

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 22 OCTOBER 1975

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

BOGUS PETITIONS**STATEMENT BY MR. SPEAKER**

Mr. SPEAKER: By Monday's mail I received two petitions and on Tuesday one petition, all of a similar nature. Two of them were in envelopes embossed with the crest of the James Cook University, Townsville, and the third one was exactly similar in construction but in a plain envelope.

These petitions protested against a statement allegedly made by His Excellency the Governor. They asked me to present the petitions to the House and the members of it. Following my usual practice, I would have done so; but I became very suspicious of the authenticity of some of the signatures, and these suspicions were strongly borne out when I noticed that two of the signatures were "Gough Whitlam, P.M., c/- Canberra", and "Tom Burns, M.P., c/- Brisbane". As I am au fait with the signature of the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition and I know that the signature purporting to be his on the petition was bogus, I have decided that this was sent to me probably as a prank—the sort of prank that one usually associates with university students—and, consequently, I will take no action with regard to it. However, I think it is a matter for regret that those who claim to be somewhat superior to the ordinary run of Queensland citizens should use His Excellency as a butt for their coarse humour.

In view of the obvious falsity of the alleged petitions and the implied insult to His Excellency, I have consigned them to what I consider to be their appropriate place—the waste-paper basket.

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT**DEPARTMENTAL AND OTHER ACCOUNTS;
LOANS SINKING FUNDS**

Mr. SPEAKER announced the receipt from the Auditor-General of his report on departmental and other accounts for the year 1974-75 and his report on the Loans Sinking Funds of the State for the year 1974-75.

Ordered to be printed.

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Orders in Council under the Co-operative Housing Societies Act 1958-1974.

Regulation under the Apprenticeship Act 1964-1974.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

SCHOOL LIBRARIES, NORTHERN REGION

Mr. Jones asked the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities—

Will he list (a) the secondary and (b) the primary schools in the northern regional area which have new library buildings and those schools in order of forward priority for which libraries have been approved?

(Originally asked on 16 October 1975)

Answer:—

New libraries have been built at the following schools in the Northern Region:— Secondary Schools: Cairns; Pimlico; Townsville; Heatley (under construction); (In addition, new buildings are being used as interim libraries at Trinity Bay and Heatley). Primary Schools: Aitkenvale, Balaclava; Bowen; Edge Hill; Mundingburra; Ayr; Cairns North; Collinsville; Ravenshoe (under construction).

1. FUEL SHORTAGES IN GRAIN-GROWING AREAS

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

(1) Is he aware that supplies of fuel are in short supply in the grain-growing areas of the Darling Downs, Western Downs and the South-west?

(2) As the wheat harvest has now commenced, will he take steps to ensure that adequate supplies are available so that there is no hold-up due to fuel shortages?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) The Department of Commercial and Industrial Development is maintaining close contact with the two Queensland refineries and with the oil industry generally during the current tight period of supply with a view to ensuring as far as practicable that there is an equitable distribution of available supplies. As the honourable member will appreciate, industrial disputes which have prevented any build-up of reserves have contributed greatly to the present situation. One Queensland refinery is currently operating at full and the other in the vicinity of 70 per cent capacity. In addition, I am informed, both companies are taking steps to bring in refined product with a view to easing the position. It is possible that from time to time individual garages or depots may be temporarily out of product over the forthcoming weeks. However, on the information before me it appears that the oil industry is taking all reasonable steps to meet the situation. The position will be kept under constant review.

2. DUST NUISANCE AT MEANDARRA RAILWAY YARD AND WHEAT DUMP

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

Further to my question of 10 September concerning the dust nuisance at the Meandarra railway yard wheat dump, what is the present situation?

Answer:—

Since my answer to the honourable member on 10 September 1975, the State Wheat Board has indicated its agreement to meet half the cost of providing a bitumen surface on the roadway through the station yard at Meandarra. The Tara Shire Council has agreed to undertake the work, and advice is awaited from the council as to when it would be in a position to make a commencement. It is understood by the Railway Department that the council is unable to carry out the work at the present time.

3. CONSTRUCTION OF NURSING HOME, WATERWORKS ROAD, RED HILL

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

(1) When will the construction of a nursing home on the site in Waterworks Road, Red Hill, commence?

(2) How many beds will be available in the home?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) The State Health Department has purchased property at Waterworks Road, Red Hill, to be used for the construction of a complex to accommodate intellectually handicapped infants requiring in-patient assessment and relief placement. It will also provide continuing care facilities for infants and young children who are severely intellectually handicapped and require residential care. The project is part of an over-all programme to provide services for the intellectually handicapped throughout the State. I would refer the honourable member to a press release made on Thursday, 26 June 1975 in regard to the property at Red Hill, but I am anxious that this single project be seen in the perspective of the over-all programme for the intellectually handicapped. The building programme involves both Brisbane and major provincial cities and is estimated to cost \$12,000,000. As part of this programme, residential care units will be established in regional areas as well as within existing institutional settings. This particular project at Red Hill will care for those who require residential care associated with hospital facilities, but every effort will be made to minimise, in terms of the internal design, the institutional character of hospital buildings. Other projects in the building programme will be based on the family-sized group to

enable residents both to live and to develop as members of family rather than as members of an institution. Some will be placed within the context of suburban life to provide access to the normal community facilities for education, recreation and occupation. Special consideration is given to specific groups such as the mildly intellectually handicapped with concomitant material disorders of behaviour, relief placement of children and adults and those whose intellectual handicap is concomitant with physical handicaps such as blindness, deafness and spasticity. Planning of the project at Ashgrove is in the earliest stages but it is hoped that construction will commence early in the next financial year for a building to accommodate 80 young children. While the building programme is of great importance, an even more important development is the founding of a new caring profession for the specialised care of the intellectually handicapped. The primary need for the intellectually handicapped is for active educational, occupational and social training aimed at achieving the full potential of the individual and his integration into the community or obtaining his maximum personal and social independence within a residential setting. The care of the intellectually handicapped will, under this proposed programme, pass to three new classes of employees—the residential care worker, the residential care assistant and the domestic. The residential care worker will be at a subprofessional level providing the expertise to design employment and supervise programmes of care and to supervise residential care assistants. Residential care assistants will be trained by in-service training courses to provide 24 hour-per-day informed and effective care at parental level. These persons will be responsible for every aspect of the residents' domestic life.

4. SALE OF LAND TO RECOVER WEED ERADICATION COSTS

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

As the Local Government Act contains provision for the sale of property to enable local authorities to recover the costs of the eradication of noxious weeds, at what stage may this apply and does the Act authorise the council to sell a property if the debt so incurred is only a comparatively small percentage of the property value?

Answer:—

Such expenses become a charge on the land and are recoverable by the local authority in the same manner as rates are recoverable. For land to be sold for arrears of rates, the rates must be due and unpaid for three years, and this same time period would apply to expenses. The size

of the debt would not affect the powers of the local authority, but no doubt could well affect its decisions.

5. MARYBOROUGH POLICE ACTIVITIES

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

(1) For crime and street offences, what was the number of arrests by the C.I.B., Maryborough, and the general duty staff, respectively, for each of the years 1969 to 1975?

(2) How many police were stationed at Maryborough as at 30 June in each of the years 1969 to 1975?

(3) What amount of time was lost on account of study leave over the last two years and when did the granting of such leave commence?

(4) What was the number of police available for general police duties, not including technicians, office staff, C.I.B. and traffic police, as at 30 June in each of the years 1969 to 1975?

Answers:—

(1) Statistical data of this kind are not readily available.

(2) Established strength—

	Police	Civilian Staff
30 June 1969	51	7
30 June 1970	51	7
30 June 1971	51	7
30 June 1972	51	7
30 June 1973	44	8
30 June 1974	44	7
30 June 1975	41	7

Reduction in strength in 1972-73 was related to reduced number of police divisions as a result of establishment of a new police district.

(3) Ascertaining the amount of study leave granted would require a detailed examination of each member's file, and it is not proposed to do this. Approval for the granting of study leave was circulated to all police districts on 14 February 1974.

(4) Members performing office and traffic duties form part of the over-all general police strength, and the information sought is not readily available. I do not propose to have it compiled.

6. EXEMPTION OF CHARITABLE BODIES FROM LOCAL AUTHORITY CHARGES

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

(1) Under what section of the Local Government Act can charitable bodies such as senior citizens community centres be granted exemption of rates and charges by the local authority concerned?

(2) What section of the Act empowers local authorities to grant a remission of rates and charges to charitable bodies which might be in necessitous circumstances?

Answers:—

(1) Section 24 is the section under which rate exemption powers or entitlements are conferred. In the particular case referred to, the appropriate reference is probably section 24 (1) (i) (i), which confers a discretion upon the local authority in respect of the rating of land in the occupation of any person, corporation, or association which is exclusively used for charitable purposes. However "charges" do not come within any exemption provisions.

(2) Section 27 (4) covers rate remissions.

7. PICNIC FIRES ON FRASER ISLAND

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

(1) Is he aware of the remarks and concern of the District Forester, Maryborough, regarding a recent fire on the southern portion of Fraser Island which burnt out a considerable area and which was caused by tourists?

(2) Have there been any prosecutions by the Forestry Department over the last couple of years for the illegal lighting of fires?

(3) Under what conditions may fires be lit for picnic purposes on Fraser Island?

(4) Has any conservation group made any representations over the last two years regarding the damage and danger to Fraser Island from fires lit by careless tourists?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) I am aware of the report in "The Sunday Mail" of 19 October 1975 attributing to the District Forester, Maryborough, statements concerning the undesirable effects of certain actions of visitors to Fraser Island, and that the recent large fire on Fraser Island started from a camp-fire on the beach north of Hook Point. I would mention that forestry officers in general are very concerned about the damage and dangers caused by any wildfires. The Department of Forestry does not administer the Rural Fires Act. However, since June 1973 the Forestry Department has investigated numerous unauthorised lightings of fires. In at least five of those in which the identity of the offender was established, the department's recommendations for prosecution were accepted by the Rural Fires Board and convictions obtained. The conditions under which fires may be lit for picnic purposes are defined in the Rural Fires Act, and these are interpreted and included as conditions

on all permits issued by the Forestry Department to visitors to traverse a State Forest. These permit conditions read—

"No fire shall be lit, maintained or used or caused to be lit, maintained or used in the open air, other than in a properly constructed fire place provided on the said reservation for the purpose of a camp, billy or other like fire unless a space of ground immediately around the site of the fire of a width of 2 metres at least in all parts has previous to the lighting of the fire been cleared and is then clear of all inflammable material.

"The permittee, having lit, maintained or used any fire in accordance with the preceding provision, shall not leave the same unattended temporarily or otherwise without completely extinguishing that fire."

There have been representations by conservation groups involving fires but there is no specific record of a representation by a conservation group over the last two years regarding the damage and danger to Fraser Island from fires lit by careless tourists.

8. HOUSING COMMISSION HOUSES IN AND AROUND NUDGEES

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

(1) How many Housing Commission houses were erected in the northern suburbs of Nudgee, Banyo, Virginia, Geebung and Wavell Heights in the years ended 30 June 1974 and 1975?

(2) Where are they located and how many were (a) rented and (b) sold?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) Completed houses, nil; under construction, 4 houses at Banyo.

9. RESIGNATION OF DR. GUERIN, QUILPIE DISTRICT HOSPITAL

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

(1) As Dr. Guerin has resigned from the Quilpie District Hospital, what would be the annual cost of transporting a medical officer from Charleville for two consultation sessions each week?

(2) Has Dr. Guerin reapplied for the position of part-time superintendent at the hospital?

(3) Have there been other applications for the position and, if not, what action is to be taken in regard to Dr. Guerin?

Answers:—

(1) The approximate cost of aerial transport is \$9,360 per annum.

(2) Yes.

(3) As far as this department is aware, Dr. Guerin was the only applicant for the position. Consideration of his application for re-appointment is a matter for the Quilpie Hospitals Board. I would like to inform the honourable member that the member for Gregory has had a number of interviews with me and my officers trying to assist in this difficult problem in Quilpie.

10. ILLEGAL PRACTICE OF DENTISTRY

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

(1) How many prosecutions for the illegal practice of dentistry were laid in the years ended 30 June 1973, 1974 and 1975?

(2) How many of these resulted in convictions, what were the names and addresses of those proceeded against and what were the penalties imposed?

(3) How many inspectors are engaged in policing the Dental Act and where are they located?

(4) How many complaints were lodged by the public in relation to illegal practice and to treatment by dentists generally?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) There was one prosecution for the illegal practice of dentistry in the year ended 30 June 1973, and one in the year ended 30 June 1975. Both these prosecutions were successful. The names and addresses of those proceeded against were—M. Ross, Corner Juliette and Emperor Streets, Annerley and S. J. Chadwick, 619A Main Street, Kangaroo Point. The former was fined \$10 with \$2.50 costs of court and \$7.50 professional costs, and the latter was fined \$80 with \$4.25 costs of court and \$10.50 professional costs.

(3) No full time inspectors are employed for the policing of the Dental Act. Inspectorial work is performed as and when required by authorised officers of the Dental Board.

(4) Complaints lodged by the public with the Dental Board in relation to illegal practice were nil in the year ended 30 June 1973, three in the year ended 30 June 1974 and two in the year ended 30 June 1975. Complaints in relation to treatment by dentists were five in the year ended 30 June 1973, four in the year ended 30 June 1974 and five in the year ended 30 June 1975.

11, 12 and 13. [*Deferred*]

14. SECOND DENTIST FOR CHARLEVILLE

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

In view of the long waiting time experienced by people in Charleville before they can see the only dentist, who is a State Government employee, when will a second appointment be made, as one dentist is overburdened by the amount of work involved in servicing such a large area?

Answer:—

At the present time the Dental Clinic facilities at the Charleville Hospital provide only one dental surgery and it would not be possible for an additional dentist to be appointed. The honourable member's strong representations will be borne in mind in relation to an investigation presently being undertaken in respect of an expansion of dental facilities at the Charleville Hospital.

15. FIRE BRIGADE INSURANCE LEVY IN RURAL AREAS

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

As the fire brigade levy on fire insurance premiums in rural areas where no fire brigades operate is considered to be an iniquitous sectional tax, can or will any action be taken to correct the anomaly?

Answer:—

The conditions governing the raising and distribution of fire brigade levies are provided for in the Fire Brigades Act, which is administered by my colleague the Minister for Industrial Development, Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs. I therefore refer to his answer of 14 October 1975 to a similar question from the honourable member for Townsville. I understand the report of the committee headed by Mr. J. G. Rutherford, the Insurance Commissioner, will be submitted to the Government for consideration within two weeks.

16. COOKTOWN-MAREEBA ROAD

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

Is he aware of a statement made recently by the Commonwealth Minister for Transport to the Chairman of the Cooktown District Action Committee that the Cooktown-Mareeba road was not included in the last submission for Commonwealth funds to construct arterial roads and that, if funds were sought to upgrade this road, the matter would receive consideration in future road programmes?

Answer:—

The Mareeba-Laura road was a beef road on which substantial planning had taken place. The Australian Government would not accept it as a beef road but insisted on its reverting to a rural arterial. The Australian Government provides more funds for beef roads than rural arterials and it has not been possible to programme works from Commonwealth funds since Mr. Jones has consistently stated that east-west roads must be given emphasis. The Queensland State Government has provided \$200,000 from its own funds to try to give some positive help to the Cooktown people. If Mr. Jones is prepared to make an additional grant for the Cooktown road without taking funds from other programmed rural arterial works, I will arrange for an immediate start on the works. Alternatively, if he is prepared to return the Mareeba-Laura road to the beef road category, beef road funds can be applied to new works.

17. LINK BETWEEN COMMONWEALTH
LOAN SEARCH AND CONSTITUTION CRISIS

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

With regard to the recent attempts by the Commonwealth Government to bypass the Loan Council, of which this State is a member, by raising enormous loans overseas from suspect sources, is there any connection between the desperate and indecent haste of the renewed loan-seeking activity of the Commonwealth Government and the present constitutional crisis?

Answer:—

The question of the honourable member for Merthyr raises a very interesting possibility. It is quite conceivable that illegally secured funds from overseas could be used for equally illegal purposes within Australia. The fact that the present Deputy Prime Minister—who is also a deposed Treasurer—could publicly state that the Federal Government could function without Supply being granted by the Federal Parliament certainly gives credence to the view that the overseas loan-raising activities of the Federal Government could well have been for the purpose of securing funds in the event of Supply being refused. That possibility was raised as long ago as 11 July this year in the "Age" newspaper by Professor Colin Howard, Professor of Constitutional Law at Melbourne University. Clearly such action by the Federal Government would have been in total defiance of the Australian Constitution. Given the record of the Whitlam Government in other areas, such defiance of the Constitution should hardly surprise anyone. In view of the fact that the conspirators in the plot have been found out and dismissed from office, I think it is about time that the chief executive and chief conspirator dismissed himself from office.

18. REPORT ON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL
APPLIANCES AND HEARING AIDS

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

With reference to the working party on medical and surgical aids and appliances and hearing aids, which prepared a report within the Commonwealth Department of Health that was sent to the Industries Assistance Commission—

(1) Was the Queensland Health Department consulted in the preparation of this report?

(2) Has his department been supplied with a copy of the final report?

(3) Is he aware of the intentions of the Commonwealth Government or the Industries Assistance Commission in respect of this matter?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) I am advised that the Commonwealth working party on medical and surgical aids and appliances is a Commonwealth Health Department committee. It studies a series of subjects and prepares reports when discussions on a particular subject are finalised. The Queensland Health Department has not been consulted in the preparation of these reports. I understand that the report on hearing aids has not yet been made public, and therefore I am unaware of the intentions of the Commonwealth Government or the Industries Assistance Commission in respect to this matter.

19. PARTICIPATION OF MIGRANTS IN
SCHOOLS INQUIRY

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

(1) With reference to the joint inquiry into schools with high migration enrolment, the results of which were announced recently in a joint statement by the Education Ministers of New South Wales, Victoria and the Commonwealth, and in view of the large migrant population in this State, was Queensland invited to participate in the inquiry? If so, did it refuse or decline to do so?

(2) Has his department been supplied with a copy of the report?

(3) Has his department ever carried out any similar investigation?

Answers:—

(1) The report of the inquiry into schools of high migrant density was a study involving schools in Victoria and New South Wales with a majority of migrant pupils in their total enrolment. Directors of the study did not elect to study schools in Queensland, but chose instead schools

in cities which have the heaviest migrant population, namely, Sydney and Melbourne. This State was not invited to participate.

(2) Copies of the report have been supplied to this department and it is interesting to note that a number of the recommendations relevant to the Queensland situation are already practised in our schools.

(3) The Education Department has conducted various surveys in this area, but they have differed in their nature and scope from the report into schools of high migrant density.

20. SANDGATE MEDICAL CLINIC

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

(1) What is the approximate date of completion of the Sandgate Medical Clinic?

(2) Why were drab-coloured bricks used in the construction of the building, instead of clean light bricks which would be in keeping with the bright sunny climate?

Answer:—

This project is not under the control of the Department of Works.

21. HOUSING COMMISSION ACTIVITIES, MT. ISA

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

(1) How many Housing Commission houses have been built in Mt. Isa?

(2) How many have been sold and how many are for rental?

(3) How many applicants are on the waiting list and when was the last time that the list was updated?

(4) Who is in charge of the allocation of Housing Commission houses for rental or sale and what are the qualifications of this person?

(5) How many clerical staff and inspectors are employed in this department?

Answers:—

(1) Completed 905; uncompleted in current contracts, 53.

(2) Completed houses are 519 home-ownership and 386 rental.

(3) The updated figures at 30 September 1975 are: with priority, 32; without priority, 51; pensioners, 6.

(4) The Clerk of the Court is the commission's representative. He allocates rental houses in accordance with clear policy directions. He does not approve applications for sales, but channels the appropriate information to Brisbane head

office. This is the same situation as at all Queensland towns other than Brisbane, Rockhampton and Townsville. A Clerk of the Court is a senior experienced officer of the Public Service, required to be legally qualified by examination for appointment to that position. The present officer at Mt. Isa is a solicitor.

(5) The commission has two construction inspectors. Clerical officers to assist the Clerk of the Court are provided by the Department of Mines.

22. OVERHEAD PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT ENOGGERA RAILWAY STATION

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

With regard to the overhead pedestrian crossing at the Enoggera Railway Station, will he give consideration, in the interest of public safety, to extending the pedestrian bridge to the north side of the rail line as well as to the south side, so that children from the Enoggera State School, the Enoggera Convent and the Marist College will not have to re-cross the dangerous line on foot in order to get to their schools, all of which are situated on the north side of the line?

Answer:—

Investigation of this matter, following the honourable member's earlier representations, has been completed and I refer him to my lengthy letter of 20 October, which obviously he had not received at the time of asking the question.

23. JAPANESE BEEF QUOTA

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

Following the announcement that Japan was allowing a further quota of beef into that country later this year, can he state at this stage what this will mean to Queensland producers in terms of quantity and price?

Answer:—

No official announcement has yet been made but Japanese officials are expected to announce shortly a third world import quota since the lifting of the import embargo in June. Meat trade sources are speculating that it could be of the order of 20 000 tonnes for delivery in December-January. Australia is expected to supply 80 to 90 per cent of this quota. In recent years, Queensland has supplied a large proportion of Australian exports to Japan, and a similar situation is expected to apply to future shipments. Prices received for future exports to Japan will be dependent upon the demand-supply situation applying at that time.

24. FULL-TIME PROBATION OFFICER FOR
BUNDABERG DISTRICT

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

As the probation officer in charge of the Bundaberg district, who is based in Rockhampton, stated recently that more probationers could be admitted if there was a full-time probation officer in Bundaberg and as this statement was supported in court by Judge Shanahan, will he consider the matter of a full-time probation officer for the Bundaberg district?

Answer:—

The matter of making available the services of a full-time probation officer at Bundaberg has to be considered in the context of providing better coverage by the Adult Probation and Parole Service of the Burnett-Wide Bay area as a whole. The possibility of opening further regional offices in Mackay and Maryborough was referred to in the Annual Report of the Chief Probation and Parole Officer for the period 1 July 1974 to 30 June 1975, which I tabled in Parliament on 23 September 1975. A reference to that report by the honourable member would reveal that the Chief Probation and Parole Officer indicated that the organisation of a separate regional probation office for the Burnett-Wide Bay area to be situated at Maryborough would include Bundaberg and Gympie and westwards to Kingaroy. As will be observed, this matter is under consideration.

25. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS IN SAILING

Mr. Lester, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Tourism and Marine Services—

In view of the recent tragedy on the Fairbairn Dam, in which it appears that two people have been drowned in a sailing-boat accident, can more be done to ensure that safety precautions are enforced and extended to the compulsory wearing of life-jackets?

Answer:—

I assure the honourable member that my Department of Harbours and Marine, through its Boating and Fisheries Patrol, does everything in its power to make the boating public aware of the dangers associated with boating, and also to police the regulations. I understand that the tragedy involved a small boat which was overcome by a violent storm on Fairbairn Dam. It is regretted that there is very little hope of preventing people from putting out in a boat when there is a possibility of a storm unless an officer happens to be on the spot at the relevant time, when a storm is imminent. The regulations at present require that life-jackets or buoyancy vests be carried on board all vessels. The view

taken by my department is that a person should don the jacket or vest if the weather is threatening. It is not considered practical to enforce the wearing of aids to buoyancy at all times.

26. DOUBLE-PARKING OF BUSES IN
CREEK STREET, BRISBANE

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

(1) Is he aware that prior to the bus peak-hour period, waiting buses double park in Creek Street, Brisbane, thus creating serious safety hazards?

(2) Will he take such measures as are necessary to have this practice cease in the interests of public safety?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) I am aware of the problem created by the parking and double-parking of buses in Creek Street, Brisbane. However, the matter does not come within my portfolio. I will take the matter up with the Minister concerned. In this instance it is the Minister for Police.

27. REPAIR OF FOOTPATHS IN ADELAIDE
STREET, BRISBANE

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

(1) Is he aware that many city footpaths, especially the path in Adelaide Street between Edward Street and Creek Street, are damaged and broken away at the kerb where drainage outlets meet the gutter, thus creating safety hazards for elderly people and others crossing the roads or alighting from vehicles, and that one elderly woman fell and broke her wrist?

(2) Will he take the necessary action to see that the Brisbane City Council repairs the footpaths in the interest of public safety?

Answers:—

(1) I am aware of the condition of city footpaths, but I am not aware of any cases of injury to persons to which the honourable member refers.

(2) Maintenance of footpaths in the city is a council responsibility, and I have no power of direction over the Brisbane City Council in the matter. However, I will be pleased to draw the attention of the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor to the honourable member's complaint.

28. INVESTIGATIONS INTO POLICE FORCE

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

(1) Has the Scotland Yard investigation into police matters in Queensland

been completed or will further matters be attended to later when the Southport case is no longer sub judice?

(2) Beside the matters already investigated, is any other investigation contemplated or are administration changes in the Police Department contemplated?

Answers:—

(1) The investigation will be completed when matters relating to the Southport case are not sub judice.

(2) Whether further action is warranted will be decided after the Scotland Yard investigators' report has been received and studied.

29. INVESTIGATIONS BY OMBUDSMAN

Dr. Crawford, pursuant to notice, asked the Premier—

(1) How many matters have been investigated by the Ombudsman since the inception of the office?

(2) How many matters have involved the use of the Ombudsman's power to investigate Government and local authority departments in depth?

(3) Which Government departments have been investigated for which specific complaints and what has been the outcome of such investigations?

(4) Has the Governor in Council vetoed the Ombudsman or has any investigation of any Government department been prevented by action of the Governor in Council?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) I refer the honourable member to the Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1974 which prescribes that the principal function of the Parliamentary Commissioner is to investigate administrative actions of Government departments and local authorities. The Act requires the commissioner after 30 June each year to cause to be laid before the Legislative Assembly a report on the exercise of his functions. The commissioner is an officer of Parliament and it would not be the Government's intention, nor indeed would it be within its province, to question the commissioner in the manner sought by the honourable member.

30, 31 and 32. LOCAL AUTHORITY ACTIVITIES UNDER BRIGALOW AND OTHER LANDS DEVELOPMENT ACT

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

(1) What have been the loan allocations to the various local authorities which have provided development facilities under the Brigalow and Other Lands Development Act and what has been the purpose of the loans?

(2) Are any local authorities experiencing difficulty in meeting their interest and redemption payments under the loans because of the depressed state of the beef industry or of the failure of valuations to increase by the anticipated amounts and, if so, which ones?

Answers:—

(1) The following allocations were granted to local authorities for the purpose of constructing access roads to service ballot and sale blocks within the Land Development (Fitzroy Basin) Scheme:—

Shire	Allocation
	\$
Banana	210,838.92
Duaringa	729,573.45
Bauhima	738,849.50
Taroom	230,069.05
Broadsound	1,424,971.99
Belyando	452,569.22
Livingstone	72,929.00
Bowen	7,562.46
Bungil	195,339.96

These funds were provided to the councils on the basis of 75 per cent subsidy and 25 per cent loan.

(2) No local authority has fallen behind with its repayments to the Corporation of the Land Administration Commission. I understand that the Broadsound Shire Council has recently advised my colleague the Honourable Minister for Lands that some difficulty is being experienced in meeting its commitments to the Corporation of the Land Administration Commission because rates remain unpaid due to the slump in cattle prices. The Government, through the agency of the Rural Reconstruction Board, is continuing to make low-interest loans available to beef producers in and outside the brigalow scheme for the express purpose of meeting overdue rates. This money should prove beneficial to local authorities, including the Broadsound Shire Council.

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

(1) Which local authorities entered into agreements with the Land Administration Commission to construct and upgrade roads in their areas in conjunction with the development of new blocks under the Brigalow and Other Lands Development Act?

(2) What length of roads has been (a) constructed and (b) upgraded in each local authority area and what amount did the Land Administration Commission contribute to the cost of each?

(3) Have any other contributions been made by the Land Administration Commission to these shires under the Brigalow and Other Lands Development Act and, if so, what amounts and for what purposes?

Answers:—

(1) The shires of Banana, Duarina, Bauhinia, Taroom, Bungil, Broadsound, Belyando, Livingstone and Bowen entered into agreements with the Corporation of the Land Administration Commission to construct and/or upgrade roads under the Fitzroy Basin Land Development Scheme.

(2) Lengths of road constructed and/or upgraded in the shires mentioned are as follows:—Banana (57.1 km—cost \$210,838); Duarina (223.44 km—cost \$729,573); Bauhinia (311.82 km—cost \$738,849); Bungil (7.89 km—cost \$195,339); Taroom (137.36 km—cost \$230,069); Broadsound (305.01 km—cost \$1,424,971); Belyando (112.2 km—cost \$452,569); Livingstone (28.4 km—cost \$72,929); Bowen (1.1 km—cost \$7,562). Separate costs for construction as distinct from upgrading are not readily available. Contribution by the Corporation of the Land Administration Commission consisted of 75 per cent subsidy and provision of loans for the remaining 25 per cent. However, in the case of the Bungil Shire, the corporation paid for the full cost of the road work as the road (Arcadia Road) was outside the area of the development scheme.

(3) No other contributions have been made to these shires under the Brigalow and Other Lands Development Act by the corporation.

Mr. Casey, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Survey, Valuation, Urban and Regional Affairs—

(1) What was the valuation of each of the local authority shires which have benefited from the provisions of the Brigalow and Other Lands Development Act (a) at 1 July 1965 and (b) at 1 July 1975?

(2) What was the general rate in each of these shires on those dates?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) The Brigalow and Other Lands Development Act 1962–1967 is administered by the Honourable the Minister for Lands, Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service, but it is understood that parts of the Shires of Banana, Bauhinia, Belyando, Bowen, Broadsound, Duarina, Livingstone and Taroom are situated within the area declared under the provisions of the Act quoted. The total unimproved value under the provisions of the Valuation of Land Act 1944–1975 of each of these local authority areas is of course available in the Department of the Valuer-General and the information requested by the honourable member for Mackay is contained in a schedule which I lay upon the table of the House and request that it be incorporated in "Hansard". As regards the other information requested by the honourable member,

I would state that the Valuer-General is a valuing authority and not a rating or taxing authority.

Local Authority	1-7-65 Unimproved Valuation	1-7-75 Unimproved Valuation
Banana	\$ 9,140,254	\$ 19,038,930
Bauhinia	3,057,298	6,291,552
Belyando	4,441,058	12,728,750
Bowen	2,443,668	5,192,175
Broadsound	2,291,934	9,894,230
Duarina	3,138,292	10,496,930
Livingstone	3,809,138	9,538,154
Taroom	4,694,980	12,341,090

33. FRASER ISLAND VISIT TO PLAN OVER-ALL DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Powell, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Tourism and Marine Services—

Are officers of his department currently trying, at my request, to co-ordinate a visit to Fraser Island by officers of various departments with a view to arranging for an over-all plan of progress for Fraser Island's development?

Answer:—

As a result of representations I received from the honourable member, an inspection has been arranged of the northern section of Fraser Island by my Department of Harbours and Marine with the object of investigating future demands for jetty landing facilities and possible jetty sites. The visit will take place on 17 and 18 November. It is proposed to include the honourable member and representatives from my Department of Harbours and Marine, the Queensland Government Tourist Bureau, the Department of Forestry, National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Burrum Shire Council and local charter boat and island tourist venture operators.

34. CROSSING OF MEDIAN STRIPS AT RIVERVIEW TRAFFIC LIGHTS, IPSWICH ROAD

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

(1) Is he aware of the differing, dangerous practices of motorists crossing the median strips on the divided Ipswich-Brisbane road at the Riverview traffic lights when through traffic has the green light at the adjacent pedestrian crossings at Progress Road, Wacol; Centenary Highway, Wacol; Station and Archerfield Roads, Darra; and Douglas and Rudd Streets, Oxley?

(2) Will he alert motorists of the existing law and encourage uniform observation of it?

(3) If necessary, will he refer these matters to his Cabinet colleagues, Main Roads Department and police in the interests of public safety?

Answer:—

(1 to 3). No, but I will take this matter up with my colleagues, the Minister for Police and the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads, and also have the Queensland Road Safety Council examine it with a view to appropriate urgent action being taken in the interest of road safety.

35. TRAFFIC HAZARD NEAR INTERSECTION
OF DOUGLAS AND RUDD STREETS
WITH IPSWICH ROAD, OXLEY

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

(1) Is he aware of the extremely dangerous condition existing just west of the Douglas and Rudd Streets intersection on Ipswich Road, Oxley, where there is a 1.5 metre difference in highway levels separated only by very low narrow concrete kerbing?

(2) Is he aware that west-bound vehicles could cross this kerbing and plunge into the east-bound traffic?

(3) Are steel barriers planned on the southern side of this median strip and, if so, when will they be installed?

Answer:—

(1 to 3). I have arranged for the district engineer to inspect the site referred to by the honourable member and to arrange for any necessary protection work.

36. Q.C.W.A. HOUSEKEEPER SCHEME

Dr. Lockwood, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Community and Welfare Services and Minister for Sport—

(1) Is he aware of the Queensland Country Women's Association emergency housekeeper scheme and its valuable role in keeping families together when the mother is ill?

(2) Has the State subsidy towards the cost of this scheme been exhausted or withdrawn?

(3) Will the subsidy be reintroduced in the near future at comparable rates, that is, up to \$40 per week on a means test out of a total wage to the housekeeper of \$60?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) This is not a matter which comes under my administration. The Department of Health has in the past made an annual grant to the Queensland Country Women's Association for their emergency housekeeper scheme.

37. COAL-MINING SAFETY MEASURES

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

With reference to an article in "The Australian" of 21 October captioned "No Underground Mining Safe" in which the writer, Mr. Hugh Lunn, states that the Queensland Government has failed to legislate for safety improvements in the Queensland coal-mining industry, what is the actual position?

Answer:—

As the honourable member is aware, the Kianga disaster is shortly to be the subject of an inquiry before the warden and a panel of experts. For that reason I do not propose to expound on the subject lest I be accused of attempting to prejudge the matter. I point out that anyone who feels he has something to contribute to the hearing is at liberty to make a submission to the warden.

38. COAL FOR GENERATING ELECTRICITY

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

(1) What is the present on-site cost per tonne of coal at the Callide, Collinsville and Swanbank Power Stations?

(2) What are the costs of generation of a unit of electricity at the respective stations?

(3) In view of the recent announcement that the super power station at Gladstone will be increased by a further two 275 MW sets, bringing it to a 1 650 MW station, what is the anticipated annual tonnage of coal required and when will the station be in full production?

(4) From which coal-fields will this quantity of coal be drawn?

Answers:—

(1) Average power station coal prices at mid-1975 were as follows:—

	\$/tonne
Callide	6.85
Collinsville ..	11.26
Swanbank	13.90

(2) Average costs of generation vary with the operating duties of the particular power stations and direct comparisons between individual power stations would be misleading. In addition, the accounts of the electric authorities involved do not provide comparable cost data for individual power stations.

(3) The annual tonnage of coal required by the enlarged 1,650 MW Gladstone Power Station is expected to reach approximately 4,000,000 tonnes per annum in 1984.

(4) Adequate reserves of coal are available at Callide, Blackwater and in other coal deposits within reasonable railing distance of Gladstone. Part at least of the coal for the additional generating sets will come from Callide and the remainder will be drawn from the most economic source available.

39. ROCKHAMPTON-YEPPON AND DULULU-MT. MORGAN ROADS

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

(1) What is the average daily count of vehicles using the Rockhampton-Yeppoon road?

(2) When will a major scheme be commenced on this crooked and dangerous road, as thousands of cars from Rockhampton and Central Queensland use it every week-end to go to the Capricorn Coast?

(3) Has his attention been drawn to the deplorable state of the Dululu-Mt. Morgan road, and what plans has his department for this dangerous road?

Answers:—

(1) 2,113 vehicles per day during 1974.

(2) Although no works are included in this year's rural arterial programme, it is proposed to give high priority to works on this road next year. To this end, design work on two sections totalling 7.4 miles is well in hand. Some improvements for traffic will also be forthcoming from National Highway construction just commencing at the Rockhampton end of the road.

(3) Yes. Improvements to the Dululu-Mt. Morgan road will involve extensive reconstruction on a new alignment. New surveys have been completed between Mt. Morgan and the Dee River, and from there southwards alternative alignments are being investigated. Initial bridge design has commenced at Horse and Hamilton Creeks, and road design has started on the section between Mt. Morgan and Hamilton Creek. I remind the honourable member that I have personal knowledge of this road because it is the one over which he took me when I inspected his electorate. The section from Dululu to Mt. Morgan is extremely dangerous, with only about 8 to 10 ft. left of the 12 ft. pavement. A 30-ton truck came down the middle of the road towards my vehicle, and if my driver and myself had not headed for the bush, we would both have been killed, which, of course, would not have been good for the State of Queensland.

40. WORK STOPPAGES BY RAILWAY GUARDS AT MAYNE DEPOT

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

Have recent railway work stoppages by guards occurred within the Mayne depot, relative to relief after long hours and excessive overtime and the seeking of equity in rostering with loco-running crews and, if so, what are the latest developments in resolving the issue?

Answer:—

Stoppages for 1½ hours and 1 hour 20 minutes respectively occurred on 26 September and 10 October in relation to these issues. Instructions have been re-issued to the effect that guards be placed on the same basis as enginemen in regard to the provision of relief. Due to the shortage of staff, it is not always practicable to meet all requests for relief. However, action is being taken to increase the establishment of guards at Mayne, and, to this end, vacancies for six additional guards were recently advertised.

41. STORM AND TEMPEST INSURANCE, NORTH QUEENSLAND

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

(1) Are some insurance companies reducing storm and tempest cover in North Queensland and, if so, has it been brought to his attention that some companies have refused to write business in this area?

(2) Has the Insurance Commissioner taken any action to overcome this situation and will there be another heavy increase in premium rates for North Queensland?

Answers:—

(1) I am aware that some insurers have withdrawn from or have reduced their business in North Queensland because of losses sustained as a result of storm and tempest claims and the expenses of administration in outlying branches.

(2) Insurers cannot be compelled to underwrite any business they do not wish to accept. The Insurance Commissioner is not aware of any difficulties being faced by the public in obtaining storm and tempest insurance from the insurers who are still underwriting this cover in North Queensland. Since the proclamation of the new Commonwealth Insurance Act and having regard to the provisions of the Commonwealth Trade Practices Act, there are now no maximum rates fixed for general insurance either by the insurance industry or the Queensland Insurance Commissioner. So far as I am aware, this does not necessarily mean heavy increases in premiums for North Queensland.

42. DELAY IN FILLING VACANCY,
SHUNTING DRIVER, CAIRNS

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

When will the vacant position of shunting driver, Cairns, which was advertised in W.N. 28/74 dated 11 July 1974, be filled and what is the reason for the delay in this appointment?

Answer:—

The filling of this and certain other vacancies for shunting drivers is the subject of dispute between the Australian Federated Union of Locomotive Enginemen and the Commissioner for Railways. If the honourable member is able to influence the relevant unions to accept a decision to fill these vacancies, action will be taken without further delay.

43. STATEMENT BY MR. T. WEBSTER ON
FOOD VALUE OF DAIRY PRODUCTS

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

(1) Is he aware of a reported statement by the Chairman of the Australian Dairy Corporation, Mr. Tony Webster, that butter was no more than another spread and that milk was no more than an option to other non-alcoholic beverages?

(2) As the food value of dairy products is recognised throughout the world, is the statement by Mr. Webster, who was appointed by the Whitlam Government, an attempt to further undermine the importance of the Australian dairy industry?

Answers:—

(1) No. I am not aware of the statement reported to have been made by Mr. Webster, Chairman of the Australian Dairy Corporation, concerning butter and milk sales by the industry.

(2) Mr. Webster should be well aware of the nutritional importance of milk in the diet. The advertising and marketing programmes of the former Dairy Produce Board and the newly formed corporation, of which Mr. Webster has recently been made chairman, highlight these important properties, so it is to be hoped that Mr. Webster learns as he goes along. I am certain individual producer members and processor representatives on the corporation will ensure this policy is continued. The attitude of the Commonwealth Government to the rural sector in Australia is well known, and primary producers have suffered adversely from its policies since the Labor Government took office.

44. DISCOUNTS ON MULTIPLE-BOTTLE
MILK PURCHASES

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

(1) With reference to the recent increase in the retail price of milk by the Milk Board, will he investigate the apparent termination by some Brisbane milk vendors of discounts which applied to multiple-bottle purchases in the previous price structure and inform the House as to the current status of the discounts?

(2) If retail discounts still apply to multiple-bottle purchases by householders, will he take appropriate steps to ensure that both householders and vendors are fully informed?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) No investigation is necessary. What might have appeared as discounts for multiple-bottle purchases arose from the fixed price in areas subject to prices orders in Southern Queensland being 35c per quart or 17.5c per pint. In order to fit in with the currency available, the retail price of single pints was set at 18c. As the recently set price is 38c per quart (an even number), the matter of providing for the half cent in the pint price does not occur.

45. TRAFFIC LIGHTS FOR INTERSECTION OF
ELIZABETH AVENUE AND HORNIBROOK
ESPLANADE, CLONTARF

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

When will traffic lights be installed at the intersection of Elizabeth Avenue and Hornibrook Esplanade, Clontarf?

Answer:—

Owing to the excellent representations by the honourable member for Murrumba, the design has been completed and arrangements for the installation of the lights will take place in the near future.

46. GRAIN SORGHUM INDUSTRY

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

(1) Has there been any recent move by sorghum growers to establish a statutory South Queensland grain sorghum marketing board so that growers, in company with their Central Queensland counterparts, can present a united front for the whole industry?

(2) As overseas grain corporations are busy in the southern parts of this State establishing networks of buying agents, does he regard their operations as helpful to the sorghum industry?

(3) As the voluntary selling organisation of the Sorghum Committee of the Graingrowers' Association is being progressively destroyed, have any initiatives been taken in recent times by his department to plan the future viability of the industry and so assist the growers and industry generally?

Answers:—

(1) I presume the honourable member is referring to the letter which appeared in the "Graingrower" of Wednesday, 15 October; otherwise the answer is "No".

(2) In the absence of a marketing board in South Queensland, growers are free to sell their grain sorghum as they wish, either through a voluntary pool system as operated by the Queensland Graingrowers' Association or through merchants.

(3) I do not accept that the voluntary selling organisation of the association is being destroyed. In any case whether one system is preferable to another is a matter for the growers to decide. Any initiative to form a statutory marketing authority must be taken by the growers themselves.

47. TRANSACTIONS BETWEEN ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION CENTRE AND VICTORIAN ARTIFICIAL BREEDERS

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

(1) Does the Artificial Insemination Centre at Wacol handle A.I. equipment on behalf of a firm known as Victorian Artificial Breeders? If so, what is the commission charged by the Wacol centre and what was the volume of business transacted by the centre with Victorian Artificial Breeders during 1972-73, 1973-74 and 1974-75?

(2) What were the terms, conditions and arrangements relating to all business transacted between the centre and Victorian Artificial Breeders and are these business arrangements still current?

Answers:—

(1) No. The Wacol A.I. Centre does not handle A.I. equipment for any organisation.

(2) The centre accepts semen "on consignment" from Victorian Artificial Breeders, which is sold to clients in Queensland. This arrangement also applies to several other interstate semen production centres. Victorian Artificial Breeders is the largest semen production centre in Australia and is the Australian distributor for semen from the major exporters in Britain, Canada and New Zealand. Almost all the imported semen handled by the Wacol centre is received through Victorian Artificial Breeders. In accordance with normal business practice, a commission is paid by Victorian Artificial Breeders on all semen sales made through Wacol.

48. SCIENCE BLOCK FOR BEENLEIGH HIGH SCHOOL

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

As I have been advised that a science block has been programmed for the Beenleigh High School in 1975-76, when will construction commence on the building and when will it be ready for use?

Answer:—

Owing to the excellent representations of the honourable member, this project has been documented and tenders will be invited this Saturday, 25 October 1975. Subject to receipt of a satisfactory tender and contractual performance, the anticipated date of completion of this job would be 31 July 1976.

ALTERATION OF QUESTIONS SUBMITTED ON NOTICE

Mr. AIKENS: The three questions on the Business Paper attributed to me—that is, questions 11, 12 and 13—to my astonishment and without my knowledge and concurrence have been altered, emasculated, eviscerated and, what is worse, they have been bowdlerised. As I want to keep, as I always do, within the strict confines, customs and precedents of this House, I suggest that these three questions be left over for tomorrow's Business Paper. In the interim, Mr. Speaker, I shall have a talk to you, I hope, about these questions and their resubmission, if that is satisfactory to you.

Mr. SPEAKER: I shall be prepared to discuss them with the honourable member during the day.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

PAYMENT OF LIBRARY AIDES

Mr. NEAL: I ask the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities: Is he aware that it has been stated that library aides employed in Queensland schools will cease receiving payment for their employment if the Senate in Canberra continues to delay the passage of the Budget money Bills? Can the Minister tell the House whether that statement is correct?

Mr. BIRD: I am not aware that the statement has been made. However, I should not be surprised if members of the Federal A.L.P. were trying to hoodwink people into believing that employees, be they library aides or others, will not be paid if the Senate Opposition refuses over and over again to pass the money Bill. Obviously they are trying to hoodwink the people and to cover up the fact that if they are not taken out of office before very long, a lot of people will not be paid because jobs will not be available for them. There is definitely no truth in the statement that our library

aides will not be paid. Provision is made for their payment together with our school-teachers.

STATEMENT BY FEDERAL MINISTER FOR
TRANSPORT ON FREEWAY CONSTRUCTION

Mr. FRAWLEY: I ask the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads: Has his attention been drawn to yet another Press statement by the Federal Minister for Transport (Mr. C. Jones) in which he blames the Queensland Government, particularly the Minister (he said that you were incompetent) for restricting work on freeway construction in the city of Brisbane.

Mr. HINZE: It must be becoming perfectly obvious to everybody that the Federal Minister for Transport must have an insatiable desire to have a crack at all Local Government and Main Roads Ministers in Australia. This is so much so that my colleague from New South Wales wrote to me saying that he intends to resign. He has had enough of him and he intends to enter Federal politics to do him over in Canberra. But that is not the case with me, of course; he hasn't got "Old Russo" down yet.

The Press reports referred to by the honourable member are another shining example of how the worms in Canberra will wriggle and twist things in an attempt to get themselves off the hook. These are the sorts of misrepresentation, half-truths and juggling of figures which my Federal colleague the Transport Minister (Mr. Charles Jones) indulges in regularly against road Ministers from all States to completely distort the real situation of road needs and State and Commonwealth financing of them.

Mr. Jones cannot side-step or escape the fact—and it's fact, not fantasy—that there has been a significant drop in real terms in the Commonwealth's contribution to the State's road needs. This applies particularly to urban arterial roads—which include Brisbane's freeways—and to rural arterial roads throughout the State. That is why Brisbane's freeway programme is not going ahead as quickly as it could. If Mr. Jones and his Cabinet colleagues in Canberra would treat the matter of road safety, road construction and maintenance more seriously and provide more realistic allocations for road works, we could get on with the job. Mr. Jones is keen on throwing figures around when it suits him. I suppose he will keep on throwing them around, particularly if his mates have the guts to get into an election with us; but we will have to wait and see about that.

I will give him a few figures in return, anyway, and these are the facts. Over the five-year period from 1969 to 1974, under legislation now replaced by Mr. Jones's

Government, Queensland received an average of \$19,900,000 a year from the Commonwealth for urban arterial roads, including freeways. Under current legislation, taking into account additional funds provided in the recent Federal Budget as well, Queensland is to receive only \$16,000,000 a year. That means we are to get \$4,000,000 less than we did a few years ago for freeways and other arterial roads—and at a time when Mr. Jones and his Government have pushed inflation to from 16 to 20 per cent a year.

They are the facts and Mr. Jones cannot deny them, however unpalatable they may be. Mr. Jones also neglected to tell the electorate through his Press statements and other avenues that the State Government shares responsibility with the Commonwealth for urban arterial road construction, as with rural arterial roads, but the State Government foots the Bill entirely for maintenance on both classes of roads. This year that will amount to something like \$15,000,000, to which the Commonwealth contributes nothing. There is no doubt that, had we been able to negotiate more realistic road funding from the Federal Government, the Queensland Government would not have been forced to raise vehicle registration fees, which we had to do recently, by 50 per cent.

That is the full story behind Mr. Jones's Press statement. It is the same story in every other State.

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION; CITY SQUARE
MEETING AND ACTION BY Q.C.E.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I ask the Premier: Is he aware that last Friday, 17 October, the Leader of the Opposition, after deliberately getting himself ordered to leave the House, thus evading his responsibilities to his electorate, then attended a meeting in the City Square in which he vilified the Premier and told many deliberate untruths calculated to mislead the people of Queensland? Is the Premier also aware that the Queensland Central Executive of the Labor Party expressed their dissatisfaction with the performance of the member for Lytton as Leader of the Opposition and that there is a move afoot to depose him in the near future?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I am quite aware that the Leader of the Opposition did not face up to his responsibilities last week when he walked out of the Chamber. Never in my 28 or 29 years in Parliament—

Mr. BURNS: I rise to a point of order. I was suspended from Parliament last week by you, Mr. Speaker. The statement that I walked out is offensive to me. I was thrown out of the Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I inform honourable members that the Leader of the Opposition retired from the Chamber in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 123A.

Mr. Houston: That's right. Now apologise.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member will be going out again today if he doesn't behave himself.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I think I am still right in saying—

Mr. BURNS: Mr. Speaker, I again rise to a point of order. I ask for a withdrawal of the statement that I walked out. I was told by you under 123A to leave the Chamber, and I retired. I think the Premier had better start telling the truth.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: The Leader of the Opposition cannot see the point. He was not thrown out. He might have crawled out if he did not walk out. What I intended to say was that all the colleagues of the Leader of the Opposition walked out with him. They were not thrown out.

Mr. Houston: That's right.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I am surprised that the former Leader of the Opposition would join in an operation of that nature. In all the years I have been in the House—

Mr. Houston interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Bulimba will refrain from persistent interjections; otherwise I will have to deal with him. The other point I make is that, as I have said before, when a Minister is on his feet all honourable members shall refrain from persistent interjections.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: All I was going to say was that at times in the past Opposition members have felt so ashamed of their policies that they have walked out but usually they have left one member behind. This time they completely vacated the Opposition benches. They all walked out. They certainly did not show very much respect to their electors or indeed to the parliamentary institution.

We know that they had a special objective their attendance at a rally that the Labor Party had organised. We know that the Leader of the Opposition quite obviously had organised the "throw-out", as he terms it, so that he could go up there. That is quite clear. He had a Press statement ready for release as he walked out of the Chamber.

A Government Member interjected.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: As my colleague said, it was all rehearsed.

Mr. Burns interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I inform honourable members on my left that I will control the conduct of the House. I shall be listening for any reflections on me.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I think that the question has been ventilated enough. I would not like the Leader of the Opposition to be thrown out again.

POLICE CONTROL OF ABORIGINAL PROBLEMS IN TOWNSVILLE

Mr. AIKENS: I ask the Minister for Police: Has his attention been drawn to an article in "The Townsville Daily Bulletin" of last Monday which reported Senator J. Keeffe as saying that if a special police squad were formed to deal with the reeking problem created by a certain section of Aborigines in Anzac Park, Townsville, the police should not be brought from other centres but instead, should be drawn from local police, who sympathetically understand the problems of the Aborigines? Is this the same Senator Keeffe who has frequently and vituperatively attacked Townsville police for alleged brutality and discrimination against Aborigines and also joined the A.L.P. chant of "Pigs. Oink, oink" when referring to those police? If so, what credence can be given to this latest attempt by Senator Keeffe to ingratiate himself with the Townsville police?

Mr. HODGES: This is the same honourable gentleman who has condemned the police from time to time. At the request of the mayor and citizens of Townsville, I made arrangements for police to go direct to Townsville to assist in maintaining law and order in that city and also to enable the citizens of Townsville to make use of Anzac Park, which has been turned into a pigsty by citizens who have been left uncontrolled and have been aided and abetted by men such as Senator Keeffe to defy the law in that city.

BIRD-LICE INFESTATION OF PRIMARY CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL

Mr. LOWES: I ask the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities: Is he aware of a segment of the television programme "This Day Tonight" last night in which claims were made that there were bird-lice infestation and other problems at the Primary Correspondence School in College Road, Normanby? If so, will he advise whether the statement appears to be correct and what action is contemplated to rectify the problems?

Mr. BIRD: I did not see "TDT" last night, but this matter was brought to my attention by officers of my department this morning. I am a little disappointed that this appeared on television. Early last week my Acting Director-General brought this matter to my attention and instructions were given for bird-proofing and other work to be carried out at the Primary Correspondence

School. I understand that the work has been commenced and that all efforts are being made to rectify the problems at that school. Some of the people employed there were to be transferred to other areas until the work was undertaken. I have made arrangements to visit the school at lunch-time today to ensure that the work is under way. In view of the honourable member's interest in this problem which exists in his electorate, he is welcome to accompany me so that he can view at first hand whether or not the problem is being overcome.

ALLEGATIONS MADE AGAINST MR. PAT KILLORAN, TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS VISIT

Mr. LANE: I ask the Premier: Has he seen the "Courier-Mail" report that makes certain allegations about the conduct of Mr. Pat Killoran during a recent visit that he made to the Torres Strait islands in company with the Premier? Will the Premier indicate whether the newspaper report is accurate?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I did see the newspaper report, and I was shocked to think that the Labor Party would stoop so low as to make an unwarranted attack on a public servant without knowing the full facts. We all know, of course, that Mr. George Mye, whose name was mentioned in the report, is a very strong Labor supporter, and we all know also that he got about \$500,000 of the last \$1,000,000 spent in the area on his islands.

Mr. Houston: Would you say that outside?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: Yes. I am absolutely disgusted with the report that has been made, and if the honourable member supports it, I am disgusted with him, too.

We went to Yorke Island, at the invitation of the people, for a sports day. Several things occurred that day that necessitated my going to Saibai, and one or two other things broke into my time. But at no time was I discourteous to any of the island people. It is not my nature to be discourteous to anybody.

Mr. Casey: Except Gough.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: That is a different matter. Mr. Killoran was with me from time to time all day, and I did not see anything to cause me to make any remark to him. I received a very spontaneous welcome from all the leaders except George Mye. He was hiding in a shed; he was too sulky to come out and talk to us.

Mr. Houston: He's woken up to you.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: Apparently all the others have not "woken up", because they support us strongly.

Honourable Members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I warn all honourable members that the next person who interjects will be dealt with under Standing Order 123A.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I went round the corner of the shed, and some people brought Mr. Mye out so that I could pay my respects to him. I know what his attitude is to me politically, but he is only one leader and he represents only a certain group. I should like Mr. George Mye to say whether he is prepared to go along with the Labor Party and belong in the future to New Guinea. I should like to know his attitude to that issue.

Mr. Hinze: No way in the world.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: No way in the world. But I want to know from Mr. George Mye where he stands on that issue.

I take this opportunity to say that the contents of the report referred to are most despicable. It is said that we were late for a dinner. I waited for two hours for the dinner. I told the people that I had been waiting for two hours, and I was wondering how much longer it would be. There was some mix-up in the arrangements, and it was no fault of ours. I apologised to the people as soon as I knew that they had been waiting for us when in fact I was ready and waiting. These are some of the things that George Mye and the Federal Minister concerned have attempted to blow up out of all proportion. Casting aspersions against the character of a highly respected public servant is a very despicable way of going about it.

DAYS ALLOTTED TO SUPPLY

SESSIONAL ORDER

Hon. A. M. HODGES (Gympie—Leader of the House): I move—

"That during this session, unless otherwise ordered, the House may, on the days allotted for Supply, continue to sit until 10 o'clock p.m. Each of the periods between 11 o'clock a.m. and 4 o'clock p.m. and between 4 o'clock p.m. and 10 o'clock p.m. shall be accounted an allotted day under the provisions of Standing Order No. 307. Two allotted days shall be allowed for the discussion of the Estimates of a department. At the termination of the period so allowed the Chairman shall put every question necessary to decide the Vote under consideration and shall then proceed to put the question for the balance of the Estimates for that department; all such questions to be decided without amendment or debate: Provided that, if the discussion of the Estimates of a department be concluded before the expiry of the two days so allowed, the period remaining shall be allocated to the discussion of the Estimates next brought before the Committee. All provisions of Standing Order No. 307 shall, *mutatis mutandis*, continue to apply."

Motion agreed to.

LOCAL BODIES' LOANS GUARANTEE
ACT AMENDMENT BILL

THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Sir Gordon Chalk, read a third time.

LIENS ON CROPS OF SUGAR CANE
ACT AMENDMENT BILL

THIRD READING

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

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST
RURAL HEALTH SERVICES

Hon. L. R. EDWARDS (Ipswich—Minister for Health) (12.4 p.m.): I rise to speak in this debate on matters of public interest for two main reasons. Firstly, I wish to correct the inaccurate impression indicated last week by the honourable member for Flinders in which he presented to this House his interpretation of possibilities of Government policies for future rural health services. I wish to place on record the fact that unfortunately his impressions are not correct and, as the responsible Minister, I have the responsibility to indicate our plans for future health services to rural areas. Secondly, the State of Queensland faces, as do other States of Australia, a very difficult problem in the provision of rural health services of acceptable standards in modern concepts.

The matter of the health services of rural Queensland is of vital concern to this Government and we pledge ourselves to a policy of the provision of the very best services possible to all Queenslanders. Many thousands of our people live in country areas and these folk face the hardship of difficult economic periods, almost impossible weather conditions, labile markets for their products and the effects of an unsympathetic Federal Government. These problems have added to the natural problems caused by isolation, loneliness and separation.

Today we find that doctors are no longer willing to go to the country as they were in years past. The medical men of today prefer to work in areas in groups, with more leisure periods, closer medical fellowship and more acceptable conditions. Just recently I took the opportunity to make a tour of some of the far western areas to see and learn at first hand some of the difficulties and problems that face my portfolio in providing a full and proper service to the Outback.

Mr. Burns interjected.

Dr. EDWARDS: The honourable gentleman did not read the whole of my speech. He should do so.

My visit coincided with the regular tour of the Flying Surgeon, an unsung medical team which has been serving the people of the Outback through 18 hospitals for the past 16 years. In that time there have

been three dedicated surgeons—Dr. Chris Cummins, who is now a visiting surgeon to the Toowoomba Hospital; Dr. Donald Leaming, now visiting surgeon to the Princess Alexandra Hospital; and our current Flying Surgeon, Dr. Tony Paul, who is based with the service in Longreach.

I believe the Flying Surgeon Service can become the pivot from which we as a Government can provide a more complete medical and health service to the people of outback Queensland. Today I wish to indicate to honourable members that I have requested my departmental officers to carry out a complete survey of how we can best provide greater medical and health services in the outback to those people who can only be described as the salt of the earth. Fortunately, Queensland does not have a George Street Government, and, as my western colleague Mr. Neil Turner mentioned to the people of Barcaldine, I was the eighth Cabinet Minister to visit the electorate of Warrego in the past six months.

I believe that too few city-based people really understand the vast problems that are everyday facts of life to the citizens of the Outback. That is why I believe that we must further improve the mantle of safety that health and medical services provide for the westerners. Personally, I believe that this will mean a greater use of light aircraft to reduce the distances, and in many cases times will then be comparable with those for metropolitan ground travel.

On the morning that my party, which included the Director General of Health and Medical Services, Dr. Ross Patrick, and Mr. Charles Hotz, the Director of Public Hospitals, who has spent part of his career in western hospitals, left the Longreach airport with the Flying Surgeon, the Royal Flying Doctor also left on his routine clinical tour, and one of the department's itinerant dental teams left to carry out a tour of duty. These teams visit 64 isolated centres in Queensland from bases in major provincial cities and towns. Also in the Longreach area at the same time were Dr. Garth May, the Director of School Health Services, and Dr. Gordon Byth, who were carrying out a height-and-measurement survey throughout the west as part of the department's health programme for primary school children.

I think few Queenslanders realise the extent of the Health Department's unique dental service which moves throughout the West and treats many thousands of patients each year. Teams take to the air from Mt. Isa, using commercial flights to service down to Boulia and the western parts of the Gulf, while two aerial teams based at Cairns service the Gulf and the Peninsula, and the Thursday Island team uses aircraft, hovercraft and boats to see its patients. The departments also has rail coaches servicing country areas.

Maternal and Child Health Services in the Outback are conducted by sisters who travel with the Royal Flying Doctor on his regular clinic visits and emergency flights, and the department is very grateful that its sisters can joint these flights. In addition, a rail car services isolated areas between Hughenden, Winton and Julia Creek.

In the medical area, the department is constantly seeking to improve its services and strength. One of the most successful schemes that have been introduced this year involves the relieving medical superintendent scheme. Recently, approval was granted to station four doctors as second medical officers at Mt. Isa, Longreach, Charleville and Bowen to provide week-end relief in those centres and in hospitals within those areas.

The department has also supported the efforts of the Family Medicine Programme to enable doctors practising in isolation to come to both Brisbane and Townsville for post-graduates courses. This week a large number of general practitioners are spending a week, at great cost to themselves, relieving doctors in western areas to allow them to come to Brisbane to take part in the Family Medicine Programme. This is one of the great problems in supplying doctors to the west—the trend within the medical profession not to want to practise alone—and as a department we have been acutely aware of this and have taken initiatives to overcome it. The regular visits of specialists from the Royal Brisbane Hospital to Mt. Isa Hospital, where, besides clinical responsibilities, there is clinical exchange and contact with the doctors in the centre, has proved a great success.

In another progressive move to improve the clinical exchange in the rural areas of this State, I have recently approved the appointment of three full-time positions for specialist physicians. These specialists will be stationed at Townsville, Rockhampton and Toowoomba Hospitals, but they will visit the smaller hospitals in the region. They will be available for consultation with the local medical superintendents in these smaller centres and allow for an on-the-spot clinical exchange and provide the back-up consultation that is so necessary.

I am very hopeful that our full review of resources in the remote areas of the State and extended initiatives will provide an even better medical service than we have now. I believe that, following this survey, I will be able to announce policies that will see us making better use of our available manpower and resources and in fact attract more medical and paramedical workers into the decentralised areas. I must warn honourable members that we cannot manufacture doctors and medical manpower overnight, but I believe that with a comprehensive policy we can significantly improve our services over the next few years. This is a problem unique to Queensland, Australia's most decentralised State, and I am sure the

Opposition recognises that. I am hopeful that I will be able to have our review completed and priorities determined for our new Outback health and medical services policy before the end of this year.

Let me place on record—and stress—that it is the policy of this Government to do anything we can to provide medical services for the people of our great State no matter where they may live.

Mr. Houston interjected.

Dr. EDWARDS: The A.L.P. has done nothing about it. Its contribution has been very poor. It is obvious that the people do not want the Labor Party when they reduce its numbers here from 37 to 11. I am sure its efforts on behalf of the rural people are well and truly understood as being absolutely hopeless. I am sure the people will indicate that at the Federal election, too.

I therefore intimate that at this stage no decision has been made of the nature indicated last week by the honourable member for Flinders, and as soon as Cabinet has examined the survey and investigation now being conducted, I shall make a policy statement which I believe will be to the benefit and satisfaction of all Queenslanders.

SENATE BLOCKING OF SUPPLY

Mr. BURNS (Lytton—Leader of the Opposition) (12.17 p.m.): I wish to express my concern at the misuse of this Parliament by Government members and their lack of concern about the problems that will be experienced by my fellow Queenslanders as the result of the decision of the Government members' Federal colleagues to refuse Supply. Most of the debate these days seems to revolve around a rather greasy, sleazy little man from whom one would not even buy a postcard if he were selling them in the back alleys of Port Said. He was brought over here by the Liberal Party to be used on TV. In fact he refused to appear on TV in this nation, but when he got to Singapore after leaving Australia he made a statement condemning the Prime Minister. But really that is not the question. The State Premier and Mr. Fraser are deliberately telling the Press to play down the disastrous effects the nation will suffer if the Liberal and National Parties continue to block Supply in the Senate. The only significant headline I can find seems to be, "Jobs drying up with \$\$—Chalk". There are no headlines whatever about concern on the part of either the Premier or Mr. Fraser for the people who will be affected.

I will mention some of the people who will be affected. If the present course is continued, the entire system of Federal Government will be brought to a halt, and hundreds of thousands of people will be thrown out of work. I suppose that money will be available for pensions, but no increases in pensions will be paid, nor will

funds be available for the wages of those employees who send out the pension cheques. So the pensioners will suffer. They are not protected, even though the money is available.

The price the people of Queensland will be forced to pay for the greedy bid for power by the Federal Opposition Leader and the Premier is a lousy Christmas for thousands and thousands of kids and their parents. Look at some of the figures. As a result of the decision to block Supply and the fact that the money will run out at the end of November, 13,000 Federal public servants won't be paid; 13,400 telephone employees won't be paid; 5,100 workers in the Australian Post Office won't be paid; 510 employees of Medibank won't be paid; and 12,264 members of the Defence Forces won't be paid.

Mr. Lee interjected.

Mr. BURNS: The Minister is happy about it. He is silent about it. He is pleased to see the workers fall out of employment and run out of money. All he wants is power. He doesn't really care about those people at all. To continue—170,504 age pensioners will suffer. The economy will lose \$20,000,000 a week as a result of the decision, yet Government members talk about Khemlani and wave to each other across the Chamber. That shows how much importance they attach to this matter. Widows who depend on the pension—there are 16,624 of them—will be affected.

Mr. FRAWLEY: I rise to a point of order. I draw your attention, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to the fact that the Leader of the Opposition is reading a prepared speech.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. W. D. Hewitt): Order! There is no point of order.

Mr. BURNS: I am reading figures. This morning the Minister for Health read from a prepared script and, in reply to a so-called question without notice, the Minister for Local Government and Main Roads read two pages. I did not hear the honourable member for Murrumba say one word about that. He should cease playing schoolboy tricks.

Supporting mothers, or 6,893 women with young children to care for, will be affected. A total of 27,000 unemployed persons—they are not all bludgers; many of them have wives and children to support—are depending on the Opposition parties to pass Supply so that they can get money.

There are 3,738 people depending on sickness benefits. A Medibank official said that after the end of November the scheme will be unable to cover the cost of medical bills. The sick, the elderly and the infirm are being kicked by members of the Government because they know Fraser will not win an election next year so they have to try to get him up now. Government members—the so-called responsible people on the other side of the Chamber—are virtually saying to the kids,

"You won't be able to go away for your holidays; you will have to pitch a tent down by the creek or in your backyard."

The Minister for Works and Housing is in the Chamber. Does he realise or even understand that after 30 November there will be no more money for Defence Force housing in Queensland? The Minister is involved in this. Does he know that Defence Force housing contracts worth \$9,300,000 in Brisbane, \$7,700,000 in Townsville, \$500,000 in Cairns, \$2,300,000 in Oakey, \$1,450,000 at Amberley, \$900,000 at Canungra and \$700,000 at Toowoomba will all be adversely affected after 30 November? The Minister in charge of housing will shed crocodile tears when he is out on the stump complaining about what might happen to the poor workers; but he has never been concerned for them, and his laughter in the House today proves that.

It is useless for Government members to pretend they are concerned about welfare housing or for the contractors, the builders, the builders' labourers and others who will be out of jobs when the money flow is stopped. I have never once heard a member of the Government express concern on behalf of those people. All I have ever heard from the Government are comments about Khemlani and a few of the other smarties whom they have brought to Australia. They have brought these people over here at their expense.

Government Members interjected.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. BURNS: I am sorry, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that Government members are getting so upset. But they do not like the truth; it hurts them very much. They become upset by the truth. That is only the start of the situation.

Mr. K. J. Hooper interjected.

Mr. BURNS: Did you say "crooked judges"?

From outside the Chamber we listened to what was said on Friday. Anyone can read it. Not one Government member expressed concern for the ordinary fellow. Each one who spoke was worried about Mr. Fraser. I have heard stories to the effect that Mr. Fraser is a gentleman and that we should be concerned about the sacking of Crean and Connor. What about Mr. McMahon, who was sacked as a result of Mr. Fraser's activities? Billy Snedden also was sacked as a result of Mr. Fraser's actions. On 22 August 1971, Mr. Fraser was reported in these terms—

"Billy Snedden and I are both going to be round the Liberal Party for a long while," Mr. Malcolm Fraser said."

On 22 August, the next day, he was visiting the Lodge Restaurant, having dinner with Snedden and at the same time knifing him in the back. This is the man Government members want us to trust. He is the man who, in

April of this year, made the statement that the Government should remain in office as long as it had the numbers in the House of Representatives. But he has now caved in. Mr. Fraser is the man who resigned from the Gorton Government and brought Gorton down; he is the man who decided to knife McMahon in the back. Government members talk about sackings. They should trace the history of their parties before they start talking as they do.

I shall now deal with Mr. Fraser's grand plan for a new tax system—the new double-tax system. All Government members support it. Not one of them, except the Treasurer (Sir Gordon Chalk), has expressed concern about it. In answer to a question that I asked, he said—and outside the House he made a similar statement, which appeared in the Press in Toowoomba, in his own electorate, on the North Coast and in Canberra—that he was concerned at the prospect that we would lose out as a result of the new joint State-Commonwealth tax scheme. The workers of Queensland will be hit twice. Government members cannot deny that there will be double taxation. It will be double taxation of the type that was rejected by all State Premiers when Bob Menzies put it up many years ago. Yet it has been accepted on this occasion by the Premier, and in the absence of the Treasurer. On his own admission in the House, the Treasurer was not even invited until the last possible moment, when it was too late for him to go. He was left here, responsible for the Government. As the man responsible for the financial affairs of the State, he is starting to express his public concern that we will not be given a fair go.

Everybody has said that the scheme is designed to protect the big States, that is, New South Wales and Victoria. They will receive extra money and we will either have less or be forced to do what many of the Canadian provinces have done—*increase taxation.*

When have Government members (other than Sir Gordon Chalk), who profess to show so much concern for the people of Queensland, said, "Maybe our Federal colleagues are wrong in this policy."? When has the Premier given the House an explanation as to the way in which the scheme will work? He attended a Cabinet meeting in New South Wales, where he had to sit in silence and accept these decisions. Under Cabinet rules he would not get a vote. He returned here and made all sorts of statements, but he never once referred to the very important financial arrangements that affect each and every Queensland. I wonder why. Why doesn't the Premier make a statement on it? Is it that he now finds, as Sir Gordon Chalk has said, that we will be disadvantaged; that, with our limited population, our extensive road network and our large railway system, it would be to the disadvantage of the average citizen? My responsibility in this debate is to draw the

attention of the people of Queensland to the fact that Government members play politics and use the House to do so, but they are never concerned for the people. All they are concerned about is a few stunts.

(Time expired.)

INADEQUATE RAILWAY FACILITIES IN NORTH QUEENSLAND

Mr. M. D. HOOPER (Townsville West) (12.27 p.m.): I wish to draw the attention of honourable members to the obvious inadequacy of the existing railway facilities to provide access to the Townsville port area—particularly in the shunting area of the Townsville South yards—and the inability of the Railway Department to presently handle the existing traffic on the Mt. Isa-Townsville railway line, let alone in years to come when rock phosphate shipments arrive from Duchess.

Present information reveals that the Great Northern Railway line, which runs from Townsville to Mt. Isa, is falling into a state of disrepair and will need considerable upgrading if it is to carry the additional 2,000,000 tonnes of phosphate from Phosphate Hill in 1976-77. During the past couple of months there have been at least four—and possibly five—derailments on the line. Most of those have occurred in the Cloncurry area, which would indicate that there is trouble in that area with bridges, culverts and the line generally. In addition, numerous diesel engine failures have occurred—five west of Hughenden in recent weeks. One train to Collinsville was held up last week because a guard's van was not available.

At the present time, rock phosphate is arriving from Duchess and is being handled in the port area at the Townsville Transport and Services' tippler, which was originally designed to handle zinc concentrates. Broken Hill South are currently constructing their own tippler; but, when it is constructed, it will in no way affect the handling of rock phosphate.

In an endeavour to stagger operations in the Townsville port area, the wagons carrying zinc concentrate are scheduled to be in position at the Townsville Transport and Services' tippler by 8 o'clock each morning. The train is invariably late; it has arrived as late as 1 p.m. The wagons carrying phosphate rock are scheduled to be in position at the Townsville Transport and Services' tippler by 7 o'clock each evening and men are engaged on a shift from 7 p.m. to 3 a.m. to unload them. The wagons are rarely in position before 8.30 p.m.—1½ hours late—and sometimes arrive at 1 or 2 o'clock the following morning. As a result, the wagons are not unloaded.

The wagons for zinc concentrate are programmed to run to Townsville the next day to load coal for Mt. Isa. Naturally, if the trains are late leaving Townsville, they are late arriving at Collinsville and also are invariably late returning to Mt. Isa.

The phosphate wagons are returned to Duchess for reloading, but the same position arises. If the trains are late ex Townsville they are late returning to Duchess. Thus wagons that have been maintaining a schedule of seven to eight days for the journey from Mt. Isa to Townsville and Collinsville, and return, are now taking nine or 10 days.

Phosphate rock ex Duchess has been programmed at approximately 4,500 tonnes per week or 18,000 tonnes per four-weekly period. This programme is nowhere near being maintained and at the present time is running at an average of 16,500 tonnes per four-weekly period. This seems to be due simply to the late running of trains through various causes that the Railway Department does not appear to be able to eliminate. It will be appreciated that, unless drastic measures are taken, the situation must worsen when the schedule reaches 2,000,000 or 3,000,000 tonnes per annum.

Referring now to the Townsville end of the problem—there will be no chance of getting 2,000,000 tonnes into the port area and it is doubtful whether 1,000,000 tonnes—the amount scheduled for 1972—will get through unless work on the new access on the south bank of Ross River is speeded up.

In August 1974, the chairman of the Townsville Harbour Board (Mr. Field) and I came to Brisbane to interview the Commissioner for Railways and the department's leading engineers. We stressed the urgency of constructing a new rail bridge across Ross River to give access to the port area. It would also have the benefit of eliminating hold-ups on the railway crossings in Railway Avenue and Boundary Street in South Townsville. From my personal experience, there is nothing unusual even today in having hold-ups of 10 to 15 minutes while small trains are being shunted backwards and forwards in the south yards. Whilst complaining about the business section of the wharf area being held up I am also giving some thought to the residents of Railway Estate in South Townsville and in Hermit Park who cannot get ready access to the city in the normal course of proceeding to work each day.

The Minister for Railways was in Townsville in May 1975 and a similar submission was made to him. He was very sympathetic and had an understanding of the position. I hope by now that he has done something in the department to expedite the planning so that this new bridge can be constructed speedily in the next couple of years.

I believe that some three weeks ago, consultants were commissioned to carry out an investigation into this matter. Their report is not expected until early in 1976. My concern is that it will then be in departmental hands for another six months and it could be two to three years before a new bridge is constructed from the south bank of Ross River. The delay will cause inconvenience

to the residents of South Townsville. It will also result in a large loss of income to the Railway Department, the Townsville Harbour Board and, of course, Broken Hill South Limited, which will be mining the rock phosphate.

Mr. Jones: I drew the Minister's attention to this at the Committee stage of the debate on the Proposed Railway Connection from Phosphate Hill to Great Northern Railway, and the Minister pooh-poohed the idea and discounted it. He said that there would be no problems whatever.

Mr. M. D. HOOPER: I was not present at that time so I would not like to comment on the statement made by the honourable member for Cairns.

The present position in Townsville has deteriorated to such an extent that the Railway Department is using the Townsville wharves as a shunting yard to make up trains for Collinsville and Duchess. On two occasions last week, shunting trains blocked access to the port for periods in excess of one hour. When the port authority asked the Railway Department why that situation arose, the reply was that there was no room in the south yard to make up trains and that the wagons could not be sent to Stuart, which is 7 miles from town, because two engines would be required and only one engine and crew was available for shunting.

Another reason for concern is the lack of experienced shunters and other running-men in the Northern Division. It might seem incredible to honourable members that experienced shunters are not available in a time of high unemployment, but I am informed that the reason is that the Railway Department has abolished the position of lad porter, from whose ranks shunters were drawn in earlier days. The railways now rely on picking up unemployed persons, who are given a short course of instruction and then passed out as shunters. They are often itinerant workers who have no allegiance to the railways or any wish to make a career in the department. As soon as they earn sufficient funds for their immediate needs, they clear off to a better job.

Quite recently I was informed by the chairman of the Flinders Shire Council in Hughenden that there were plans to station 20 or more additional running crews in Hughenden.

Mr. Aikens: Where would they get them from?

Mr. M. D. HOOPER: That is another point. The shire chairman said that a housing shortage existed in Hughenden because of the large number of Aborigines who were coming into the town from out-back areas and using all the available accommodation. A lot of houses have been bought by the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement and no accommodation is available in Hughenden for trainmen or anybody else who wishes to go there.

It is pleasing to hear that the Government has set up a housing authority for Crown employees. I hope one of its first jobs will be the provision of housing in Townsville and Hughenden for trainmen working on the Great Northern Railway.

All of this adds up to a sorry state of affairs and neglect of the railways in the North, despite the fact that the Great Northern Railway is probably one of the greatest, if not the greatest, producers of revenue in Queensland. In the words of the Treasurer, as they appear in "Hansard" of 25 September 1975—

"The clear profit on haulage over these mineral lines in 1975-76 is expected to be to the order of \$37,000,000, all of which is retained in the railways in support of rail charges elsewhere."

I say to the Treasurer and the Minister for Transport that we have a very good milking cow in the Great Northern Railway; let us keep it going. Put some revenue back into the line. Improve facilities in the wharf and south yards area in Townsville. Certainly improve facilities at sidings and deviations along the western line. But surely the first consideration should be maintaining facilities and providing decent accommodation for railwaymen who are making such a high contribution to railway finances. It is no wonder that people in North Queensland often say, "We live in the forgotten part of the State."

LIBERAL PARTY CAMPAIGN, CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS

Mr. AIKENS (Townsville South) (12.37 p.m.): We listened to a particularly odious demonstration here this afternoon by the Leader of the Opposition who read from a speech that had been supplied to him from Canberra. He tried to make up some of the leeway he lost last week when he walked out of the House, or was virtually thrown out. Incidentally, as I interjected, he went up to a big demonstration in the City Square and someone daubed him with tomato sauce so he could say that he had been thrown out of Parliament and had been bloodied in the battle fighting for the working class and all that sort of malarkey and flim-flam.

Let us be quite honest. If the Leader of the Opposition had remained in the Chamber last week instead of pitching to be thrown out, as he was, there could have been, and probably would have been, a really first-class, comprehensive, intelligent, informative debate on this whole issue. The fact remains that the Labor Party is getting further and further down into the cesspit. Its members are becoming desperate, and consequently they are coming at every dirty, low trick that can be conceived.

I know that I cannot deal with the judiciary. However, I do not know that any Government in the history of Australia has prostituted the High Court as much as it

has been prostituted by the Whitlam Government. They will come at anything to get their way, and they really deserve all the odium that has been thrown at them. I would say that the greatest condemnation of the Whitlam Government was the newspaper article published this morning and written by Sir Robert Menzies, who came back into the political arena to say something that should have been said some time ago. I said it in "The Townsville Daily Bulletin" on Monday. The people should have been told the facts concerning the Senate's action.

I say again to the members of the Liberal Party, in Queensland and all over Australia, both in Parliament and outside it, that Parliament is not the place in which to be conducting the fight. This is not the place to shape up and start swinging punches. Get out into the open and talk to the people. In one of the newspapers yesterday—I think it was the "Telegraph"—there were two anti-Liberal Party letters in the correspondence column. There was nothing in that column from Liberal supporters. Surely to goodness the Liberal Party has supporters. Surely it has people who can write letters or will sign their names to letters if they are written for them.

Look at the shocking situation in Canberra yesterday when there were two demonstrations in front of Parliament House. I know the Labor Party and how they work. After all, I belonged to that party for years. Yesterday they adopted the oldest tactic in the game. They said, "We will not run our demonstration. We'll let the Liberal Party run theirs, and we will go along and be the interrupters. We will interrupt the Liberal Party meeting and turn it into a shambles." Did the Liberal Party supporters fight back? Not on your life! They seem to think that all they have to do is let their leaders fight the battles for them.

I repeat that the Liberals will be done like a dinner if they do not get out and fight where the people can hear them. They cannot hear them fight here. They are lucky if they get a word in the Press here, or a mention on television or radio programmes. But they can all run out to their little meetings and parties where they have tomato or cucumber sandwiches and say, "I said this in Parliament, and he said that." It does not register one iota with the public but they don't seem to give a tuppenny damn. They fail to realise that this is a serious issue. The whole safety—the whole freedom—of Australia is threatened, and what are Government members doing but picking all their fights and having them here on the floor of this Chamber, where nobody hears them and nobody takes any notice of them, anyway. They should get out and fight in public because the Labor Party is desperate. The Labor Party will do anything it can to win what it is hoping to win. A.L.P. members will pull no punches. There are no depths to which they will not descend.

We heard the Leader of the Opposition here today getting right down into the political gutter. There is no depth to which he would not descend on the brief that was given to him from Canberra.

I want to deal with something that really affects the people of Queensland. I want to deal with another detestable, contemptible action of the Whitlam Government—of Whitlam himself. We picked up the newspaper this morning and we read that Mr. Keating has been appointed the Minister for Northern Australia. Honourable members might not know him. Some of us know him. Mr. Keating is a very militant member of the Municipal Officers' Association, the most prominent Left-wing organisation in Australia. During his life Mr. Keating has been very prominent in all the Commo and Left-wing demonstrations in Sydney and the other big cities in the south. Of course, he would know all about everything because he was elected to Parliament when he was 25 years of age. He is only 31 years of age now and yet he is the appointed Minister for Northern Australia. He would not know a jackaroo from a kangaroo. He would not know the difference between a cane chair and a stick of sugar cane. He is a Woolloomooloo smart Alec, a Sydney smartie and a swiftie, and yet this is the man Mr. Whitlam has appointed Minister for Northern Australia. This appointment of Keating—I say this without reservation and I will say it anywhere—is a deliberate and calculated insult by Whitlam to the people of North Queensland and North Queensland itself, and whenever he comes to North Queensland, of course, he will be told about it. I had a couple of notes here on this fellow but I do not know that they need to be stressed because honourable members all know him. He represents, as we would expect, the metropolitan Sydney electorate of Blaxland. It has an area of 49 square kilometres. I am not very much up on translating square kilometres into square miles, but I think that is about 30 square miles. The people of the North have never heard of him and, to be quite candid, they do not want to hear of him. We do not want any city slickers, any Woolloomooloo Yanks. We do not want any smart Alec from Blaxland or anywhere else being sent to North Queensland by Mr. Whitlam and told that he is going to be the saviour of North Queensland and the master of our destiny.

Mr. Armstrong: The only time you will see him is in the winter time.

Mr. AIKENS: We see them all in the winter time. Not only do we see all the Federal Ministers in the winter time but we see all their female secretaries and female assistants. Sometimes we have a whole plane-load of them.

This shows just how contemptuous the Whitlam Government is of North Queensland. As a political sop to the people of North Queensland Dr. Patterson announced that

he was still going to keep an eye on the great sugar industry of North Queensland. The great sugar industry is, I would say, one of the great bulwarks of our economic prosperity in North Queensland. Let me tell honourable members just what the A.L.P. does—and it has been doing. I exposed it on television talks in North Queensland and quite a lot of people who heard me were amazed and surprised. I feel certain that some of our local metropolitan members of this Parliament will be surprised. Patterson has no more to do with the sugar industry, has no more to do with the marketing of sugar, has no more to do with the sale of sugar, has no more to do with negotiating the sale of sugar here or anywhere else than I have or, shall we say, blind Freddie has. The moment sugar cane is crushed into sugar at a mill, that raw sugar becomes the property of the Queensland Government under the Sugar Acquisition Act. That sugar is then handed over to the Sugar Board, and the Sugar Board alone arranges for the sale of that sugar either internally or externally. It is the Sugar Board—sometimes with C.S.R. Limited, which is one of the selling agents of the Sugar Board—which negotiates all these overseas sales contracts in whatever country in the world they are negotiated. The Sugar Board and the Sugar Board alone does that. After that is done, the only time that Patterson comes into the picture is as an agent or a representative of the Federal Government, and the Federal Government has to agree to the export of that sugar to those particular countries. Yet the A.L.P.—and we have heard members of the A.L.P. do it in this House, Mr. Deputy Speaker—build Patterson up as a champion of the sugar industry.

Those who are really in charge of the sugar industry and its safety, welfare and progress are the Queensland Minister for Primary Industries and the Queensland Sugar Board. They, and they alone, are in charge. In spite of that, this great, big, blather-skiting Patterson comes out in today's "Courier-Mail" and says, "I will still be keeping a fatherly eye on the sugar industry." All he can do is pick up the scraps thrown to him by the Queensland Sugar Board and the Queensland Minister for Primary Industries.

That shows the sort of deal that North Queensland—and, I suppose, Central Queensland from Mackay down as far as that almost forgotten city, Bundaberg—is getting from the Whitlam Government. A Sydney slicker, a Woolloomooloo smart Alec, has been appointed Minister for Northern Australia, but Dr. Patterson will continue to be paraded by local members of the A.L.P.—and I have heard it done in this House, on radio and television in North Queensland, and on the public platform—as the champion of the sugar industry. He is no more the champion of the sugar industry that I am the champion of unidentified flying objects!

This is a serious matter for Australia, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We must get rid of the Whitlam Government. We will not get rid of it by sham fighting and shadow sparring in this Chamber. We must get out into the streets and do it, and the sooner we do that the better.

(Time expired.)

BREAD INDUSTRY: PRICES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS COUNCIL REPORT

Mr. WRIGHT (Rockhampton) (12.47 p.m.): I enter the debate to raise a matter that concerns every consumer in the State. I refer to the announcement that tomorrow the price of bread will increase by 1c a loaf and the price of bread rolls by 2c a dozen throughout South-eastern Queensland.

This is the third price rise this year. As if that is not enough, it has also been stated that there will be another 3c increase by Christmas. I accept that costs confronting bread manufacturers have increased. I know that wages have improved; I know that the cost of ingredients has increased. But I still say that the price rise is unwarranted. The companies have put it over the Prices Justification Tribunal. I know that increased costs were put forward as the reason for the increase in price. But no consideration was given to the other factors that are of vital importance on the Queensland bread scene, factors that were highlighted in this very Chamber in a special report to Parliament in 1973.

That report followed a very deep investigation carried out by the Consumer Affairs Council in 1972. The investigation was a thorough one; it was detailed. As one goes through the contents of the report, one can see that it covered prices and costs, competition and efficiency, discounts to re-sellers, shares of markets, scale of production and—this is very important—wastage of bread. It was widely applauded because of the far-reaching recommendations contained in it. Yet, in spite of that, in spite of the fact that on many occasions members have advocated in this Chamber that the recommendations be implemented, nothing has been done. No action has been taken by the National-Liberal Government to clean up the industry.

If one looks at pages 8 and 9 of the report, one sees that the conclusions and recommendations are of great importance. As to the concentration of production and ownership—the council recommended—

“that the Government take steps to keep itself informed of any further concentration of ownership and control in the bread manufacturing industry, and that it be ready to adopt measures directed against monopolisation in the industry as soon as this seems likely to occur.”

In my opinion, it has occurred.

As to the question of cross-marketing between areas—the council recommended—
“that where it appears that predatory pricing and other devices are being used by a bread manufacturer established in one area to capture the market of a manufacturer established in another area, the Government bring the case to the attention of the Commonwealth Commissioner of Trade Practices.”

As to the price of bread—the council recommended—

“that the Government urge the two bread industry associations to abandon the practice of suggesting price adjustments to their members, and that, failing voluntary compliance, the practice be prohibited by State legislation.”

As to discrimination in discounts—the council recommended—

“that each manufacturer be required to offer his bread to all retail outlets on an equal basis, in accordance with a pricing formula which takes into account the differential costs of supplying the different outlets; that the formula be required to be registered with the appropriate State authority; and that the relevant Minister have the power to disallow a formula on the ground that it is unduly discriminatory.”

The final one, which is very important, relates to waste bread. The council recommended—

“that the Government introduce legislation to prohibit manufacturers from receiving back unsold bread and to require that all loaves be marked with the day of manufacture.”

Is it any wonder that the cost of bread continues to rise in this State, and is it any wonder that thousands and thousands of loaves of bread are dumped each week in this very city of Brisbane when discounting has become a racket and when there is virtually a monopoly in the bread industry? Three years ago the Consumer Affairs Council warned that this would happen. It said that if it happened the Government must take action. Time and time again the community consumer groups have said that the Government must act.

In “The Courier-Mail” of 14 May 1975 it was claimed that bread worth \$5,000,000 a year was being dumped in Brisbane. That was never refuted by the bread industry. In the “Sunday Sun” of 22 December 1974 it was reported that day-old bread was being sold at 5c a loaf—not to people but for pig feed. The Tip Top Bakery refused to discuss the matter. Cobbity Farm said that the returns were being sold to farmers. Another company called Pfeffers claimed that all unsold bread was being used for breadcrumbs. We know what a joke that was. We have seen other releases that back up that argument.

It was stated in "The Courier-Mail" on 9 January 1974 that the decision on bread sales was overruled by Cabinet. It stated that the recommendation of the Justice committee, which was that no action should be taken, was overruled by State Cabinet. If Cabinet won on that issue, why has something not been done? That was two years ago. I believe that there is a very strong lobby for bread manufacturers in this Chamber, and that the lobby still has the numbers. We know that a lot of money is at stake. It is a multi-million dollar industry, and the bread manufacturers in this State are determined to gain monopolistic control of the industry. Members of the Justice committee and certain other Government members who are obviously backing them are the ones who said no legislation should be enacted. Cabinet Ministers who wanted that have been overruled.

Small bakers and bread producers are going to the wall. I gave notice this morning of a question concerning Mr. Marrable, who was reported in the Press as stating—

"Under the present trading conditions introduced and enforced by the large group manufacturers, the local baker is becoming a thing of the past."

The same Press report continued—

"He said the small-to-medium-sized baker could not match discounting, taking back and dumping of unsold bread and costly marketing techniques of larger competitors.

"If this situation is ignored, very soon the metropolitan area is going to be serviced by only two large producers."

That was suggested by the Consumer Affairs Council. The Government was warned. The council said that could happen, but still no action has been taken.

Let us look at the statistics showing what has happened in the bread industry in Queensland. In 1950 a 2 lb. loaf, delivered, cost 6.46c; in 1957 it rose to 11.67c; and in 1972 it rose to 21c—an over-all increase of 225 per cent. Now in 1975, only three years later, the cost for a 900 gram loaf, delivered, is 42c. Even though that is an increase of over 100 per cent, already it has been announced that there will be another increase of 3c by Christmas. So by Christmas there will have been an increase of 24c in three years.

We hear a lot of nonsense talked about the ineffectiveness of price control in South Australia. The Minister for Justice, who was in charge of consumer affairs, used that argument. Let me make a comparison between Brisbane and Adelaide to show what in fact has happened. In September 1974 a 2 lb. loaf, delivered, in Brisbane cost 28.3c; in Adelaide 34c; in October 1974 it cost 29.4c in Brisbane, and in Adelaide still 34c; by December 1974 it had risen to 31.4c in Brisbane, and in Adelaide to 37c; in March

1975 it was 33.4c in Brisbane and 38c in Adelaide; and in October 1975 it was 42c in Brisbane and 40c in Adelaide.

From September 1974 the price of bread in South Australia has increased by 6c, but in Queensland over the same period the price has risen by almost 15c. By Christmas bread will be 4c or 5c dearer in Brisbane than in Adelaide.

It is a lot of baloney to say that in the bread industry price control won't work. I know that increases in prices are to be expected, but it is wrong of a Government to close its eyes to exploitation, and pigeon-hole its consumer body's recommendations. The Government has a responsibility to the consumers of bread in this State. It has an obligation also to ensure that there is honest competition in the industry. Yet we have monopolistic bread manufacturers who are exploiting the people. The State Government is allowing that to happen. Because of the Government's inaction, it is just as guilty as the bread manufacturers. It is condoning waste and overproduction—overproduction that people in this State are paying for.

The pigs are feeding more cheaply on bread than the Queensland public because farmers are buying bread at 5c a loaf while consumers are paying 42c. When I think of the millions of people who are starving throughout the world, I am amazed that the Government is prepared to stand by and see about \$5,000,000 worth of bread being dumped each year. It is time that the Government woke up to itself. I urge Government members to get to their feet and do something about it. Apparently the lobbying is too strong, or they do not know what is going on. Members of the Cabinet wanted legislation, but someone stopped them. Only two years ago it was announced that Cabinet would introduce legislation, but nothing has been done.

The Government must accept its responsibilities to the consumers, the small producers and the vendors, who get nothing out of it. When the price of bread goes up, the vendors get very little in return for the work they do. The only people who are making a rake-off are the big bread manufacturers, who, we all know, are controlled by the flour mills. Something has to be done. I suggest that the latest increase should be delayed until these companies come forward and prove beyond doubt that the price increases are warranted. Further, I suggest that the Government should act immediately to implement the recommendations in the report submitted by the Consumer Affairs Council.

SENATE BLOCKING OF SUPPLY

Mr. GREENWOOD (Ashgrove) (12.57 p.m.): With an unemployment rate of 500,000 in sight, in the middle of the gravest constitutional crisis that this country has had to

face for some considerable time, Labor's alternative Attorney-General can do no better than speak about bakeries. For the Liberal-National Country Parties refusing Supply is a matter of last resort; for the A.L.P. it is a matter of first resort. As well as being the worst Prime Minister in Australia's history, Whitlam is undoubtedly the most hypocritical.

I say not only to the House but also to the Press—which I hope will report at least something that is said about the other side of the debate—that for years the A.L.P. has said that it will block any tax measure, money Bill or other financial measure in the Senate at any time, and whenever necessary, to carry out A.L.P. policy (not, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to save the nation in grave, exceptional and reprehensible circumstances, but at any time). Could anything be clearer than that? Who has said this? The hypocritical Prime Minister and the hypocritical former A.L.P. Attorney-General (then Senator Murphy), who had the carriage of A.L.P. policy. They have done it at least 11 times.

On 18 June 1970, Murphy said—

"The Senate is entitled and expected to exercise resolutely but with discretion its power to refuse its concurrence to any financial measure, including a tax Bill. There are no limitations on the Senate in the use of its constitutional powers, except the limitations imposed by discretion and reason. The Australian Labor Party has acted consistently in accordance with the tradition that we will oppose in the Senate any tax or money Bill or other financial measure whenever necessary to carry out our principles and policies. The Opposition (that is, the Labor Opposition) has done this over the years, and in order to illustrate the tradition which has been established, with the concurrence of honourable senators I shall incorporate in Hansard at the end of my speech a list of the measures of an economic or financial nature, including taxation and appropriation Bills, which have been opposed by this Opposition in whole or in part by a vote in the Senate since 1950."

I ask leave of the House to incorporate in "Hansard" the list of measures opposed by the A.L.P. which was incorporated in the Federal "Hansard".

(Leave granted.)

"MEASURES OF AN ECONOMIC OR FINANCIAL NATURE, INCLUDING TAXATION AND APPROPRIATION BILLS WHICH HAVE BEEN OPPOSED BY THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY VOTE IN THE SENATE SINCE 1950

"1951-53

"Beer Excise 1951—Second Reading.

"Customs 1953—In Committee, and Motion to Refer Bill to Select Committee.

"Estate Duty Assessment 1953—In Committee.

"Excise Tariff 1952—Second Reading.

"Income Tax and Social Services Contribution 1951—Amendment to Second Reading, Second Reading and Third Reading.

"Income Tax and Social Services Contribution Assessment (No. 2) 1952—In Committee.

"Income Tax and Social Services Contribution Assessment (No. 3) 1952—Amendment to Second Reading and In Committee.

"Income Tax and Social Services Contribution Assessment (Air Navigation Charges) 1952—Second Reading.

"Land Tax Abolition 1952—Second Reading.

"Land Tax Assessment 1952—In Committee, and Motion not to insist on Amendment disagreed to by House of Representatives.

"Loan (Housing) 1952—Amendment to Second Reading.

"Loan (Housing) 1953—Amendment to Second Reading.

"National Welfare Fund 1952—Second Reading and Adoption of Report."

Then Senator Murphy went on to say—

"I ask the Senate to reject this legislation."

In the House of Representatives on 12 June 1970, Whitlam, the man who is now saying that it is wrong to oppose Supply, said, as reported at page 3491 of Federal "Hansard"—

"This Bill and its associated Bills will be rejected by the Parliament."

Later, at page 3495, he is reported as saying—

"Any Government which is defeated by the Parliament on a major taxation Bill should resign."

Then again, at page 3496, he said—

"This Bill will be defeated in another place. The Government should then resign."

So they have said it again and again and again.

This is the most deceitful Government that we have ever had. We do not even have to go further than the admissions of its own members. On 25 September this year, when addressing the Constitutional Convention, Enderby said it "was not honest, the way we have to go about effecting social change."

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

The House adjourned at 1.1 p.m.