1973-1974 in certain particulars."

Motion agreed to.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Mr. Campbell, read a third time.

FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Mr. Campbell, read a third time.

BRANDS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Mr. Hodges, read a third time.

POLICE SUPERANNUATION ACTS AMENDMENT BILL

THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Mr. Hodges, read a third time.

QUEENSLAND MARINE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Mr. Newbery, read a third time.

DISEASES IN TIMBER BILL

THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Mr. Tomkins, read a third time.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

PROVISION OF LAND FOR PUBLIC USE IN SUBDIVISIONS

Mr. **YEWDALE** (Rockhampton North) (11.51 a.m.): The matter that I wish to raise this morning is the great need to set aside larger areas of land for public use. To this end, I think that the Government should consider a model draft code for Queensland, and I suggest that this could fall within the responsibilities of the Minister for Local Government. I think that the setting aside of such areas of land is most necessary in Brisbane and the provincial coastal cities of this State.

In these areas subdividers are establishing fairly large housing estates and very little land in the subdivisions is set aside for the use of the public, particularly the children of those who take up residence there. The present position in Queensland is that subdividers have to comply with the requirements of the local authority in the area concerned. Over a period of many years town planners have been engaged by local authorities to act as advisers to them. In addition, many eminent and well-qualified people carry out studies from time to time on the best use of land not only for the present but also for the future.

Personally, I am very disappointed with what has happened to date in this field. From research, I learned that in Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales responsibility for the subdivision of land lies with local authorities, whereas in Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia it rests with the State Government.

I discovered also that local authorities cannot in any way resume land for public use. They do, however, lay down certain conditions for subdividers, and, if a subdivider does not wish to comply with those conditions, he cannot go ahead with his subdivision. In most cases, the subdivider comes to an agreement with the local authority on the conditions laid down for the subdivision, and the development takes place. This is where my main concern arises. When a subdivider, in accordance with the agreement that he has reached with the local

authority, sets aside a given area, or a percentage of the development, for public purposes, invariably that land is either in a high, hilly, rough area or in a low gully along a creek, where development for the use of the public is not practicable. Very rarely is reasonable land set aside for the use of the public.

In addition, when land in fairly large subdivision areas is set aside for public use, it is invariably at the extreme edge of the development. This means that many young children who want to get together to enjoy themselves have to travel through the entire area to the extremity of the development. Riding their push-bikes on the road they are a menace to traffic, particularly when they have to move right through the building area.

We have another problem with provincial cities having a common boundary with shire councils. In those cases the city council comes into conflict with the shire council over what should be done near their boundaries. Invariably the city council has to provide services and facilities for estates in the shires but extremely close to the boundary. There does not seem to have been any satisfactory outcome of these problems. I feel that we should not allow them to continue but we should institute a draft code through the Department of Local Government and suggest to local authorities that all future developments should adhere to the one pattern. With a new housing development, a special area of land in a fairly central position should be set aside. For example, if two streets with perhaps 15 to 20 houses in each have a common back fence we should set aside an area for children to play between the two rows of houses. The children who really want to use these areas are aged between four or five years and nine or 10 years. When they get older, they tend to go their own way and do their own thing. But I think in the best interests of the community, rather than having one area situated at the extreme end of a development we should have several small green areas in which children can get together with their pets and their young friends. In most cases the children playing in these areas would be able to be seen from a number of houses and the parents would be able to keep an eye on them. It might be suggested that this argument does not carry much weight, that there is no great need for such areas in the community. I disagree with that view. I feel that the sooner we move on this the better. Local authorities, in consultation with the Department of Local Government, should set aside such areas, as is being done now in Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania, instead of the present higgledy-piggledy arrangements. In some of the country areas away from the coast this might be less of a problem. It is quite obvious that country children have

greater scope to move into open areas, but here again I feel that, where mining towns are developing and the population is increasing, the same problem occurs and designated areas should be provided where children can congregate and enjoy themselves away from traffic. This would be in their best interests and their parents would be much more comfortable knowing that the children are in a safe area, particularly young children. I commend to the Minister for Local Government the suggestion that he do something about formulating a model draft code on land for public use.

POLICE DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION

Hon. A. M. HODGES (Gympie—Minister for Police) (11.58 a.m.): I rise to deal with matters relating to law and order in Queensland. Sadly, in this House where laws are made, I must rise to defend law and order, in this instance from a cowardly verbal attack by the honourable member for Nudgee in this same debate last week.

Referring to the fact that the Crown Law Office was of the expert legal opinion that there was insufficient evidence to charge anyone over what has become known as the watch-house king-hit case, the honourable member for Nudgee said—

“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.”

With those remarks, the honourable member for Nudgee cast a shadow over three of the most experienced investigators in our Police Force, questioned the integrity of all members of the force, and deliberately and maliciously set out to undermine public confidence in the Queensland Police Force, in particular, and law and order in general.

I only hope that the remarks of the honourable member for Nudgee were personal and not a reflection of official A.L.P. thinking. For if they are a reflection of official A.L.P. thinking, and if, by some temporary aberration on the part of the Queensland electorate, the A.L.P. is ever returned to power in this State, we might as well lock up the courts and throw away the keys, scrap the legal statutes and dismantle the entire system of criminal justice.

In this House last Wednesday, the honourable member for Nudgee also said—

“From reports the police, after at least two investigations, cannot discover a suspect, and the Crown Law Office is unable to frame a charge.”

Surely the honourable member for Nudgee is aware that to suspect someone is one thing; to be able to prove it and gain a conviction in open court is quite another.

It would seem that he would have us round up suspects like cattle and herd them into court on suspicion alone and without any concrete evidence. I would remind the honourable member that Queensland is no newly independent African state, fresh out of a bloody coup. It is an old-established firm, with cherished and long-standing traditions and tried and tested laws, many of which long-gone, once-respected A.L.P. members helped to formulate. It is not the intention of the Government to throw these ideals and principles into the garbage can on the strength of the evil whims of the honourable member for Nudgee. He knows what he can do with his “Big Daddy” Amin tactics. They are not wanted in Australia, and in Queensland in particular. We do not arrest suspects without evidence; nor do we hold inquiries without proper prior investigation.

This is not the first time that the Opposition has attacked the forces of law and order in this State; doubtless it will not be the last. These frequent verbal assaults are invariably prefaced by shallow references to “respect for law and order” and “what a wonderful job our police are doing”, etc. What hypocrisy!

Referring to allegations of corruption and malpractice, the honourable member for Nudgee said that he did not want a witch-hunt. I assure him that he is not going to get a witch-hunt. Whether he likes it or not, whether it goes against his “knock-em-at-any-cost” policies, the honourable member for Nudgee will get what the forces of decency, honesty and integrity want—a properly conducted judicial inquiry, not a hastily convened, unprepared inquiry called without proper prior investigation, which he and the A.L.P. and other anti-police, anti-law-and-order colleagues no doubt plan to turn into a golden opportunity to hurl mud at every man and woman who wears a police officer’s uniform. This has been their policy and their tactics.

It will be a judicial inquiry, conducted by efficient, competent legal brains, with prior investigation by competent, experienced investigators—impartial, unbiased investigators, without prejudices, without axes to grind, without ties and without loyalties. The hearsay, the rumours, the innuendos and the malicious gossip will be sorted from the hard, cold facts—the evidence that is necessary before any court of inquiry can properly evaluate and assess the truth.

The honourable member for Nudgee says that he wants the truth. So do I; so does the Government. I can assure him that we will get to the truth—but not by a hastily called inquiry, called for, it seems to me, by those who would seek to catch the headlines momentarily at the dreadful expense of the

reputation, public image and integrity of the decent, self-respecting and dedicated members of the Queensland Police Force.

If there are bad apples in the barrel—and there usually are in such a big barrel (the A.L.P. should know that better than anybody)—they will be weeded out. If any blame or punishment is to be meted out, I want to see that such blame and punishment is meted out to those who deserve it—the guilty ones. But I refuse to condone moves, as outlined and publicly stated by the A.L.P. member for Nudgee, that sully the innocent, cast the shadow of guilt over all and sundry in the Police Force indiscriminately, and tar the honest and the dedicated with the same brush as the guilty and the corrupt. It concerns me, and I think it should concern every decent-living, thinking person, that people such as the A.L.P. member for Nudgee never rise to their feet to defend the police and criticise the system, or to attack the S.P. bookies, the criminals, the sly-grog merchants and tow-truck operators and anyone else who would try to corrupt the police. All time and effort are spent, it seems, on attacking the police, the forces of law and order, and defending the criminal element in the community.

I say this: if the system needs changing, let us use our legislative powers to change it. Let us give the police the benefit of the doubt occasionally; let us not give it always to the criminal, as the A.L.P. seems to do. And let us spend as much time, money and effort on the victims of crimes as we do on the perpetrators of crime.

It sticks in my craw that when a criminal is arrested the entire criminal-justice system doubles over backwards to make sure that he gets the best legal advice (usually free), that his rights and privileges are safeguarded (free), and that he gets all the home comforts (free), while the hapless victims are generally left to fend for themselves. It seems to me that we are overeager to doubt the police and help the criminals, and this attitude is nourished by people like the honourable member for Nudgee. We are not eager enough to support the police and help the victims of crime. I strongly urge that we reverse the situation—and fast—in the interests of a better, safer, more sober society.

While the A.L.P. Opposition complains bitterly that we need more police and greater protection for the public, and tongue-clicks over rising crime, it never fails to take full advantage of any situation to tip the bucket on police. The A.L.P. is too quick to lay all the blame for crime on the police. Sure, the police must, and do, accept the basic responsibility for crime prevention and detection. But they cannot reasonably be expected to shoulder all the blame. Crime results from a great number of factors—social, economic, environmental, political—over many of which the police have no control.

Let us take a tougher line with crooks and a more understanding line with the police. The police have a tough job, tackling many problems created by circumstances out of their area of responsibility. Instead of continually finding fault with the police, the A.L.P. might take a leaf out of the book of the honourable member for Everton and ask what it can do to help the police in a most difficult job. If we do not help our police, they cannot help us. And then whom do we turn to? The armchair critics? God help us if it ever comes to that! And God help us if the A.L.P. does not come to its senses and begin to support the police and attack the criminals!

If the remarks of the honourable member for Nudgee are anything to go by, the A.L.P. must be the great white hope of the criminal element in this State. Never a day goes by without one or other A.L.P. member, either Federal or State, launching an attack on the police, sticking up for the criminals, or advocating a further deterioration in the laws on sex, pornography, incest, and God knows what else. A.L.P. members don't give a damn about law and order. They are only interested in headlines. They don't give a damn about the victims of crimes. They are only interested in trying to catch votes from the criminal element. And they will use innuendo, malicious gossip and any other gutter method to achieve their aim. They don't give a damn that every time they attack the police they lower police morale and boost criminal morale. They are interested only in self-promotion, in trying to drag their pitiful little shambles of a party back into the limelight from the morass into which an enlightened electorate dropped them at the last election.

QUEENSLAND COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE

Mr. DOUMANY (Kurilpa) (12.9 p.m.): I rise to bring to the notice of the House the very serious threat posed to all voluntary agencies engaged in welfare work and services to the community by the recent announcement about the withdrawal of Commonwealth funds from the Queensland Council of Social Service. This is a very serious matter. Today I should like not only to draw attention to the plight of the council and the implications to the voluntary agencies but also to appeal to the State Government, the Federal Government and the community at large to come forward to carry the council through the most difficult period that lies ahead of it.

I will be quoting from a report dated 1 September 1975 prepared by Mr. Anthony Kelly, the director of the Queensland Council of Social Service. From that report there is no mistaking the very tragic situation of the council and the certain consequences if we do not do something for it very quickly. Unless additional funding of \$28,000 is forthcoming from the Commonwealth Government or from both the Commonwealth Government and private or other sources, the council will cease to function at a professional level by

the middle of 1976 at the very latest. As I shall demonstrate, its operations could cease much earlier than that.

The opening statement in Mr. Kelly's report is as follows:—

"This report is not easy to write because the consequences of the 1975-76 Australian Government Budget and the withdrawal of all Australian Government funds from QCOSS has very serious implications indeed."

What is the role of the Queensland Council of Social Service? It plays one major role in the independent provision—I stress the word "independent"—of information covering a wide field to the voluntary and independent sector of welfare in Queensland.

It is fashionable today to look more and more to Government to organise secular bodies to provide welfare. I do not think any honourable member would deny that by its compassion, commitment and individual concern the voluntary sector—including all the churches and their organisations, the service clubs, the Red Cross and many others; I could go on ad infinitum because there are dozens of such worthy organisations—undertakes the base load of work in the welfare sector of our community. If these activities were to be withdrawn, the whole structure would crumble. Nothing can be substituted for the devotion, commitment and compassion of voluntary workers, who do things because they want to do them and not as a source of income.

Mr. K. J. Hooper: They are well meaning.

Mr. DOUMANY: Indeed they are. That is a very apt term to describe them. They apply themselves with sincerity to the hard work that they do.

The Queensland Council of Social Service has been playing an important role in the dissemination of information to the various voluntary bodies spread throughout the State. Furthermore, it is engaged in developing and reviewing policy commitments. This is important not only to voluntary agencies but also to both Federal and State Governments. The council is also engaged in assessing priorities. I am sure that the Minister for Community and Welfare Services would be the first to concede that this is an important area of assistance provided by the council.

In some paragraphs summarising what I have said, Mr. Kelly goes on to say—

"Experience has shown that organising an information service of this kind is relatively expensive, for competent staff with resources available are required to travel and communicate. To operate legitimately, a COSS needs to be supported by Government at all levels, in addition to the basic support of the Voluntary Sector"

"The COSS is not a 'service delivery' agency, in the business of counselling the troubled, feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless—although these must be ultimate objectives. Rather, its activities focus on planning and evaluation areas of service"

"Because it is not in the business of service delivery, QCOSS is the one organisation that can review the situation with some degree of objectivity. QCOSS, given this unique position, and through its many sources of information is able to form opinion about need and indicate policy objectives at a macro level."

Let us look at the funding problem in more detail. The minimum necessary to keep the operation going for the next 12 months—and even then there will be a great strain on the staff—will result in a deficit of \$28,000. The director (Mr. Kelly) does an enormous amount of work in his own time lecturing and consulting, and the revenue from that is poured back into the council. It has been that that has assisted up to date in funding the deficit, along with the \$10,000-odd that came from the Commonwealth up till its recent cessation of support.

Let us look at what will happen if nothing is done to bridge the gap. It is quite clear that if the Commonwealth or some other body does not meet the \$28,000 deficit, bearing in mind that the Commonwealth has abdicated its responsibility at this point, even in October there will be extreme stringency. At the moment a specific donation of \$8,000 is available to the council for a particular purpose. The director points out that if that sum of money can, with the approval of the donor, be directed to a general purpose fund it will be possible to delay the pruning of operations a little longer; but, as things stand at the moment, it looks as though the end of October or early November could be the beginning of the end for the Queensland Council of Social Service, and that is a very serious situation indeed.

Mr. Miller: What was the position last year with funding by the Commonwealth Government and what is the position this year?

Mr. DOUMANY: Last year the Commonwealth granted \$10,000, which made up part of the final deficit. This year the Commonwealth's contribution is zero. The State Government is ready to grant something like \$11,000 in the coming year. Last year the State's grant was about \$9,000, for operational purposes.

However, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as things now stand there is no commitment by the Commonwealth. It is quite ironical that Tony Kelly, who has been an enormous supporter of the Australian Assistance Plan (he has been a spearhead in the setting up

of its operations in the State) and who gives such assistance and sustenance to the voluntary agencies of welfare, will now be the victim of neglect by Canberra.

(Time expired.)

WARANA FESTIVAL

Mr. DEAN (Sandgate) (12.18 p.m.): When the Whip invited me to fill in a segment of this very important debate, I thought it would be an opportune time to bring before the Chamber a matter that is of great public interest—that is, the Warana Festival, which is to be staged from Friday this week. Perhaps to some people this topic is not as important as many other subjects discussed here. However, as this wonderful festival lasts only a short time, I think attention should be drawn to the great work undertaken to stage it.

This will be the 14th Warana Festival to be staged, and the organising secretary (Mr. Francis-Smith) has now released a report of the events for the forthcoming week. They will no doubt be of interest to honourable members, many of whom are perhaps not fully aware of the ramifications of the festival or of the interest that it is evincing year by year.

Unfortunately, another organisation in our society is staging an art festival that could enter into competition with the Warana Festival. Like many other people, I do not think that the Government can afford two festivals of this nature. I am not speaking in derogation of people who wish to organise festivals but I think it would be better if they put their efforts into the existing organisation which was formed in this building many years ago. I feel sure you will recall it, Mr. Hewitt. A public meeting chaired by the Tourism Minister of the day was held in the old Legislative Council Chamber. From then on the organising committee struggled very hard.

The Government makes an annual contribution and this year it has increased the amount to \$32,000. That sounds like a lot of money but, in the light of the cost of staging events and bringing artists, especially overseas artists, to Brisbane it is not a lot of money. By the time the festival is finished the organising secretary estimates it will cost about \$60,000. The remainder of the money is made up by contributions from some of our civic-minded business people, including big firms like McDonnell and East. If the present standard of the festival is to be maintained the committee will need far more assistance.

Its theme for 1975 is happiness. All organisations select a theme or gimmick for publicity purposes. Each year Warana creates greater interest by introducing innovations. This year the festival is to

take a very different form. One of last year's innovations, which is being repeated this year, was a performance by the 105-piece Queensland Youth Band. It is made up of juniors aged from about 10 to 17 years. They come from all parts of Queensland. At present they are practising hard for next week's festival.

Mr. Jensen: Has the new Minister been of any help?

Mr. DEAN: I am pleased to say that he has been of great help. He has shown a lot of interest in the festival. Like many other sections of his portfolio, it is still rather new to him. I am sure as time goes on he will give it even more encouragement. The organising secretary is looking to the Minister for help and I am sure that he will not be disappointed.

It has been pointed out that more than 200 events will be presented day and night, ranging from popular street processions to art events. The festival caters for all sections of the community. I do not think that the interests or pleasures of one section of the community have been left out.

I feel sure that the junior band presentation will be one of the outstanding items of the festival. It is a great encouragement to youth. These days we should give all the encouragement possible to young people in active participation and recreational interests. This band provides both. Some very good citizens of Brisbane have billeted the country boys and girls in private homes. This helps to keep costs down.

This band, formed last year, was amazingly successful and much of its success was due to sponsorship by Channel O; in fact it was called the Channel O Junior Band. The children travel from places as far away as Mt. Isa and Charters Towers in the north, from Emerald and from Southport. The programme that has been arranged for next week will be as satisfying as it was last year, if not more satisfying, because the children have more confidence in themselves now than they had in their initial presentation.

This Warana Festival attracts many overseas musicians. In 1974, Mr. Geoffrey Brand was invited to Australia from Britain and he played a great part in the festival. Mr. Norman Goffin came from New Zealand. Both are well known in the musical world and the art world as people of outstanding ability in their professions. Mr. Norman Henstridge, who resides in Brisbane, is an Australian musician who has done great work with junior bands. He was himself years ago a champion musician who took his place on the concert platform many times in his younger days. Now he devotes all his

time to the training of young people in the band world. This morning I am trying to create interest in this festival among people who know little about it, or have not taken the trouble to read the advertisements that have appeared in the Press. It will begin on 26 September and run until 5 October.

Drama, too, has been given considerable attention by the committee. This year the drama festival adjudicator will come from New Zealand—Mr. George Webby. There always seems to be a very close liaison with New Zealand in the conduct of festivals. Our two countries are, of course, close to each other, and we have many things in common. The most important, of course, is that we speak the same language, and I think it is the absence of a language barrier that helps to bring about the great participation of both countries in many activities. The drama side of the festival generates a wide range of interest in the community, and again this year there will be a considerable array of talent on the platform in the various plays that will be presented.

Finally, I ask the Government to think very carefully before giving much encouragement to any other organisation that may come into this field without a spirit of co-operation.

Mr. Newbery: I should just like to say that the Minister for Cultural Activities and I met the two organisations last week and discussed this very thing. We asked them to go away and discuss it and come back to us.

Mr. DEAN: That is very good news. I hope success will come from those negotiations. An organisation has been established at great strain and cost—and in many cases at great personal sacrifice—and it would be much better if all concerned directed their energies and talents to its support.

What is most important now, of course, is that Warana has a permanent home on the south bank of the Brisbane River near Victoria Bridge in an open space provided by reclamation and the removal of old buildings. It is an excellent venue for people to congregate and hold a festival. Whatever the Government can do to help will be much appreciated by Mr. Francis-Smith and his committee.

PETROL TAX

Mr. POWELL (Isis) (12.28 p.m.): I wish to speak this afternoon on behalf of the most overtaxed and under-represented group in the nation today, namely, motorists. It seems that successive Governments have found motorists a very ready moneybag for the tax-gatherer. I, for one, am sick of it, and I am sure that most people who depend on motor vehicles for transport today are also sick of it. We have recently had to endure a 50 per cent increase in registration fees. That was

justified because the Federal Government will not—I repeat “will not”—give to the State the amount due to it from petrol taxes and needed for road-building programmes. I think that most motorists have been prepared to accept the increase in registration fees, but only with a very reluctant grace.

It is when we consider petrol tax that most of us should become very annoyed indeed. If we look into this tax, we find that we pay 28c to the Federal Government for every gallon of petrol that we buy. If we take 12,000 miles as the distance travelled by the average Queensland motorist each year, and 20 miles to the gallon as the average fuel consumption of his car, we find that he will buy about 600 gallons of petrol a year. At 28c a gallon he is contributing in excise above \$128 per annum to the Federal Government.

There are about 1,000,000 vehicles on the road in Queensland and if we take the argument a little further and say that those 1,000,000 vehicles each travel an average of 12,000 miles a year—which I do not think anybody will dispute—it follows that this State is contributing to the Federal Treasury \$120,000,000 through the excise tax on petrol and yet the Federal authorities give us back only a miserable \$75,000,000 to \$80,000,000, and give it with very poor grace.

An Honourable Member: And they hanged Ned Kelly!

Mr. POWELL: Yes. I think they should hang themselves.

If we go a bit further into the taxation system, we find a sales tax imposed on new motor vehicles. If we take the average cost of a motor vehicle as being about \$4,500, we find that the tax paid on such a vehicle is around \$1,200. Assuming that the average person keeps his car for four years, he is in this tax contributing another \$300 per annum to the Federal tax coffers. If we assume that 200,000 to 300,000 new vehicles per annum are being sold in Queensland and multiply that by the \$1,200, we find that this is a very lucrative field of taxation to which the Federal Government can look, and no doubt it does. The tax we pay on spare parts and tyres adds another \$30 per annum to the total tax bill the average motorist is paying.

On those calculations it is apparent that each motorist in Queensland is paying an average of \$448 per annum to the Federal Government. Conceding that my figures are based on averages, which are sometimes proved wrong, and being a conservative person, I am willing to lower the total to a certain extent and say that it is an average of \$400 per annum. On that basis the Queensland people are paying about \$400,000,000 in tax on their motor vehicles to the Federal Treasury each year and yet the Federal Government gives back to us a miserable \$75,000,000 to \$80,000,000 to use on our roads.

Then the Federal Minister for Transport has the absolute hide and gall to come to Queensland and, possibly for the first time in his life, travel by motor vehicle right down the coast from Cairns to Brisbane. When he arrives he castigates the Queensland Government over the state of the roads when, in fact, it is his Government which collects the taxes on our motor vehicles and will not give us back our money so that we can upgrade these roads. It is all very well for this centralist Government in Canberra—it is called a Federal Government, but I am darned if I can see that in any sense it is a Federal Government—to say that these various taxes should be paid, but the members of that Government do not have to use motor vehicles. They have the benefit of a good transport system.

I suggest that people who live in the large cities do not need to use motor vehicles. Some of our Leftist parliamentarians in Canberra are not averse to pricing these motorists off the road. They claim it would be a good idea to keep all motor vehicle traffic out of the cities, and if one is a pedestrian one might believe, too, that that is a good idea. But they should give a little consideration to people who live in the country. Not only do country people pay 28c a gallon excise on petrol but, because the Federal Government has discontinued the subsidy for the equalisation of petrol prices, we find that in places not very far from the coast, such as Mundubbera, Monto, Biloela and so on, people are paying more than just the 28c a gallon excise. They have to pay more for their petrol and it therefore costs them more to go anywhere. They must use motor vehicles.

The point I want to make is that, while it is all very well for a centralist city-oriented Government such as we have in Canberra to impose this increased excise and not give the money back to the States, the members of that Government do not have to use motor vehicles. They can walk the short distance between their offices and their homes or they can walk to an adequate bus or rail service. I invite any person who argues in favour of the taxes imposed on motorists by the Federal Government to go to country areas and try walking between the home and the office. He will soon discover how far it is. He will also discover the problems a country person faces in getting his produce to market and the difficulty he has in obtaining supplies of petrol. I could go on and on, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The point is that the motorist in Queensland is being priced out of the field. He is being forced to walk. He is being forced by a very inequitable tax system to think twice—sometimes more than twice—about driving somewhere simply because he does not have the finance needed to run his car. I think it is a terrible indictment of the Federal Government that it should tax the motorist in the way it has, that it should not take

notice of the suggestions that have been put forward by motorists' organisations. Every one of us who drives a motor vehicle and travels wants better roads and better conditions. We are all aware that poor conditions contribute to the increasing toll of the road. We all know that it would be preferable to have four-lane highways up and down the coastline and in and out of country areas. Of course, such highways cost a tremendous amount of money, and we are all aware that if money is spent we must pay for the service. I have always supported the argument in favour of paying for services that are provided. However, the motorist is now paying fourfold for the service that is being provided for him. What is happening to the other \$300,000,000 that Queensland taxpayers contribute each year to the Federal Treasury? It is being spent on hair-brained schemes that the Federal Government dreams up to try to bolster its flagging reputation.

Mr. Jensen: On social welfare programmes.

Mr. POWELL: On its social welfare programmes, as the honourable member for Bundaberg suggests.

Mr. Jensen: It always has done.

Mr. POWELL: Yes. Some of these programmes can be eliminated, and the Federal Government should be looking very carefully at that possibility. The people of Queensland are paying for all these programmes and they are not getting value for their dollar.

I speak on behalf of the motorist, who has been hit to leg at every turn by the Federal Treasury. I certainly hope that the State Treasurer, when he brings down the State Budget tomorrow in his usual responsible manner, will not try to hit the motorist to leg. Better roads are needed; motorists want the money spent in Queensland.

(Time expired.)

CURTAILMENT OF R.E.D. SCHEME

Mr. FRAWLEY (Murrumba) (12.38 p.m.): I enter the debate today to bring to the notice of honourable members and the people of Queensland the almost unbelievable situation that has resulted from the decision of the socialist regime in Canberra to curtail the Regional Employment Development Scheme, which is very appropriately known as the R.E.D. scheme.

One or two things must be said before I deal with the inept way in which the scheme is now being curtailed.

Mr. Jensen: You don't know anything about it.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I know plenty about it. If the honourable member listens, he will receive some good information.

The R.E.D. scheme is little better than an apology for the disastrous employment policies of the Whitlam Government. It did not arise out of any policy proposal; it is the direct result of three years of gross mismanagement by the most incompetent and most discredited Government that Australia has ever seen.

When the A.L.P. won office, the Prime Minister promised to restore full employment. As I recall it, the number of people unemployed was then only about 40,000 or 50,000—and falling every month. What has happened since is all too tragically known to all Australians, particularly the 300,000 people who are now out of work and who have little chance of getting a job while Whitlam and his crowd remain in office in Canberra.

In order to cover up some of their shameful record and to placate some trade union officials, the now infamous R.E.D. scheme was implemented. All the scheme did was take some workers off the dole and put them into temporary menial jobs—not unlike the relief work of years ago. When the scheme was introduced, members of the A.L.P. who are involved in local government burst into print saying how wonderful the R.E.D. scheme would be. When the next local authority elections are held, they will be decimated just as the official Opposition in this House was decimated at the last State elections, leaving only the rag-tag group that we see on the Opposition benches.

Admittedly, some local authorities benefited greatly by the R.E.D. scheme. One could not blame any council for jumping in to get as much money as possible for its area before the well dried up. One local authority in my electorate, the Caboolture Shire Council, received in the vicinity of \$1,000,000 in R.E.D. money from the Grants Commission. Other local authorities received very small amounts, and some of them received nothing. Of course, that was political. The Federal Government was persuaded by the A.L.P. in this State to pour money into areas where it felt it would derive the most good politically. It is well known that the A.L.P. would dearly love to get me out of Murrumbidgee because I am a thorn in its side as I am not afraid to take it on anywhere—in this House and outside it.

By pouring R.E.D. money into the Caboolture Shire and the Pine Rivers Shire the A.L.P. hopes to give its candidates at the next State election some ammunition to assist in their campaign. They will need a hell of a lot of it, too! People in those electorates are not stupid. They have already seen through the actions of the Federal Government. Incidentally, the honourable member for Pine Rivers has given some pretty good representation in that electorate and he is going to be damned hard to shift.

Mr. Wright: Are you suggesting that—

Mr. FRAWLEY: He can't be shifted. He will hold that seat as long as he likes.

The Treasurer attempted to overcome the imbalance created by the Federal Government in giving almost unlimited funds to some shires and almost nothing to others. He allocated unemployment grants of \$5,000,000 on an equitable basis, taking into account how much various local authorities had received under R.E.D. and other schemes. For example, in 1973-74, the Kilcoy Shire got nothing from the Grants Commission; Landsborough Shire got nothing; Maroochy Shire got nothing; Redland Shire got nothing. However, the Caboolture Shire got \$54,000 and the Pine Rivers Shire got \$184,000. In 1974-75, the Kilcoy Shire again got nothing from the Grants Commission; Maroochy Shire again got nothing; Redland Shire got \$50,000; Caboolture Shire got \$95,000; and the Pine Rivers Shire got \$244,000.

Mr. Wright: Are you suggesting they should not have been given that money?

Mr. FRAWLEY: I am not saying that. I said that I didn't blame them for jumping in to get every cent they could before the well dried up.

People have asked me, "Why didn't the Caboolture Shire Council get more unemployment grants from the State Government?" In 1972-73 it received \$58,000 and in 1973-74 \$15,000. And don't forget that it received \$54,000 from the Commonwealth Grants Commission in the same year. In 1974-75, and again this year, it did not get anything from the State Government, the reason being that it received so much money under the R.E.D. scheme that the Treasurer felt the only way he could correct the imbalance was to give some of the disadvantaged shires more money.

A.L.P. officials claimed all the credit when funds under the R.E.D. scheme were allocated. There were repeated promises that more was to come. It was almost as though the funds for the R.E.D. scheme grew on trees. Because of those promises a number of organisations in my electorate and in the Pine Rivers electorate drew up plans for various projects which they hoped would be financed out of R.E.D. money. It is important to state that those organisations were given every encouragement by the A.L.P., and by Federal officials, to undertake the planning and preparation of submissions for those funds. Then, without warning, it was announced that the R.E.D. scheme was going to be disbanded, and that no more funds would be approved for any of the projects that had not been commenced. The effect has been devastating. Groups which had drawn on their own limited funds to prepare plans and submissions were left high and dry.

Mr. Akers: Projects have been left at various stages.

Mr. FRAWLEY: That is right. Approaches will be made to the State Government for finance for the completion of some of those projects. It is a bad state of affairs, but it is typical of the mismanagement of the Federal Government.

I ask the honourable member for Rockhampton not to try to hypnotise me. I do not perform as he does under hypnosis.

Now, to compound the problem many times over, the whole scheme is being wound down. Many worth-while organisations are being left in a difficult position. Recently the Minister for Community and Welfare Services and Minister for Sport referred to uncompleted and half-finished projects under the R.E.D. scheme. But that is only part of the problem created by this decision. The half-completed projects are visible evidence of Labor's mismanagement, but the projects that were never even commenced are the invisible results. Those projects were planned for. The organisations and people affected have no chance of recovering the costs they incurred in the preparation of plans. That is bad enough, but that is not the end of the matter. At the peak of the operation of the R.E.D. scheme, about 40,000 people were employed on R.E.D. projects in Australia. Most were worth while and for the benefit of the community. I have never claimed otherwise. Others, however, were approved merely to gain cheap party-political advantage. Money was not spread equitably over the State. It was allocated to various areas where it was felt it would do the most good for Labor candidates at the next State election.

Every week, hundreds of men who had been employed on R.E.D. scheme work are going back on the dole. They have no prospect whatever of securing permanent employment. This is an inhuman and quite callous state of affairs. Australia has always taken pride in the fact that it has maintained a fairly high level of employment. We know that among the unemployed are a number of drop-outs who do not want to work, but they constitute only a small percentage of the 300,000 people who are currently unemployed; and the number is rising day by day.

When the R.E.D. scheme was introduced I expressed some grave doubts about it, and many of my fears have been proved to be well founded; in fact, they were absolutely spot on. The millions of dollars that were poured into the R.E.D. scheme could have been better used in the encouragement of private enterprise where real employment is created. However, once the scheme got under way it should have been continued at least until projects were completed in an orderly fashion, and until organisations that had prepared plans under the scheme were able to have those plans approved.

As is typical of the Federal Government, the decision to end the R.E.D. scheme was arrived at in a panic. The Federal Government realised that it had overspent on social

services. The scheme was brought to an end virtually without warning, without notice of its termination being given to the organisations and individuals who would be affected by it.

I could speak for a week on the disasters that have been inflicted on Australia in the past couple of years by the Federal Government. The scandal surrounding the conclusion of the R.E.D. scheme would be hard to top, but the record of the Whitlam Government is one of scandal after scandal.

Every honourable member should join me in condemning the manner in which the R.E.D. scheme was curtailed and in supporting the call for the defeat of a socialist regime that has given Australia its worst unemployment record in history, even worse than that during the depression. The R.E.D. scheme will be a memorial to Labor's mismanagement. The people who are affected by its termination demand better treatment than that meted out to them.

(Time expired.)

LITTER PROBLEM

Mr. K. J. HOOPER (Archerfield) (12.48 p.m.): I rise to speak today on the problem of litter—or, should I say, on the hypocrisy of this Government on the problem, which steadily assumes increasing proportions.

There is no doubt that litter not only destroys the quality of the environment but also imposes an ever-increasing cost burden on society.

Mr. Frawley: You should know.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: It is well known that every time the honourable member for Murrumbidgee rises to speak, he litters this Chamber with his verbal diarrhoea.

I am prompted to speak in this debate by having witnessed on TV the recent pathetic antics of the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads, who, to most people, reduced the whole seriousness of the litter problem to a performance closely akin to the entertainment of a three-ring circus. If it is suggested that any positive contribution was made by the Minister's turning himself into an amateur "Hector the Trash Collector", I fail to be convinced of it. The only positive thing was that the performance of the Minister as a rubbish collector far outshone his performance as a Minister of the Crown. Antics such as his turn the whole serious problem into an anaemic joke. Even his public statement shows how little he understands the problem.

The whole basis of his soap-opera performance was that (a) we had to embark on a programme of public education against litter and (b) if this failed, then he would put on the screws and impose crushing penalties on the community.

The same old clichés and the same old approach have characterised the non-performance of successive Local Government Ministers in this field. The very approaches that he dredged up have, after careful consideration, been tried and rejected by most authorities as being of no value whatever in resolving the problem.

The litter problem embraces more than the unceremonious scattering of rubbish throughout the countryside; it also entails the ever-increasing disposal problems confronting local authorities. It is obvious that in the metropolitan area we are running out of suitable disposal sites and that in the foreseeable future we will face a tremendous problem in finding a location at which to get rid of rubbish. Even now experts are questioning the advisability of the dump-and-fill method because of the likely pollution of underground water systems. The burning of rubbish also creates problems. It not only pollutes the air but also leaves behind a mountain of ash to be disposed of.

The realities of the problem do not end with a few empty beer cans, stubbies, take-away-food cartons and other litter strewn along the roadside.

Mr. Moore interjected.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: Nor is it a problem attributable to a few irresponsible individuals in the community, such as the honourable member for Windsor. The problem is deep seated and spread throughout the whole community and it involves not only the quantity of litter and the problems of its disposal but also the persons into whose hands it is thrust.

It would be fair to assume that each citizen contributes something like three-quarters of a ton of litter per year for disposal. An idea of the magnitude of the waste problem can be gleaned from figures published in the U.S.A. Each year that country has to dispose of 48 billion cans (an average of 250 per person), 26 billion bottles and jars (135 per person) and 65 billion metal and plastic caps and crowns (338 per person), not to mention countless billions of articles of packing material, such as cardboard or polystyrene containers. Little attempt is made to salvage any of it, so it remains as potential litter for cities, towns and countryside.

Mr. Frawley interjected.

Mr. K. J. HOOPER: This potential litter is thrust into the hands of all types of individuals such as the honourable member for Murrumba—from the most anti-social adult to the most unthinking juvenile.

The position in the U.S.A., as I have outlined it, has over the years been a blueprint for our own scene in Australia—all in the name of progress. It is obvious that it will require more than the one-act, soap-opera efforts of the pitchfork-armed Don Quixote of the Gold Coast to make any worth-while

impression on the problem. Education and penalties may have some effect on the population, but most authorities are turning to the lessening of potential litter as the most effective solution.

I suggest that the Minister should set up an investigating committee to examine all causes of litter problems and to look into the obviously undesirable marketing containers that contribute to the litter problem. It should inquire into the type of litter that is finding its way into the hands of the public; it should examine the contribution that non-returnable containers are making to the problem; but most of all it should investigate ways of eliminating potential litter and minimising the amount that finds its way into the hands of the public. It should also seek alternative ways of marketing goods to reduce the associated litter problem. It should investigate salvage and/or uses to which litter could be put. In addition, it should inquire into the use of containers that are either easy to dispose of or whose disposal does little or no environmental damage. Until that approach is adopted, the environment will inevitably be bombarded by the unthinking and anti-social citizen such as the honourable member for Murrumba armed with his litter.

The periodic performance and pitchfork-rattling antics of persons such as the Minister for Local Government scarcely create a ripple on the surface, but doubtless they are thoroughly enjoyed by the potential litterer as providing excellent comic relief to his efforts. I suggest that the sooner the Minister comes down to earth and sets about tackling the problem the sooner real progress will be made. Anything short of tackling the cause of the litter problem will be just as ineffectual as any approaches so far have been.

POLICE DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION

Mr. JENSEN (Bundaberg) (12.54 p.m.): I rise to take exception to the attack made in this debate by the Minister for Police on the member for Nudgee, which he spread to cover all members of the A.L.P. It was a shocking thing for him to attack all members of the A.L.P. just to cover up his own inefficiency and inadequacy. Even the police union has condemned him and called for his resignation.

Honourable Members interjected.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order!

Mr. K. J. Hooper: Do you know that the Minister for Police is known among members of the force as Hodges of the Overflow?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I will listen to one speech at a time.

Mr. JENSEN: Yes, I understand he is known by many names in the Police Force.

I say to the Minister that his attack was unwarranted. Members on this side of the House have throughout their time in Parliament protected the police and spoken for them. The police in Bundaberg will vouch that I have always supported them. What has the Minister done? During his administration he has destroyed the friendliness of the policeman. Over the years, the policeman was helpful and friendly to the public as he walked the streets, and he did a good job.

Mr. Hodges: He still does.

Mr. JENSEN: No, he does not. He is out in motor-cars all day and not walking the streets and talking to the people and getting information. The public know him no more. Then what did you do? You transferred the good police who had been in the districts for 15 or 20 years. They were the policemen who knew every criminal who walked into a town and could pick people up quickly. You transferred some of them and caused many resignations. They resigned right and left because you just pushed them here and there under your administration. You have done it and you know it. You are now attempting to get policemen back on the beat.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order! The honourable member's comments should come through the Chair.

Mr. JENSEN: I am sorry, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I am trying to speak through you but I must speak in this way because of the attack the Minister made on members of the A.L.P. I wrote to him yesterday about various reports in the Bundaberg Press on the police strength in Bundaberg. To avoid answering the question I asked him last week, he used the excuse that he had not seen the report. He has had plenty of time to see the report during the past week.

Mr. Hodges: I do not read everything published throughout Queensland.

Mr. JENSEN: I don't care what he does. I do not think he can read at all. He simply takes notice of what Ray Whitrod tells him all the time. The police in every district know what is happening. The police in Bundaberg are very sincere and honest.

Mr. Frawley: Do they worry your constituents?

Mr. JENSEN: No, they do not and I would protect them if they did.

Mr. Hodges: You are pleased if I get them off. When the police do their job, you don't want them to do it.

Mr. Wright: Do you know that the memorandums sent out from the commissioner are considered to be the joke of the month?

Mr. JENSEN: No, but I am not interested in those so much. It is the attitude of the Minister towards the whole Police Force that worries me.

Mr. Hodges: Do you agree with what Mr. Melloy said last week?

Mr. JENSEN: I cannot understand the Minister.

A member of the Queensland Police Union came to Bundaberg last week and said that people would have to be killed before any action would be taken. Only three policemen are on night duty in the Bundaberg district—an area containing 50,000 people and four beach resorts. I think it was last Thursday that there was a brawl in one of the hotels in Bundaberg. Only one policeman was available to go down there where six men were fighting. He called two men out of a police union meeting to help him deal with that brawl.

Mr. Hodges: That is right.

Mr. JENSEN: That is correct. If he had not called them out of the union meeting, he would have had to call police from their homes.

Mr. Hodges: That is quite all right.

Mr. JENSEN: It is not quite all right. If that policeman had gone down and been belted up by six people who then cleared out, he would not have had any evidence on them. So he called on two men to go down with him. He would not walk alone into a brawl involving six men.

Mr. Hodges: When the police do their job, you come crawling to me to get them off a charge.

Mr. JENSEN: I wanted the Minister to come into that. He has brought this in once before. I attacked him in the House for 10 minutes on this very question. He was not game to come back here and attack me. What I went to the Minister about was a request to me by the senior sergeant of the station. The Minister took no notice of it and the person involved ended up getting out of the Police Force on compensation or superannuation. They tried to put the dump on him after it was too late and made a fool of themselves.

Mr. Hodges: What about the hotel they raided and you wanted me to get them off that charge?

Mr. JENSEN: That was nothing to do with me. That is another one of his dirty little cracks.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order! Under the provisions of the sessional order previously agreed upon by the House the time allotted for the debate on Matters of Public Interest has now expired.

The House adjourned at 1.1 p.m.